

**LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

OAK POLYPORE IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE



Photo courtesy of Natural England

Prepared by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership



Last Updated February 2007

**This document provides the background information for the Oak Polypore
Species Action Plan**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Oak Polypore (*Buglossoporus pulvinus*) is a fungus which lives perhaps exclusively on old oak heartwood. It is widespread with oaks throughout Europe and across Asia, but is nowhere considered common.

At the moment, very little is known about the Oak Polypore. Gathering basic habitat data and distribution knowledge is therefore essential. The species is only known to occur on the wood of oaks of 250 years old or more. As ancient oaks are seldom seen in most European countries, the Oak Polypore may have its world stronghold in England. It has been found in the following situations: old, dead standing trees; fallen trunks of old trees; fallen limbs of old trees; long-fallen limbs and trunks. In England, fruitbodies appear from July – August, but may only last a few weeks. They rarely appear every year and gaps in fruiting may be substantial. There appear to be no records from 1910 – 1967 and at Windsor Great Park, no fruiting was noted 1971-85.

2. DISTRIBUTION

2.1 Distribution in Europe and Britain

In Europe it is on Red Data lists as “extinct” or “threatened with extinction”. In Britain there are comparatively few records and its habitat may be restricted. It has been recorded from 29 sites in 19 English counties, but there have only been 18 records since 1970. 2 of these (11%) have been from Lowland Derbyshire.

2.2 Distribution in East Midlands

Sherwood Forest and Bradgate Park have populations of Oak Polypore. Derbyshire’s sites equate to more 60% of all East Midlands records.

2.3 Distribution in Lowland Derbyshire

There have been four records for Oak Polypore in Derbyshire, covering two 1km grid squares. Three at Calke Park SSSI one in 1991, (specimen removed and preserved at Kew) and a second and third in 2005. It was also recorded at Kedleston Park (outside the SSSI) in 2001. Map 1 shows the known distribution in Lowland Derbyshire. It is possible that the species could occur at other parkland sites with large, old oaks in Derbyshire.

