



UK priority species pages – Version 2

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SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

Nitellopsis obtusa (Desv.) J. Groves

Starry Stonewort

1 General information

Level 1	Non-vascular plants
Level 2	stonewort
On 1997 UK BAP list	Species Action Plan

2 UK BAP criteriaⁱ

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	False	True

3 Evidence for Criteriaⁱⁱ

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	A current BAP species for which the threat remains. Classified as VU in GB, it has a very restricted AOO, continuing decline and extreme fluctuations.

4 Distribution by Country

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	N	N	N	

5 Distribution Information

Distribution data source	Stage 1 information
Distribution data notes	1950s record from Scotland, not refound, some doubt over authenticity. Current distribution: Broads, Gloucestershire, Avon, Lincolnshire
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	6
Units used for number	Site(s) / population(s)

of sites	
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6 Actions identified by expertsⁱⁱⁱ

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
1	Optimise site conditions including reduction of nutrient levels and sympathetic vegetation cutting and sediment removal regimes (aim: stabilise macrophyte vegetation)	Species-specific management action
2	Monitor and maintain salinity and chemical levels and monitor impact of non-native invasive species	Species-specific monitoring/survey
3	Actively create suitable habitat for colonisation (e.g. through peat cutting)	Species-specific management action
4	Raise awareness among landowners and water space users of the presence and significance of stoneworts	Wider "landscape" action

7 Signpost to Priority Habitat^{iv}

Priority Habitat Name
Standing Open Water: Eutrophic Standing Waters
Standing Open Water: Mesotrophic Lakes

8 Additional information from specialists^v

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Nitellopsis obtusa
NBN common name	Starry Stonewort
classification level 1	Non-vascular plants
classification level 2	stonewort
Latest UK Population/extent Estimate	8
Units of measurement	populations
Proportion left	1
decline	0
over observed years	0
decline over 25 years	0
Crit1 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	no
Crit2 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	no
Crit3 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	unknown
Factor	A current BAP species for which the threat remains. Classified as VU in GB, it has a very restricted AOO, continuing decline and extreme fluctuations.
Crit4 satisfied (Yes/ No/ Unknown)	yes
Confidence in assessment crit 4	high
1st source	Stewart, N.F. (2004)

10 Species designations^{vi}

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only
Wales NERC S.42	Biodiversity Lists - Wales	Wales NERC S.42	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2009	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for Wales only
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species	status on former BAP list: Species Action Plan

			UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).			
RedList_GB_post2001:VU	Red listing based on 2001 IUCN guidelines	Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.	2004	Review of the status of charophytes (stoneworts) - N Stewart (unpublished)	

UK BAP 2008 reporting^{vii}

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

11 General status

Country	Attribute	Value
Wales		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	1
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Survey in 2007 revealed this species to be present at a site in Wales where it was previously unknown.
	Edits made by reporting group	
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	6
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Unknown
	Refer to LBAP data	No

	Data source / comments	Stewart, N.F. (2004). Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom. Plantlife International, Salisbury, UK.
	Edits made by reporting group	
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	6
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Unknown
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Stewart, N.F. (2004). Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom. Plantlife International, Salisbury, UK.
	Edits made by reporting group	

8 Trends

Country	Attribute	Value
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Increasing
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Unknown
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source /	Stewart, N.F. (2004). Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom. Plantlife International,

	comments	Salisbury, UK.
	Edits made by reporting group	
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Increasing
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Unknown
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Stewart, N.F. (2004). Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom. Plantlife International, Salisbury, UK.
	Edits made by reporting group	
Wales		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Increasing
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Unknown
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Edits made by reporting group	

9 Successes

Success text	Success category 1	Success category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits by reporting group
Discovery of the species new to Wales. CCW are in the process of renotifying the SSSI in question and we will have (if all goes without hitch) an SSSI based solely on the presence of this one stonewort species	Research, survey and information	Other	No	No	No	Yes	
Not elaborated by Lead Partner	Communication	Other	Yes	No	No	No	

10 Threats

Threat category 1	Threat category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits made by reporting group
Global warming	Sea level rise	Yes	No	No	No	
Human disturbance	Other recreation / tourism	Yes	No	No	No	

Pollution - freshwater	Agricultural (nutrient enrichment)	Yes	No	No	No	
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15 Constraints

Rank	Constraint category 1	Constraint category 2	Constraint summary	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Solution category	Solution summary
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3	Policy, legislation and designation	Insufficient protection through UK designated sites (SSSI, NNR, MNR)	Although 81% of Important Stonewort Areas (ISA's) identified in the 2004 Plantlife report lie in part or wholly within notified SSSIs and ASSIs, the specific stonewort interest is only mentioned in 12% of the citations for these sites. If the citation fails to mention stoneworts as a specific interest it becomes very difficult to protect them within the site, and their specific management requirements may get overlooked altogether. Furthermore, only specific features are used as indicators to monitor favourable status of the overall health of the SSSI.	Yes	No	No	No	Site protection/designation	Within statutorily protected sites ensure Stoneworts are monitored on a relevant timescale. Make sure Stoneworts are included in site condition monitoring, especially when they are not include in the citation.
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11 State of Knowledge

State of knowledge category	Notes	Edits made by reporting group
Knowledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed	Research carried out by Stephen Lambert at UEA, part funded by Plantlife, the Environment Agency and Broads Authority, has increased our knowledge of the key environmental parameters for Stonewort survival. Additional work at UEA has highlighted the adverse effects of anti-foulant paints on Stonewort populations. In general ecological terms there is a need to produce dossiers on the rarer Stoneworts and to revise the existing red data book with up to date information.	

ENDNOTES

ⁱ An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

ⁱⁱ The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

ⁱⁱⁱ Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

^{iv} Where a species action is clearly linked to a BAP priority habitat, the name of the relevant habitat or habitats was identified by the stage 2 expert group.

^v This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

^{vi} Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

^{vii} As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.