

Formica aquilonia (Scottish Wood Ant)

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1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	37	Occupied 10 km sq.			see entries for Scotland and Northern Ireland
E					
NI	1	Occupied 10 km sq.	2002	Informed guess	Personal communication from Dr John Breen (University of Limerick)

S	36	Occupied 10 km sq.	1999	Partial or sample survey	SNH Species Dossier (2001), supported by Wood Ants Postal Survey - SNH Report no. F99AC329. [Likely to be under-recorded]
W					

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Stable	Informed guess	See information for Scotland and Northern Ireland
E			


NI	Stable	Informed guess	Personal communication from Dr John Breen (University of Limerick)
S	Stable	Informed guess	The Wood Ants Postal Survey (SNH Report no F99AC329) confirmed the species was still present in a sample of the hectads for which there are historical records, and also found the species in other hectads (with no historic records) including one outwith the previous range (on Arran). This suggests a degree of under-recording in the past, hence the conclusion that the distribution is probably unchanged.
W			

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge sufficient to effectively deliver the plan targets. 
Notes:	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"><p>Answer applies to T1 in particular. Other than from a few sample plots or transects, baseline data for proper assessment of T2 are not available, and the resources to carry out continuous monitoring are difficult to obtain. In the meantime sufficient is know n about habitat requirements to guide relevant management in relation to individual wood ant populations.</p></div>

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Maintain the natural range of this ant in the UK.	
Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1999"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="ongoing"/>

Target units:

Occupied 10 km sq. ▼

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Target achieved ▼	37	37	Informed guess ▼	Under consideration ▼
E	▼			▼	▼
NI	Target achieved ▼	1	1	Informed guess ▼	No ▼
S	Target achieved ▼	36	36	Informed guess ▼	Under consideration ▼
W	▼			▼	▼

T2: Maintain populations at all known sites.

Target start date:

1999

Target end date:

ongoing

Target units:

Sites/ Populations ▼

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
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UK	Some progress (on schedule) ▼			Informed guess ▼	Under consideration ▼
E	▼			▼	▼
NI	Unknown ▼			Best guess ▼	No ▼
S	Some progress (on schedule) ▼			Informed guess ▼	Under consideration ▼
W	▼			▼	▼

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

2.1 Loss of suitable native pine woodland.

2.2 Inappropriate woodland management.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - woodlands/forestry Felling / loss of trees (general)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - woodlands/forestry Inappropriate timing of forestry rotation

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Communication Land managers / owners - lack of advice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S
	<input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
In an effort to minimise localised inappropriate habitat management, guidance is being prepared; hope to publish and promote in 2003.	Management
Able to resolve:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 2:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Research, survey and information Monitoring surveys required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S
	<input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Under active consideration for action during 2003 and 2004	Survey / monitoring
Able to resolve:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete: Organisation:

Devon Wildlife Trust

- English Nature
- Forest Enterprise
- Forestry Commission
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Exeter
- Woodland Trust (Scotland)

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, [click here](#).

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Trust for Scotland
<input type="checkbox"/>	University of Limerick

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9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Good contact with LBAPs, information exchanged. 

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

By LBAP 

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Slightly important 

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

Involving LBAPs to help with survey is under consideration

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Postal Survey, both cost effective and simple, as field workers (or others) not personally able to confirm identification of ant species were able to send specimens to SNH Invertebrates Advisor, enclosing location details. Identification and other details then became part of the official record.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Coordinated recording scheme / database established

Success 2:**Description:**

Lead Partner able to join forces with existing Steering Group already set up by SWT as LP for *Formica exsecta* to form a combined SG for both ants. Related issues re. *Formica lugubris* will also be covered. A smaller working group of both LP and Contact Point representatives also set up to facilitate liaison and faster progress.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Action plan process | Steering group established

Success 3:

Description:

Longer term monitoring sample plots and transects set up by partner organisations in Strathspey in and Deeside woodlands

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Baseline survey - achieved or started

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:	SNH - Dr David	email:	david.phillips@
Your name:	Alister Jones		

Date:

18th Decembe
