

NORFOLK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Ref 1/S27	Tranche 1	Species Action Plan 27
Plan Author:	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
Plan Co-ordinator:	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
Plan Leader:		
Date:	Stage:	
31 December 1998	Final Draft	
11 March 2004	Revised	

FEN ORCHID (*Liparis loeselii*)

1. CURRENT STATUS

National Status

- This species is listed on Annexes 11(b) and IV(c) of the EC Habitats Directive and is protected under schedule 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 and schedule 8 of the WCA 1981.
- Two populations occur. One (var. ovata) is restricted to dune slacks in South Wales whereas var. loeselii is found at 3 fens in the Broads Natural Area.

Norfolk Status

- Three populations are known to occur and are kept confidential.

2. CURRENT FACTORS CAUSING LOSS OR DECLINE IN NORFOLK

- Hydrological status of fens including too much water. Management of some potential introduction sites may still be sub optimal. In addition the general hydrosereal development of fens and the loss of early successional stages after peat cutting is probably a long term threat.

3. CURRENT ACTION IN NORFOLK

- All extant sites are generally undergoing appropriate management in the short term at least. In addition management of SSSIs is generally contributing toward the better management of fens and potential sites for possible introduction. Monitoring of extant sites is undertaken on a periodic basis. Introduction of plants to former sites has occurred and work continues on this.

4. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National

- Maintain existing populations.
- Where feasible re establish at 6 sites.

Norfolk

- Maintain extant populations.
- Where feasible re establish at 3 sites by 2010.

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.1	Policy and Legislation			
5.1.1	Encourage agri-environment incentives that restore fens.	Ensure Environmental Stewardship scheme contributes toward appropriate fen management.	EN, BA, NWT, RSPB, DEFRA RDS	
5.2	Site Safeguard and Management			
5.2.1	Provide suitable management at all sites.	Ensure suitable management continues on extant and potential introduction sites.	EN, NWT, BA	
5.2.2	Consider restoration at four former sites.	Ensure suitable management is implemented on six sites to allow introduction on 3 of these.	EN, NWT, BA	
5.3	Species Management and Protection			
5.3.1	Continue to implement recovery strategies for extant populations.	See 5.2.		
5.3.2	Consider translocation of material to these sites.	Continue existing plans to establish at three sites.	EN, NWT, BA, Kew	
5.4	Advisory			
5.4.1	None proposed.	Produce and keep updated guidance on management requirements of fen variety.		
5.5	Future Research and Monitoring			
5.5.1	Research seed bank viability and dormancy.	None proposed.		
5.5.2	Not applicable.			
5.5.3	Encourage European research.	Contact managers and researchers involved in species. Monitor populations annually or according to agreed protocol.	NWT NWT	

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.5.4	Pass data to JNCC/BRC.	Pass data to BRC, TPDB, Norfolk BRC.	NWT	
5.5.5	Not applicable.	Not applicable.		
5.6	Communications and Publicity			
5.6.1	Not applicable.	Not applicable.		

NORFOLK DISTRIBUTION

See above.

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

- All in re-flooded former turbaries in Broads.
- Base rich water supply.
- Low fertility herbaceous fens.
- Deep moss carpet associated with relatively high water levels.
- Lack of scrub cover.
- Structural diversity on fen floor e.g. tussocks of sedges and *Schoenus* appear to provide niches where *Liparis* can accommodate to micro-habitat.
- Generally with little lateral movement of water.
- Can tolerate variable water levels at any time of year.
- Tolerant of drought (at least in cultivation).
- Important to create regeneration niches over time.
- Maintain established plants through appropriate mowing regime, possibly grazing/light trampling.

REFERENCES

CONTACTS

Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Bewick House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich Tel 01603 625540.

PLAN PROGRESS (as at.....)

	Norfolk Action	Comments
5.1.1	Ensure Environmental Stewardship scheme contributes toward appropriate fen management.	
5.2.1	Ensure suitable management continues on extant and potential introduction sites.	
5.2.2	Ensure suitable management is implemented on six sites to allow introduction on 3 of these.	
5.3.1	See 5.2.	
5.3.2	Continue existing plans to establish at three sites.	
5.4.1	Produce and keep updated guidance on management requirements of fen variety.	
5.5.1	None proposed.	
5.5.3	Contact managers and researchers involved in species. Monitor populations annually or according to agreed protocol.	
5.5.4	Pass data to BRC, TPDB, Norfolk BRC.	
5.5.5	Not applicable.	
5.6.1	Not applicable.	