

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Hornet Robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>
Lead Partner/Agency	CCW
Steering Group/Other organisations	Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. A loose Steering Group only which involves regular correspondence between CCW, English Nature, the National Trust and Exmoor National Park.
Work programme in existence?	Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. No

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Ensure the continued survival of the species in England and Wales in at least 40 regular sites.		X			X	

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Produce a policy statement on the use of ivermectins in SSSIs and nature reserves.	X	X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.1.2 Ensure that the effects of new veterinary chemicals on non-target species and their environment are taken into account when considering approval for release of these products for general use.	X	X			X	No	Ongoing
5.2.1 Consider trial land management schemes in about five areas where the robberfly occurs, to test the effects of alternative methods of grassland and stock management on this species.		X			X	No	Not started
5.2.2 Promote favourable management in all SSSIs and nature reserves where the species occurs or formerly occurred.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.3.1 No specific action proposed.							
5.3.2 Consider notifying strong populations as SSSIs.					X	Yes	Ongoing
5.4.1 Produce a leaflet on appropriate management for circulation to land owners		X			X	No	Not started

and managers of sites where the robberfly occurs, or was once present.							
5.5.1 Survey sites or districts where the species has been reported since 1960, to determine the current distribution.		X			X	Yes	Wales - Complete England - Ongoing
5.5.2 Promote research into the fly's ecology, especially its habitat requirements, population dynamics, dispersal abilities, larval hosts and adult prey and the importance of metapopulation structure to their survival.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.5.3 Promote investigations into the effects of ivermectins on the robberfly, and the use of alternative methods of stock parasite treatment that are less harmful.		X			X	No	Ongoing
5.5.4 Encourage monitoring of known sites for the species, seeking to include, where possible, information provided by local naturalists and site managers on the history of site management and the effects of ivermectin treatments on the local robberfly populations.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.5.5 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of the species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.	X					No	Ongoing
5.5.6 Provide information annually to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the UK status of the species to contribute to maintenance of up-to-date global red lists.	X					No	Not started
5.6.1 Use this large and attractive fly to highlight the conservation issues facing insects associated with dung.	X					No	Not started

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							
England							X
Northern Ireland	X						
Scotland	X						
Wales							X

Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)

In Wales, *Asilus crabroniformis* is known from about 20 localities of which only five support strong populations. Although recent searches of post-1960 sites suggest that 10 populations may have been lost, several new sites for the robberfly have been found in the last three or four years. It is quite possible that the species is widespread on Gower and on the south Wales coalfields although lack of funds has excluded exploratory searches.

In England, its status has been assessed from records submitted to the Larger Brachycera National Recording Scheme. It has been recorded from about 80 sites since 1980. There are several strong colonies in each of Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Wiltshire, and isolated strong colonies in Cornwall, Worcestershire and possibly Somerset.

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Identification of larval behaviour and ecology was felt to be the key to understanding why *Asilus* has declined and how avermectins may be implicated in these declines. However, progress on implementation has been hampered by an inability to find larvae *in situ* despite considerable efforts. We may well be in a position to identify c.40 sites in England and Wales currently supporting *Asilus* and manage these sympathetically by promoting both appropriate grazing regimes and the use of safer alternatives to avermectins but the long-term aim should be restore the robberfly to all parts of its former range.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Dr. Mike Howe	Dr. Mike Howe
Organisation	Countryside Council for Wales	Countryside Council for Wales
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	18.8.99	18.8.99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 Ensure the continued survival of the species in England and Wales in at least 40 regular sites.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					X
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>There are no disaggregated targets for England and Wales. However, in Wales CCW hopes to ensure the continued survival of the robberfly on c.10 sites where there are strong populations or where <i>Asilus</i> is seen regularly. This will be achieved either by notification of sites as SSSI (five sites are already notified and a further two are proposed as SSSI) or by the promotion of sympathetic management where possible through agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>In England, several strong populations occur on SSSI or NNRs or are sympathetically managed by NGOs such as The National Trust and The Wildlife Trusts.</p>					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.1.1 Produce a policy statement on the use of ivermectins in SSSIs and nature reserves.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	No work plan available to date.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	No	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale	The National Trust has produced a policy document on the use of avermectins on its holdings promoting the use of safer alternatives.	Action by NT
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Evidence of a deleterious effect by avermectins upon <i>Asilus</i> is required before such a policy can be formulated. A policy on the use of avermectins in relation to the general dung fauna could be initiated but lies outwith the scope of this Steering Group. Until effects are quantified, the Agencies should promote the use of safer alternatives where populations of the robberfly occur.	

Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing - dependent upon results of autecological studies.	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	If studies fail to provide a link, then a policy document may have to be produced along the lines of the various information notes produced by EN and JNCC over the last few years.	Action by CCW

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.2.2 Promote favourable management in all SSSIs and nature reserves where the species occurs or formerly occurred.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	See outputs below	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale	In Wales, there is a presumption against the use of avermectins on SSSI and Wildlife Trust reserves where the robberfly occurs. A similar stance will be adopted on any newly-notified sites. Appropriate grazing regimes are also promoted. National Trust policy on the use of avermectins should help to safeguard populations on its properties.	Action by CCW, Gwent Wildlife Trust
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Autecological studies have yet to identify the precise habitat requirements of <i>Asilus</i> and therefore favourable management tends to be a continuation of current management if robberfly populations are robust. It is hoped that analysis of standardised recording forms for <i>Asilus</i> sites in England and Wales circulated in time for the 1999 flight period may provide an insight into the requirements of the robberfly. A contract from EN in 1999 will obtain similar information on land management from owners of sites where <i>Asilus</i> has been recorded recently.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	Further analysis of completed recording forms.	Action by CCW

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.3.2 Consider notifying strong populations as SSSIs. THIS IS A NEW ACTION WHICH IS APPLICABLE TO WALES ONLY	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	The strongest population in each Area of Search in Wales will be considered for notification as a SSSI.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Ongoing	

Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Two sites are currently being considered for notification, with five sites already notified.	Action by CCW
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	It can be difficult to follow up casual sightings in order to locate breeding colonies and determine status as funds can be limiting.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	The two sites to be notified by 2001.	Action by CCW

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.1 Survey sites or districts where the species has been reported since 1960, to determine the current distribution.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	See output below	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

Output and timescale	<p>In Wales, all sites supporting post-1960 records have been visited or assessed. Results suggest that <i>Asilus</i> may have been lost from about 10 sites although several new localities have been found over the last two or three years.</p> <p>In England, surveys have been targetted to sites on Exmoor (Exmoor National Park Authority), Devon and Cornwall (National Trust) and to selected sites in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey (EN) with variable success at finding <i>Asilus</i>. Records continue to be submitted to the national recording scheme.</p> <p>Howe, M.A. 1997. The status of the hornet robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> in Gwynedd and monitoring of a population at Pen-y-bryn, Llanbedr in Merionethshire, 1992-1996. CCW Natural Science Report 97/5/4.</p> <p>Pinchen, B.J., Denton, J.S. & Bird, D.R. 1997. The hornet robber fly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> Linnaeus - adult behaviour at selected sites in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey in 1997. EN Research Report No. 274.</p> <p>Skidmore, P. 1997. Survey of the insect fauna of the dung of ungulates on Exmoor. Report to Exmoor National Park Authority.</p> <p>Skidmore, P. 1997. The status of the hornet robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> in south Wales. CCW Contract Science Report No.</p>	<p>Action by CCW</p> <p>ENPA, NT, EN</p>
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	Pinchen, B.J., Denton, J.S. & Bird, D.R. 1997. The hornet robber fly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> Linnaeus - adult behaviour at selected sites in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey in 1997. EN Research Report No. 274.	
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	No further funds have been earmarked for autecological studies but this may well have to be reviewed given the difficulties with obtaining results over the last three years. The project lends itself to a studentship or equivalent.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.4 Encourage monitoring of known sites for the species, seeking to include, where possible, information provided by local naturalists and site managers on the history of site management and the effects of ivermectin treatments on the local robberfly populations.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	See output below	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale	<p>In Wales, several sites supporting <i>Asilus</i> are monitored annually to assess adult numbers and to confirm that sympathetic management and grazing regimes are in place. These include all sites on SSSI and all those supporting strong populations. An annual overview of results is to be circulated to relevant interested parties in Wales.</p> <p>In England, no monitoring programme has been initiated although a handful of sites are monitored by EN or NT staff or are counted regularly by amateur entomologists.</p> <p>Howe, M.A. 1997. The status of the hornet robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> in Gwynedd and monitoring of a population at Pen-y-bryn, Llanbedr in Merionethshire, 1992-1996. CCW Natural Science Report 97/5/4.</p> <p>Painter, D. 1997. Monitoring the hornet robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> at Crymlyn Bog NNR 1997. CCW South Area Report.</p>	<p>Action by CCW</p> <p>EN, NT</p>
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Long-term monitoring is always a difficult issue particularly when you are dealing with a fairly widespread species and resources (monies, staff time) are always limited.	
Action complete or ongoing?	Wales: Ongoing	

<i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	England: Not started	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	In Wales, an annual summary will be produced reporting on site condition and adult numbers.	Action by CCW
	In England, a network of suitable sites for monitoring will be established.	EN