

WAVED CARPET MOTH *HYDRELIA SYLVATA* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The waved carpet moth is classified as *Nationally Scarce* and is a UKBAP priority species³⁸.

2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 UK, Wales, and Caerphilly County Borough

The waved carpet occurs in coppiced woods with a long history of active coppice, and in open sunny areas with younger growth of the larval food plants present. The food plants are alder, birch, willow and blackthorn, and, in Kent, sweet chestnut. The adult moths fly in June and July, resting by day among bushes and occasionally on tree-trunks. The larvae feed between July and August in most years and pupate in September to over-winter as a pupa in an earthen cell until emergence the following July. In Britain the waved carpet is a highly localised species with post-1980 records concentrated in five main areas: Devon, Cornwall and Dorset; the borders of Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey; East Sussex and Kent; Gloucestershire and south Wales.

Historically this species was recorded over much of England and Wales but the species has declined following the widespread cessation of active coppice management. The moth appears to exist at low density over much of its range and is likely to be under-recorded, for instance, it probably occurs more widely in Wales than records suggest.

2.2 Associated Habitats

- *Deciduous Woodlands* (lowland beech and yew woodland)

2.3 Links with Other Species

It is likely that implementation of this action plan will have benefits for other species of *lowland coppiced woodlands*, including the **drab looper** (*Minoa murinata*), the **orange upperwing** (*Jodia croceago*), the **clay fan-foot** (*Paracolax tristalis*), the **argent and sable** (*Rheumaptera hastate*), the **square-spotted clay** (*Xestia rhomboidea*) and the **common fan-foot** (*Pechipogo strigilata*).

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- The loss of young re-growth due to the decline of coppicing in the lowlands.
- The loss of broadleaved woodland due to replanting with conifers.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 Forestry Commission *Coppice for Butterflies* Challenge (Woodland Improvement Grant) scheme has targeted five areas; the Wye Valley, Sussex/Surrey/Hampshire, Western Greensand, Southern High Weald, Morecambe Bay Limestone and East Kent.
- 4.2 In South Wales there has been limited survey work by light trapping.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

5.1.1 Maintain the range of this species, concentrating particularly on strong populations within the core areas.

5.1.2 Enhance the overall population size in each occupied area by 2010.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

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

5.2.2 Identify existing sites requiring protection and appropriate management to enhance the occupied area in the county borough (Target: 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 example 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.1.3 Seek to designate important waved carpet sites as SIN C.	CCBC	CCW									✓
6.1.4 Consider notifying SSSIs on sites holding key populations of the species where this is necessary to secure their long term protection and appropriate management.	CCW	CCBC	✓								✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Where possible ensure that occupied habitat is appropriately managed, for example through site management agreements or uptake of relevant woodland Grant Schemes.	FC	CCW Coed Cymru	✓								✓
6.2.2 Where possible, increase the available habitat at known sites and attempt to link up existing fragments of habitat. Most of the suitable habitat is the responsibility of FE, with whom particularly close liaison should be established.	CCW	FE FC Coed Cymru CCBC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
None proposed at this time.											
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Advise landowners and managers of the presence of this species and the importance of beneficial management for its conservation.	CCW	NAWAD FUW NFU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Undertake surveys to determine current distribution.	BC	GMRG MBMG CCBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.5.2 Establish a regular monitoring programme for the species.	BC	GMRG MBMG		✓	✓	✓					
6.5.3 Assess the impact of the <i>Coppice for Butterflies Challenge</i> on this species.	BC	CCW			✓	✓	✓				
6.5.4 Conduct targeted autecological research to inform habitat management, including the age of coppice after cutting which is preferred by the moth, the length of time such cut areas remain suitable, mobility and population structure.	CCW	BC	✓	✓	✓						
6.5.5 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to a central database for incorporation in national and international databases. Support an LRC for South Wales.	BC	GMRG MBMG	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Promote opportunities for the appreciation of the species and the conservation issues associated with its habitat. This should be achieved via articles within appropriate journals as well as by a publicity leaflet.	CBP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓