

## **BORDERED GOTHIC MOTH *HELIOPHOBUS RETICULATA* SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The bordered gothic moth is classified as *Nationally Scarce* and is a UKBAP priority species<sup>38</sup>.

### **2. CURRENT STATUS**

#### **2.1 UK, Wales and Caerphilly County Borough**

The bordered gothic moth is associated with open, mainly calcareous (or possibly with underlying calcareous rock) grassland sites, but the larval ecology in the wild is unknown. The seedpods of *Silene* species, such as the bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris*) and possibly soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*) are suggested food plants, based on observations in captivity.

This moth was widely distributed, but always local, in England and Wales from Yorkshire southwards, but its range has declined substantially since the 1960s and it is now reported mainly from the Portland area of Dorset, from the Breckland of East Anglia (where it has become scarce in the last decade) and occasional specimens from South Wales.

Most known sites are open to full sun and comprise downland, limestone grassland, rough open ground, sea cliffs or quarries. However, a full countywide survey for this moth is required.

#### **2.2 Links with other action plans**

This action plan should be considered in conjunction with lowland calcareous grassland.

- **Species-rich Grasslands** (lowland calcareous grassland)
- *Post-Industrial Land* (quarries)

### **3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES**

- Changes in the management of calcareous grasslands.
- The unimproved grassland sites this moth favours remain targets for development.

### **4. CURRENT ACTION**

4.1 No current action apart from recording by the Glamorgan Moth Recording Group.

### **5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**

#### **5.1 UK Objectives and Targets**

5.1.1 Maintain the population size at all known sites (Target: ongoing).

5.1.2 Restore viable populations to 5 additional sites nationally, within the historic range, by 2010.

#### **5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets**

5.1.2 I identify and maintain the current distribution and range. (Target: 2005 and ongoing)

- 5.2.2 Identify additional sites for species reintroductions by 2008, and seek to restore viable populations to suitable site(s) by 2011.

## 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
<b>6.1 Policy and Legislation</b>											
6.1.1 Include the requirements of the species, where possible, when preparing or revising prescriptions for relevant agri-environment schemes.	CCW	NAWAD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.2 Ensure the habitat requirements of the bordered gothic are taken into account in relevant development policies, plans and proposals.	CCBC	CCW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.3 Seek to designate local sites as SINC where there are significant populations of this moth.	CCBC	CCW									✓
<b>6.2 Site Safeguard and Management</b>											
6.2.1 Ensure all occupied and adjacent suitable habitat is appropriately managed (when requirements are known), e.g. through site management agreements or uptake of relevant agri-environment schemes.	CCW	NAWAD FC	✓	✓	✓						
6.2.2 Increase available habitat wherever possible, on known sites and adjacent sites, and attempt to link up fragments of habitat.	CCW	NAWAD FC CCBC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>6.3 Species Management and Protection</b>											
6.3.1 Reintroduce the bordered gothic to suitable sites within the historic range, if necessary, to restore a number of additional viable populations.	CCW	(BC)						✓			✓
<b>6.4 Advisory</b>											
6.4.1 Liaise with landowners and managers to raise awareness of the species and the importance of beneficial management for its conservation.	CCBC	BC CCW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>6.5 Future Research and Monitoring</b>											
6.5.1 Undertake surveys to determine the current distribution.	GMRG MBMG	BC CCW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.5.2 Pass information gathered during survey work and monitoring of species to a central database for incorporation into national and international databases.	GMRG MBMG	BC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>6.6 Communications and Publicity</b>											
6.6.1 Promote opportunities for the appreciation of the bordered gothic and the conservation issues associated with its habitat.	CBP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓