

# **Orange-fruited Elm Lichen (*Caloplaca luteoalba*)**

## **1.0 Definition**

*The Orange-fruited Elm Lichen has suffered a severe decline in the last century and is largely confined to the dry bark of mature elm trees in areas of parkland, old pasture or roadside locations with less than 75 mm of rainfall per year. It is a deadwood species that cannot survive as natural succession to a fungus community proceeds. Its distribution is not limited to Elm trees.*

## **2 Current status**

### **2.1 National**

This lichen used to be relatively widespread in the UK, with a bias towards eastern, lowland Britain, but it has undergone a severe decline. The decline has been attributed initially to agricultural intensification, but has been compounded by the loss of the host plant through Dutch Elm disease. This species is listed as vulnerable on the Great Britain Red List.

### **2.2 Local**

This species now has a very restricted distribution in East Anglia and in Suffolk it is only known to grow on a single tree at a site near Wickham Market.

### **2.3 Natural Areas**

Suffolk Coast and Heaths.

## **3 Current factors affecting Orange Fruited Elm Lichen in Suffolk**

- Loss of habitat due to Dutch Elm disease.
- Pollution arising from intensive agricultural practices and sulphur dioxide emissions.
- Felling of host trees

## **4 Current Action**

### **4.1 Legal Status**

The species is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

### **4.2 Management, research and guidance**

#### **4.3**

- Suffolk Coastal District Council and the land owner are aware of the presence of the lichen and there is no current threat to it or the host tree (a Black Poplar).
- The lichen is monitored bi-annually by the Suffolk Lichen Recorder.

## **5 Action Plan Objectives and Targets**

- 1 *Maintain in viable condition, the only Suffolk site for the species.*
- 2 *Where appropriate encourage the spread of the lichen to nearby trees and branches of the existing host tree.*
- 3 *Depending on feasibility, restore one population to a former site by 2005. This could be achieved by transplanting slivers of bark onto suitable host trees. Mature Elms that have either survived Dutch Elm disease or parkland and estate trees that have been treated against the disease would be appropriate.*

**6 Orange-fruited Elm Lichen: Proposed local action with lead agencies**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>POLICY AND LEGISLATION</b>		
Aim to protect the only Suffolk site for this lichen with a Tree Preservation Order.	2005	SCDC
<b>SPECIES SAFEGUARD AND MANAGEMENT</b>		
Make contact with local project establishing disease-resistant Elms – with a view to planting in vicinity of host tree.	2005	SCDC
Identify suitable former sites for attempt to restore population to another site.	2005	EN, SCDC
Once suitable methods have been determined and sites identified, seek to restore one population to a former site.	2006	EN, SCDC
Seek to establish favourable management for key site occupied by this lichen.	2005	Landowner, SCDC
<b>RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>		
Seek to establish suitable methods for translocation of the lichen to a former site or keep up-to-date with any national research in this field.	2005	SNS, SCDC
Ensure national research into ecology and management of this species is available and implemented at a local level.	2004 2005 2006 2007	EN
Undertake monitoring every 2 years at known site, to assess population size and identify potential threats.	2004 2006	SCDC, SNS
Subject to confidentiality and data ownership, pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to SBRC.	2005 2006 2007	Lichen Recorder, SCDC
Undertake a survey of all known and former sites in the county to include Black Poplar, Horse Chestnut and Sycamore trees.	2005	SNS, SBRC
<b>ADVISORY</b>		
Ensure that local landowners, managers and naturalists are aware of the presence and importance of conserving this species, its legal protection and suitable methods for its conservation by liaison with landowner.	2005	SCDC, SNS