

**LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

**OAK POLYPORE
SPECIES ACTION PLAN
2005 - 2010**



Picture courtesy of Natural England

Prepared by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership.



Finalised November 2005.

OAK POLYPORE SPECIES ACTION PLAN

ESTIMATED POPULATION IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE: There have been 3 records for Oak Polypore in Derbyshire. 2 at Calke Park SSSI one in 1991, (specimen removed and preserved at Kew) and a 2nd in 2005. It was also recorded at Kedleston Park (outside the SSSI) in 2001. This equates to more 60% of all East Midlands records. The other sites being Sherwood Forest and Bradgate Park. It is possible that the species could occur at other parkland sites with large, old oaks in Derbyshire.

NATIONAL SPECIES ACTION PLANS: Oak Polypore (*Buglossoporus quercinus*)

ASSOCIATED BAP PRIORITY HABITATS IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE:
Lowland Wood Pasture and Parkland & Veteran Trees.

A vision for the future of oak polypore in Lowland Derbyshire

To achieve a sustainable population of oak polypore within the current known sites in Lowland Derbyshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background information on the ecology of the Oak Polypore and its distribution in lowland Derbyshire can be found in the document 'Oak Polypore in lowland Derbyshire'.

2. THREATS

Although very little is known about the species, the following may be potential threats:

- Removal of old oaks or fallen wood from old oaks which may have the potential to support Oak Polypore
- The potential of *Phytophthora quercina* (sudden oak death) to affect native oak trees.
- Lack of suitable younger oak trees to ensure habitat continuity.
- Collecting of fruit bodies is a potential threat at sites with small populations.

3. CURRENT ACTION

3.1 Designated Sites

The records from Calke Abbey are within a SSSI. The site is also designated as a National Nature Reserve. The record from Kedleston Park lies within the parkland outside the boundary of the SSSI.

3.2 Legal Protection

The Oak Polypore is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy the fungus.

4 ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

4.1 National Targets

- Maintain populations of this species at all extant sites.
- Establish an ex situ population of this species by 2005.
- Ensure that by 2010 there are at least five additional viable populations, using reintroductions if necessary.

4.2 Lowland Derbyshire

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the existing populations of Oak Polypore in Lowland Derbyshire.

Target:

Initiate measures by 2010 to achieve a sustainable population of oak polypore at Calke Park NNR and Kedleston Park SSSI.

5. ACTIONS

Partners-

Natural England (NE), Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT), Fungus Groups Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), and National Trust (NT)

	Action	Timescale	Partners
	Site Management		
OP1	Devise and implement a management strategy to ensure a continuity of oak trees at Calke and Kedleston	Ongoing	NE, NT
OP2	Where possible, prevent felling of host trees. Where public safety is an issue, use tree surgery or other techniques	Ongoing	NT
OP3	When fruiting bodies appear, organise site meetings between a mycologist and relevant people involved in site management.	Ongoing	NT, NE, Fungus Groups
OP4	Undertake regular surveys of all known oak polypore sites in order to maintain an understanding of the status of this species at each and to assess the threats to all extant colonies.	Ongoing	NT, NE, Fungus Groups
	Survey and Monitor		
OP5	Identify and survey all potential oak polypore sites	2005-2010	NE, Fungus Groups
OP6	Create a register of known oak polypore sites/host trees	By 2010	NE, DWT
OP7	Encourage mycologists to pass all records of oak polypore, including ecological information, to a national database	Ongoing	Fungus Groups
	Advisory		
OP8	Advise landowners and land managers, and relevant agencies, of the presence and importance of oak polypore, its legal protection, specific management for conservation, any potentially damaging actions.	Ongoing	NE, DWT, FWAG
OP9	Encourage the favourable management of oak polypore sites and adjacent land through agri-environmental schemes.	Ongoing	DWT, FWAG, NE, Landowners
	Communications and Publicity		
OP10	Raise awareness of the oak polypore through press releases and including information within events at Oak Polypore sites.	Ongoing	NE, NT

6. RESOURCES

Additional resources will be required to:

- Enhance management of sites in the ownership of conservation organisations.