

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Knothole Yoke-moss

BftB project: IP02 Ancients of the Future

Project lead organisation: Buglife

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Partner organisation for species: Plantlife

Species name – common & scientific	Knothole yoke-moss <i>Codonoblepharon forsteri</i> (syn. <i>Zygodon forsteri</i>)
Photograph	 <p>© Steven Heathcote / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Moss
Conservation status	Endangered in Britain and a NERC Act Section 41 species, protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.
UK distribution	In Britain, restricted to three areas – New Forest, Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches.
Habitat associations	<i>Codonoblepharon forsteri</i> occurs mostly on well-lit veteran beech trees where it occupies a narrow range of microhabitats on the trunks and branches of trees e.g. in rain tracks/flushed bark and in hollows and crevices on the exposed roots of old trees. It is also known from exposed wood/lignum on beech at Burnham Beeches.
BftB work carried out:	
Survey & Monitoring	Population fully surveyed and documented at Burnham Beeches. Volunteer survey of adjoining land.
Sites habitat management works	No habitat management works were undertaken as part of this project.

Technical advice provision	Advice given to the managers of the only project site with the species (City of London/Burnham Beeches).
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	Associated with lichens of well-lit old parkland oak.
BftB results obtained:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	Burnham Beeches
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Found on 47 trees
Species Recovery Curve progress made	SRC score: 4. Further work on status and ecology of <i>C. forsteri</i> has taken place at Burnham Beeches, along with investigation of the drivers of declines. Niche availability seems low and may be a limiting factor, and competition from other bryophytes and tree death are the other main factors. Remedial action has been partially identified - the need to plan for successive generation of old beech trees inc. pollards - and this has been underway at Burnham Beeches for some years in any case. Other remedial action e.g. specific actions for niche creation has not been identified.
Recommendations for future work:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref Section 41 actions