

DOUBLE LINE MOTH *MYTHIMNA TURCA* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The double line moth is a UKBAP priority species³⁸ and is classified as *Nationally Scarce*.

2. CURRENT STATUS

2.2 UK and Wales

The double line moth occurs in wet grasslands, woodland clearings and rides. It is able to survive in exposed situations such as open moorland and coastal grassland in southwest England, but in South Wales the species is often associated with rhos pasture. Little is known about its ecology, other than the larvae feed at night on grasses such as common bent, creeping soft-grass and cock's foot. In the UK it is now mainly confined to southern and western Wales, and southwest England (Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall), where it is chiefly associated with wet grassland. It has been recorded in open woodland in southeast England, but has now largely disappeared from this habitat, perhaps due to changes in management (see section 3).

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

The county of Glamorgan appears to be a stronghold for the species, but to date only two Gwent records are known. In both counties, covering Caerphilly county borough it is probably under recorded, so a full survey is therefore required.

2.3 Links with Habitats

- *Species-rich Grasslands* (rhos pasture – wet grasslands)
- *Deciduous Woodlands* (woodland rides and glades)

2.4 Links with Other Plans

It is likely that the implementation of this action plan will have benefits for other species of wet grasslands, including the *marsh fritillary butterfly*.

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Changes in woodland management resulting in the shading out of woodland rides and glades.
- Agricultural improvement of wet grasslands (rhos pasture) and over-grazing.
- Abandonment of traditional cattle grazing.

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

5.1.3 Maintain the population size at all known sites (ongoing).

5.1.2 Restore viable populations to 5 former woodland sites by 2010.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

5.2.1 Identify and maintain the current population distribution and range (Target: by 2004 and ongoing).

5.2.2 Identify possible woodland sites for species re-introduction schemes (Target: 2008).

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											
6.1.1 Where possible, include species requirements when preparing or revising prescriptions for agri-environment schemes.	CCW	NAWAD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.2 Incorporate the requirements of the species into relevant development policies, plans and proposals.	CCBC	WDA FC NAWAD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.3 Seek to designate sites with significant populations as SIN C.	CCBC	CCW									✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Ensure all occupied habitat is appropriately managed, e.g. through site management agreements or the uptake of relevant agri-environment schemes.	CCW	NAWAD FC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Reintroduce the double line to a number of suitable former woodland sites.	CCW	FC Coed Cymru						✓			✓
6.3.2 Encourage appropriate management of all rhos pasture, including grazing schemes.	CCW	CCBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Raise the awareness of landowners/managers about the species' requirements and the importance of beneficial management for its conservation.	CCW	NAWAD FC Coed Cymru GWT GLWT	✓		✓						
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Undertake surveys to determine the current status of the species.	GMRG MBMG	BC CCW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.5.2 Conduct targeted autecological research to inform habitat management and reintroductions (for 6.3.1).	CCW	BC	✓	✓	✓						
6.5.3 Establish a regular monitoring programme for this species on key sites.	GMRG MBMG	BC CCW		✓	✓	✓					
6.5.4 Pass information gathered during survey/monitoring work to a central database for incorporation into national databases. Support a South Wales LRC.	GMRG MBMG	BC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Promote opportunities for the appreciation of the species and conservation issues associated with its habitat. This may be achieved by articles within the appropriate journals and publicity leaflets, etc.	CBP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓