



Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	<i>Alchemilla minima</i> (an alchemilla)
Lead Partner/Agency	English Nature (Contact Point - EN)
Steering Group/Other organisations	Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. No
Work programme in existence?	Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. No

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain viable populations at all known sites.		✓				
4.2 Establish an <i>ex-situ</i> programme to protect genetic diversity, create a reserve population and provide experimental material.		✓				

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 When reviewing agri-environment schemes, including Countryside Stewardship and ESAs, consider whether changes		✓				no	ongoing

	are needed to increase their potential benefits for this species.						
5.2.1	Seek to protect all sites from inappropriate grazing management and agricultural improvement.		✓			yes	ongoing
5.3.1	Following completion of the research outlined under 5.5.2, produce guidelines on good management practice for this species and provide mechanisms to enable them to be implemented on all known sites. Until the research is completed, seek to retain current grazing regimes on all sites.		✓			no	not started (<i>management advice to land managers to be revised in the light of results from 5.5.2</i>)
5.3.2	Collect seed from all extant native sites and deposit in the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place (Kew).		✓			no	ongoing
5.4.1	Advise relevant landowners and managers of the importance of this plant, specific management for its conservation, and potentially damaging activities. When management guidelines have been prepared (see 5.3.1), ensure that they are distributed and explained as necessary.		✓			no	ongoing (<i>Landowners have received advice through the SMS process but further refinement awaits work under 5.5.2 and 5.3.1</i>)
5.4.2	As far as possible, ensure that all relevant agri-environment project officers are advised of locations of this species, its importance, management requirements and potential threats.		✓			no	not started
5.5.1	Establish a consensus on the taxonomy of this species through discussion with the relevant experts and, if necessary, genetic screening.		✓			yes	ongoing
5.5.2	Undertake research into the ecological and grazing management requirements of this species and factors which may be limiting its population size. This is a high priority and should be undertaken with a view to preparing guidelines on good management practice for the species.		✓			yes	not started
5.5.3	Undertake a thorough survey of the Whernside and Ingleborough area to update records of known sites and to search for colonies which are as yet unrecorded. Also survey sites outside this area where the plant has previously been recorded (such as the northern Pennines) in order to determine its present		✓			no	ongoing

	status in these areas. An assessment of any current threats at each site should also be made.						
5.5.4	Carry out frequent monitoring of all populations.		✓			no	not started
5.6.1	Publicise the importance of this species through articles in conservation and land management publications and encourage botanists to report any new records, eg through Atlas 2000 recording.		✓			no	not started
5.6.2	Seek to involve relevant local organisations (such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) in conservation work for this species.		✓			no	not started

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>							✓
<i>England</i>							✓
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	✓						
<i>Scotland</i>	✓						
<i>Wales</i>	✓						

Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)

Although some survey has been undertaken, the lack of consensus as to the validity of this taxon is causing problems. Few experts are willing (or able) to work on this species until further taxonomic investigation has been carried-out.

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

The critical nature of action 5.5.1 has become very clear to all concerned with the implementation of this plan and no further work on the ground is feasible (other than a holding operation with respect to the management of currently recognised populations) until some taxonomic consensus is achieved. To this end English Nature has included the "species" in a programme of genetic work to be undertaken in collaboration with RBG(Kew) - material will be analysed over the winter of 99/00.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Ian Taylor	Dave Stone (species co-ordinator)
Organisation	English Nature	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	16/09/99	17/09/99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			4.1 Maintain viable populations at all known sites.		
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					✓
<i>England</i>					✓
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	✓				
<i>Scotland</i>	✓				
<i>Wales</i>	✓				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region): Until we have more certainty withn respect to the identity/limits of this taxon we will remain unclear as to its autecological requirements. The existing management is being maintained at all known sites (as the default safest option) but the appropriateness of this strategem (in maintaining population viability) cannot be determined without additional taxonomic work.					

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			4.2 Establish an <i>ex-situ</i> programme to protect genetic diversity, create a reserve population and provide experimental material.		
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>			✓		
<i>England</i>			✓		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	✓				
<i>Scotland</i>	✓				
<i>Wales</i>	✓				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region): Some sampling has been carried-out for the Millenium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place but the degree to which this covers the existing genetic diversity cannot be assessed until more is known about the limits of the taxon.					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Seek to protect all sites from inappropriate grazing management and agricultural improvement. (EN, MAFF, YDNP)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	No formal workplan or steering group yet in place	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work undertaken and organisation responsible.	Local EN team (Leyburn) secured existing management of all sites through SSSI-related mechanisms (eg. Site Management Statements) as a holding position.	
Output and timescale	All known populations lie within SSSIs - programme of SMSs should be complete by end 2000	Action by EN
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	None identified	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Refine advice to land managers in the light of findings from action 5.5.2 (action 5.3.1)	Action by EN

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.1 Establish a consensus on the taxonomy of this species through discussion with the relevant experts and, if necessary, genetic screening.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	No formal workplan or steering group yet in place	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and	Some material has been collected and awaits analysis. A report on the	

organisation responsible.	<i>findings of genetic investigations by RBG(Kew) to be peer reviewed with a view to taxonomic revision</i>	
Output and timescale	<i>Preliminary results in July 2000 under contract from EN</i>	<i>Action by RGB(Kew)</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<i>Timescale will be determined by other priorities for genetic investigation at Kew, but should be completed during 2000.</i>	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
Next steps	<i>May require consideration by the proposed "taxonomic status panel"</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by JNCC</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<i>5.5.2 Undertake research into the ecological and grazing management requirements of this species and factors which may be limiting its population size. This is a high priority and should be undertaken with a view to preparing guidelines on good management practice for the species.</i>	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<i>No formal workplan or steering group yet in place</i>	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>No</i>	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	<i>We propose to undertake an appraisal of management options if this is merited by the findings of the taxonomic review - the output will be a report on the effects of a range of management options on the fitness of A.minima populations</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by EN</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<i>Unfortunately this high priority action (required for actions 5.2.1., 5.3.1. and 5.4.1) cannot sensibly be undertaken until the findings of 5.5.1 are known. 5.5.1 is being undertaken as top priority for this species.</i>	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Not started</i>	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

