

# 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

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	Southern damselfly ( <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> )
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	The Wildlife Trusts (Contact Point - Environment Agency)
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	Yes: Environment Agency, The Wildlife Trusts, English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, British Dragonfly Society, Liverpool University.
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	Yes

## 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 To maintain and enhance existing populations through appropriate management to increase population and range of the species in the UK, preventing further loss of breeding populations in England and Wales.		X			X	This objective has been amended from that outlined in the published plan to include enhancement in addition to maintenance of populations.
4.2 If feasible, re-introduce species to 5 former sites by 2005.		X			X	This objective is not considered to be a high priority for current work .

## 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 Encourage the uptake of beneficial land management schemes on land adjacent to occupied sites, including design (or cessation) of drainage schemes, and other agri-environmental measures		X			X	Yes	
5.2.1 Consider notifying additional sites with large breeding centres as SSSIs.		X			X	Yes	
5.2.2 Encourage the sympathetic management of all occupied and nearby sites, especially appropriate grazing management.		X			X	Yes	

5.2.3 Ensure that, where possible, the hydrology of occupied sites remains favourable.		X			X	Yes	
5.3.1 Following further survey and identification of suitable sites, seek to re-establish populations at five former sites.		X			X	Yes	
5.4.1 Ensure relevant landowners, managers and all others involved in the management of sites which support the species are aware of its presence and rarity, and appropriate methods of habitat management for its conservation		X			X	Yes	
5.5.1 Encourage further research into the damselfly's ecological requirements throughout its range in England and Wales, especially to identify precise habitat requirements and appropriate re-introduction techniques.		X			X	Yes	
5.5.2 Promote regular monitoring of extant sites, seeking to identify further threats to the species.		X			X	Yes	
5.5.3 Encourage research on the ecology and status of this species with European partners, and use the information and expertise gained towards its conservation in the UK.		X			X	No	Ongoing
5.5.4 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated into national databases.		X			X	No	Ongoing
5.5.5 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			X	Yes	
5.6.1 Use this species to promote awareness of the importance of heathland, chalk streams and mire habitats to species conservation.		X			X	No	Ongoing

#### 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				X			
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)							
<p>Because of an increased level of local survey work and the work of the Ph D programme, the species has now been recorded on a greater number of sites in England. This is probably due to previous under-recording rather than real recovery of the species itself, although detailed monitoring is needed to confirm true status. Populations on existing sites in Hampshire remain stable. Further recording has identified some recovery in Devon. Further recording is needed to assess sites in Dorset which may be declining.</p> <p>Populations on existing sites in Wales remain stable.</p>							

**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.*

The steering group had its first meeting in April 1997 and has now met six times.

The steering group has identified the priority area for work on this species as research into precise ecology and habitat requirements. This is being taken forward through a Ph D study which will underpin delivery of the plan. Many of the actions in the plan such as management advice, identification of adjacent sites and monitoring work will follow from the research findings.

Re-establishment is not considered a high priority for work and this objective is not being progressed by the steering group. Natural re-colonisation is the favoured option to enhance the status of the species.

Current problems with delivery are:

Common land legislation - This needs reforming as it currently makes the uptake of grant schemes for sites time consuming and problematic.

Habitat steering groups - Relevant habitat groups need to become fully engaged in the work of this species.

**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	John Everitt	Tim Sykes
Organisation	The Wildlife Trusts	Environment Agency
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	17/08/99	19/8/1999

*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.

<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 To maintain and enhance existing populations through appropriate management to increase population and range of the species in the UK, preventing further loss of breeding populations in England and Wales.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<i>UK</i>			X		
<i>England</i>			X		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	X				
<i>Scotland</i>	X				
<i>Wales</i>			X		
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Target has not been broken down to country level.					
Progress towards this target is being driven by the Ph D study to increase understanding of the species needs and to develop a database of sites. The majority of stronghold sites are already managed as SSSIs for this species.					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 If feasible, re-introduce species to 5 former sites by 2005.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<i>UK</i>				X	
<i>England</i>				X	
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	X				
<i>Scotland</i>	X				
<i>Wales</i>				X	
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
This objective is not considered a priority at the current time by the steering group. This is a positive decision to focus work towards research and habitat management and should not be classed as an action where no progress has been made because of lack of effort.					

**Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)**

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

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.1.1 Encourage the uptake of beneficial land management schemes on land adjacent to occupied sites, including design (or cessation) of drainage schemes, and other agri-environmental measures	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Identify potential sites, where appropriate, adjacent to known sites by December 1999.  Advise project officers (Tir Gofal, FWAG, FRCA) of locations of <i>C. mercuriale</i> sites by December 1999 and request they take account of this action in the course of their work.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Ph D study undertaken by Liverpool University is identifying known sites.	Action by Liverpool University (LU)
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Potential adjacent sites will then be identified by statutory agencies by the end of 1999.  Relevant project officers will then be advised of locations and appropriate measures for southern damselfly by end of 1999.	Action by CCW EA EN WTs
<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Consider notifying additional sites with large breeding centres as SSSIs.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Review the boundary of the Itchen Valley cSAC by December 1999, to ensure that it includes known breeding habitat.  Establish the status of sites with newly discovered colonies on Dartmoor and consider the need for additional site protection.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	No	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

<b>Output and timescale</b>	Review of cSAC being planned. Data from survey work has been collated and is being finalised for presentation.  Some progress with work on Dartmoor sites	Action by EN British Dragonfly Society (BDS)
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Work programme actions to be completed by the end of 1999.	Action by

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.2 Encourage the sympathetic management of all occupied and nearby sites, especially appropriate grazing management.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Establish a sites register to include data on status of sites by December 1999.  Undertake a review of current management practices on all sites by Dec 2000. Consider necessary action in response to this review.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Sites register is being developed by Liverpool University with information from all relevant agencies.	Action by LU
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Review of management practices as outlined in work programme will follow from establishment of database.	Action by CCW EN

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.3 Ensure that, where possible, the hydrology of occupied sites remains favourable.	
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<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Establish minimum water quality and quantity standards for the species by April 2001.  For Welsh sites: Identify potential problems during management review (5.2.2) by December 2000 and consider necessary action.  For English sites: Identify sites that do not meet minimum standards by December 2002 and consider necessary action.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	No	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	No action yet. These actions are timetabled to build on outcome of previous actions.	Action by EA LU CCW EN
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Not started	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Actions will be undertaken as timetabled	Action by As above

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.1 Following further survey and identification of suitable sites, seek to re-establish populations at five former sites.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	No action proposed for the foreseeable future. This action is not considered to be a priority at the present time and has been dropped from the current work programme.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Not started	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	None	Action by

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.4.1 Ensure relevant landowners, managers and all others involved in the management of sites which support the species are aware of its presence and rarity, and appropriate methods of habitat management for its conservation	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Distribute awareness leaflet to all relevant owners and occupiers	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Awareness leaflet being developed by steering group. Due for completion December 1999	Action by LU Steering group
<b>Constraints to action</b> (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.)		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Distribution of leaflet to relevant target audience 2000 onwards.	Action by Steering group

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.1 Encourage further research into the damselfly's ecological requirements throughout its range in England and Wales, especially to identify precise habitat requirements and appropriate re-introduction techniques.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Continue to fund and oversee PhD study until December 2001  (Note: Research into appropriate reintroduction techniques is not considered a priority at the present time by the Steering Group).	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

<b>Output and timescale</b>	Ph D study was set up in 1998 and is due to run until 2001. This is being funded by EA, LU, CCW and EN.  Investigation of adult biology undertaken. This includes:  - dispersal ability - reproductive behaviour - habitat use - emergence - oviposition  Some preliminary work on larval biology undertaken.  Work on habitat characterisation undertaken. This includes:  - water chemistry surveys - use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to map sites - development of sites database	<i>Action by LU and funders</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Further work planned for 1999 -2001:  - Investigation of larval biology - Further work on water chemistry - Work on GIS to map sites - Further work on sites database	<i>Action by LU and funders</i>
<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.2 Promote regular monitoring of extant sites, seeking to identify further threats to the species.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Develop standard monitoring procedures and draw up ongoing monitoring strategy.  For Welsh sites: Continue to monitor populations at Cors Erddreiniog SSSI annually. Instigate annual monitoring at a key site in Pembrokeshire (Waun isaf) and at Cefn Bryn on the Gower during 1999.  For English sites: Continue annual monitoring at Itchen Valley Country Park and at Colaton Raleigh  Initiate monitoring programme of populations at all relevant p/cSACs.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	No	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

<b>Output and timescale</b>	Some monitoring work undertaken at existing sites. Strategy for monitoring to be drawn up later in 1999 from which future activities will follow.	Action by EA LU CCW EN BDS
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Future strategy to be developed December 1999.	Action by As above

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.5 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.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	This action is not considered relevant by the Steering Group as WCMC do not want the data. It has been dropped from the work programme.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Not started	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	None	Action by

End.