

YELLOW-NECKED MOUSE *APODEMUS FLAVICOLLIS* SPECIES ACTION PLAN**1. INTRODUCTION**

The yellow-necked mouse is not a priority species in the UKBAP but its southwesterly distribution in the UK makes the South Wales population particularly important. It is considered an important species for conservation in Caerphilly county borough.

Relevant Legislation/Species Status	
priority (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	-
EC Habitats Directive	-
Conservation Regs 1994	-
Berne Convention 1982	-
Bonn Convention 1979	-
CITES 1975	-
WCA 1981	-

**2. CURRENT STATUS****2.1 UK and Wales**

The yellow-necked mouse is a nocturnal species of deciduous woodlands and parklands. It feeds on fruits, berries, buds, insects and seeds collected from ground level and in trees of around 20 metres. Its distribution is mainly restricted to the south and west of England and South Wales, but even here much suitable woodland areas are apparently without them.

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

Recent surveys have found most populations and highest densities in well-drained broadleaved deciduous woodland areas, probably some of the highest densities of southern Europe. It could also be found in some suitable hedgerows and gardens, but there has been no systematic survey undertaken on this species in the county borough.

2.3 Links with Habitats

- **Deciduous Woodlands** (mixed deciduous/broadleaved woodlands on well-drained banks and slopes)

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Felling of broadleaved woodlands and replanting with conifers.
- Over-use of rodenticides.
- Clearing of fallen timber nest sites.
- Parks are often kept 'too tidy'.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 Sympathetic woodland and parks management.

4.2 Provision of nest boxes specially designed for mice.

4.3 Annual monitoring of known breeding sites⁴¹.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

Not applicable to this species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

5.2.1 Maintain the unique population density of this mouse by protecting broadleaved woodland and parkland habitats in the county borough. (Target: ongoing)

6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.1 Policy and Legislation											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Maintain the current extent and quality of foraging habitats through appropriate management.	CCBC	Coed Cymru landowners	✓								
6.2.2 Seek to create new nesting sites for the species by providing nest boxes and maintaining the diversity of structure of broadleaved woodlands, for example, leaving fallen trees.	CCBC	Coed Cymru landowners	✓								
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Identify and protect key breeding and feeding areas.	GWT GLWT	VWT CCBC		✓							
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Produce and disseminate advice to local authority staff and private woodland and parkland managers.	CCBC	Coed Cymru	✓								
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Monitor all known breeding and feeding sites on a regular basis.	GWT GLWT	VWT CCBC		✓		✓		✓		✓	
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Provide information to schools and colleges, and other interested organisations and individuals.	CBP	GWT GLWT Schools Youth Forum			✓						