

OTHER MOTHS SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This action plan covers 12 species which are not UKBAP priority species, but for which modern (post-1970) records exist and are felt to merit action, either because they are nationally notable (Na or Nb) or are important in a Welsh context (medium priority)²¹ (L). These are:

• Bleached Pug	<i>Eupithecia expallidata</i>	Nb
• Blomer's Rivulet	<i>Discoloxia blomeri</i>	Nb
• Broom-Tip	<i>Chesias rufata</i>	Nb
• Cloaked Carpet	<i>Euphyia biangulata</i>	Nb
• Devon Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i>	Nb
• Great Oak Beauty	<i>Boarmia roboaria</i>	Nb
• Lead-Coloured Pug	<i>Eupithecia plumbeolata</i>	Nb
• Little Thorn	<i>Cepphis advennaria</i>	Nb
• Northern Drab	<i>Orthosia opima</i>	L
• Satin Lutestring	<i>Tetheella fluctuosa</i>	L
• Thyme Pug	<i>Eupithecia distinctaria</i>	Nb
• White-Marked	<i>Cerastis leucographa</i>	L

2. CURRENT STATUS

The majority of these moth species are associated with mature, fairly open, semi-natural woodland, the rest vary between heathland, woodland and other habitats, including urban.

2.1 Bleached Pug

Woodland rides and clearings are an important habitat for this species, where it feeds on goldenrod flowers. It is under-recorded since it is a small, not easily identified moth.

2.2 Blomer's Rivulet

This is a Wych Elm feeder, hence found in woodlands with this tree species. South Wales and the Wye valley are well-known areas for this species. Although less numerous than it was prior to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s, it still appears to be well established.

2.3 Broom-tip

This moth is mainly found on rough grassland, heathland, and "waste ground", where broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) flourishes. It is declining due to loss of habitat.

2.4 Cloaked Carpet

The cloaked carpet moth is found in mature woodland, particularly edge habitats, and mature hedgerows, where it feeds on chickweed and stitchwort. After years of a significant decrease in numbers, there are recent signs of a slight recovery in South Wales.

2.5 Devon Carpet

This species is associated with damp woodland, where it feeds on common marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and possibly other *Galium* species. It is probably currently under-recorded because of its similarity to the water carpet moth.

2.6 Great Oak Beauty

This species is an oak feeder, often to be found in oak woodlands.

2.7 Lead-coloured Pug

This species is found in sheltered heathland and open woodland where its food plant the common cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) occurs. A flourishing colony used to occur at Penllwyn Grasslands SSSI in Caerphilly county borough.

2.8 Little Thorn

This species feeds on bilberry, and so occurs in open woodlands where it flourishes. However, where bilberry does not occur the alternative food plants are currently unknown. Its population is decreasing.

2.9 Northern Drab

The northern drab is found on downland and heathland, and on a variety of food plants such as willow, birch, ragwort and mugwort. However, it is particularly scarce in the Gwent area, at the edge of its range.

2.10 Satin Lutestring

This moth occurs mainly in woodland rides and open woods containing birches, on which it feeds. It is of very local occurrence, with South Wales representing the nation stronghold, and currently has a stable population in Caerphilly county borough.

2.11 Thyme Pug

Mainly found in rocky areas and on limestone hills where the larvae feed on the flowers of thyme. It may be able to subsist on garden plants.

2.12 White-marked

The white-marked moth is found in deciduous woodland, and has a mixed diet, for example of willow, dock and stitchwort. It is uncommon, with South Wales representing the national stronghold for this species.

2.13 Links with Habitats

- *Deciduous Woodlands* (wet woodland, upland oak woodland; woodland rides and glades)
- *Urban* (e.g. gardens, unused urban/industrial land ("brownfield sites"))
- *Wildlife Corridors* (hedgerows)
- *Heathland*
- *Post-Industrial Land* (quarries, "waste ground")

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THESE SPECIES

- Open woodland is important for a number of these moths, eight of them have been affected by the disappearance of traditional coppicing and wide woodland rides.
- The planting of conifers has also reduced the suitability of habitats.
- Loss of rough areas where the food plants grow to agriculture, forestry and development (**broom-tip, lead-coloured pug**).

4. CURRENT ACTION

4.1 In South Wales, there has been limited survey work by light trapping.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**5.1 UK Objectives and Targets**

Not applicable for these species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

5.2.1 Enhance the overall population size of each species in the county borough 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
6.1 Policy and Legislation											
6.1.1 Encourage appropriate woodland management in occupied sites, for e.g. through the Woodland Grant Scheme.	FC	Coed Cymru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.2 Where appropriate, include the requirements of the species when preparing or revising prescriptions for woodland grant schemes.	FC	Coed Cymru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Where possible, ensure all occupied habitats are appropriately managed, for example through site management agreements or uptake of relevant woodland grant schemes.	FC	Coed Cymru WDA CCBC	✓								✓
6.2.2 Where possible, enhance habitat at known sites, where most of the potentially suitable woodland is in the responsibility of Forest Enterprise.	FE	CCBC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Ensure the habitat requirements of the broom-tip and lead-coloured pug are considered in relevant development policies, plans and proposals for urban sites.	CCBC	WDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4 Advisory											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Continue to monitor the populations and distribution of these species in the county borough.	GMRG MBMG	BC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									