



Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Stag beetle
Lead Partner/Agency	People's Trust for Endangered Species Lead Partner/ EN Contact Point
Steering Group/Other organisations	Steering group Yes Other organisations, Freelance Ecologist, Suffolk Naturalist's Society, County Wildlife Trusts, Bromley Council, Colchester Museum, EN, Corporation of London, Academics from Royal Holloway, University of London, UEA and Southampton Universities, Forestry Authority, Natural History Museum, Otter, Owl and Wildlife Trust, JNCC and Community Initiative Partnerships
Work programme in existence?	Yes, agreed in principle

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Number and text	U K	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Raise awareness of the threats to, and the European importance of, the species among local conservation groups and communities.		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	ongoing
4.2 Identify a series of key sites and monitor these to establish long-term trends		Y	n/a	n/a	poss	key sites to be identified shortly , monitoring techniques being developed
4.3 Maintain strong populations at key sites throughout the current range		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	dependent on success of above
4.4 Carry out further research to establish habitat requirements		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	ongoing

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1 Policy and Legislation 5.1.1 Encourage retention of dead wood within broadleaved woods and parks throughout the current range of the beetle		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Yes	ongoing
5.2 Site safeguard and management 5.2.1 Encourage appropriate habitat management, including the retention of dead wood, for all sites where the beetle is known to occur		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Yes	ongoing

5.2.2 Seek to protect and ensure favourable management of a network of key sites throughout the range of the beetle		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Yes	ongoing
5.2.3 Ensure that Site Management Statements take account of the requirements of this species on occupied SSSI's.		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Yes	No formal guidance available to EN officers yet
5.3 Species management and protection 5.3.1 Consider adding this species to Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes	complete
5.4 Advisory 5.4.1 Ensure landowners and managers are aware of the presence and importance of conserving this species, and appropriate methods of management for its conservation.		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Yes	ongoing
5.4.2 Ensure the relevant societies and organisations are aware of the ecological implications of collecting this species.	Yes					No	ongoing
5.5 Future research and monitoring 5.5.1 Undertake surveys to establish more precisely the current distribution and identify key sites for conservation action	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	ongoing
5.5.2 Promote(a) research to clarify the precise habitat requirements of the species and (b) the effects of collection on populations		Y	n/a	n/a	Y	a)Yes b)No	a)ongoing b)not significant
5.5.3 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases		Y			Y	No	ongoing
5.5.4 Provide information annually to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the UK status of the species to contribute to maintenance of an up-to-date global red list		Y			Y	No	not required
5.6 Communications and Publicity 5.6.1 Develop and implement a high profile strategy for raising public awareness (especially at the local community level) of the conservation needs of the stag beetle, in particular, its reliance upon dead wood.	Y					Yes	ongoing

Field 4: Assessment of status

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

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

Possible evidence of contraction in range. Old data equivocal.

Wales Few records from Wales (not mentioned in BAP). More information currently sought

England Unable to detect significant changes at present, as very little base-line data available. Collection of data from targeted areas will continue

Field 5: Summary statement

Prior to the commencement of the implementation of the Action Plan for the stag beetle, its current status was unclear. Unconfirmed reports indicated that its numbers were in decline and its range contracting. In 1998, the first action was to carry out a national survey of the species to establish a base-line to direct future research and practical work and against which population trends could be measured in future. This was achieved by involving the general public, members of County Wildlife Trusts and other conservation organisations, and entomologists nation-wide. A national database of numbers reported and their distribution has been established. The data is currently being analysed and a report will be available shortly (Autumn 99). This national survey has significantly raised the profile of the species and alerted people, especially land managers, to the need to retain deadwood in situ. A short pamphlet advising land managers on appropriate action has been prepared and widely distributed. Feed back on preliminary results of the survey has been sent to all volunteers and local records sent to local Wildlife Trusts. Targeted surveying will be carried out in 1999 in areas where we currently have a lack of data. Fact sheets with general advice about stag beetles are available for the public. A schools pack was prepared in collaboration with Tog 24, our champions.

Representations were made to DETR regarding the legal status of the stag beetle. It is protected under Schedule 5, Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but only in respect to trade.

There is so far no evidence that there is any trade in the species in the UK. Fairs and other meetings at which trade might occur are being monitored.

As a result of the survey, it will shortly be possible to identify key sites for conservation action, both in areas where their populations are relatively healthy and where it is feared they may be being lost. At present, there is no generally agreed monitoring technique. Several artificial breeding sites will be trialled next year and, if successful, will be implemented at designated key sites as soon as possible.

The research programme to establish habitat requirements will be extended when this can be directed on the basis of the results of the analysis of the survey data, which will be available shortly. We have identified several factors which may be affecting the species. The majority of records were from urban areas and gardens, which means that cats, magpies and humans are now recognised as the most important predators. The tidying up of gardens by removing dead wood in now thought to be a major factor affecting this species. These finding have enabled the giving of appropriate advice.

Possible constraints towards meeting the targets may in future include financial ones, but to date, these potential obstacles have been overcome.

There has been exchange of information with research groups in Europe

Field 6: Signing off

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Valerie Keeble	Roger Key
Organisation	People's Trust for Endangered Species	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)		

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)

Objective/target	4.1 Raise awareness of the threats to, and the European importance of, the species among local conservation groups and communities.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Yes				
<i>England</i>			Yes		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Yes				
<i>Scotland</i>	Yes				
<i>Wales</i>			Yes		
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
England Good response to national public survey. Over 4000 people sent in records and subsequently received preliminary results. We continue to seek records from peripheral areas and areas within the current distribution range from which we have few records.					
Wales Fewer records received - probably fewer stag beetles. Good response to publicity and newspaper articles and radio programmes.					

Objective/target	4.2 Identify a series of key sites and monitor these to establish long-term trends.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Yes				
<i>England</i>			Yes		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Yes				
<i>Scotland</i>	Yes				
<i>Wales</i>					Yes
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
England and Wales Key sites imminently to be selected. Monitoring techniques being developed					

Objective/target	4.3 Maintain strong populations at key sites throughout the current range				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Yes				
<i>England</i>			Yes		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Yes				
<i>Scotland</i>	Yes				
<i>Wales</i>					Yes
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Dependent on success of 4.2					

Objective/target	4.4 Carry out further research to establish habitat requirements.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Yes				
<i>England</i>			Yes		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Yes				
<i>Scotland</i>	Yes				
<i>Wales</i>					Yea
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
We have learnt something of the habitat requirements of the stag beetle from the national survey and the importance of dead wood. For ongoing research, see summary statement					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

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

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.1 Policy and Legislation 5.1.1 Encourage the retention of dead wood within broadleaved woods and parks throughout the current range of the beetle	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	The steering group aimed to use publicity and leaflets targeting land managers. Also articles in relevant journals. Planned to use the network of steering group to target local professionals.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Advice leaflet was prepared by PTES for land managers and was widely distributed by all members of the steering group in their local areas. Articles published in arboricultural magazines for professionals. Royal Parks cooperated in the launch of the survey by Mr Meacher in Richmond Park. A leaflet was prepared for professional workers	
Output and timescale	1998 and beyond	Action by PTES and ALL
Constraints to action	No difficulties have so far been insurmountable	
Action complete or ongoing?	Ongoing	
Next steps	Continuation of above in 1999 and beyond. Printed material may be modified in the light of results of survey.	
Output and timescale	As appropriate	Action by ALL

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.2 Site safeguard and management 5.2.1 Encourage the appropriate habitat management, including the retention of dead wood, for all sites where the beetle is known to occur	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Steering group aimed to have general publicity at a national scale. Prepare an information and advisory leaflet for members of the public. Produce posters and school information packs. Also articles in magazines of general interest and TV and radio.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Above targets in the work plan were all launched in 1998 and are ongoing.	
Output and timescale	1998 and ongoing. Leaflet for professionals prepared and widely distributed.	Action by ALL
Constraints to action	No difficulties have so far been insurmountable	
Action complete or ongoing?	Ongoing	
Next steps	Continuation of above.	
Output and timescale	1999 and beyond	Action by ALL

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.2.2 Seek to protect and ensure the favourable management of a network of key sites throughout the range of the beetle	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Aim to identify key sites by the end of 1999 and to monitor them regularly thereafter in order to establish changes in population numbers.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	No	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	At present the key sites are being identified as a result of the survey in 1998. 2 SACs have already been identified where favourable management is underway.	
Output and timescale	Ongoing	Action by ALL
Constraints to action	None at present.	
Action complete or ongoing?	In process	
Next steps	Identify key sites and set up monitoring programme.	
Output and timescale	Identify key sites in 1999 and set up monitoring programme in 2000	Action by ALL

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.2.3 Ensure that Site Management Statements take account of the requirements of the species on occupied SSSIs	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Aim to notify all SSSI owners of the importance of deadwood (English Nature)	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Advice is given that all old trees should be identified and deadwood left in situ.	
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	ongoing	Action by EN
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>	As yet no formal guidelines available to EN staff	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	????	
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	5.3 Species Management and Protection 5.3.1 Consider adding this species to Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Write a submission to DETR (PTES)	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Wrote to DETR requesting upgrade in legal protection..	
Output and timescale	PTES wrote to DETR in 1997.	Action by PTES
Constraints to action	None	
Action complete or ongoing?	Complete	
Next steps	N/a	
Output and timescale	N/a	Action by N/a

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.4 Advisory 5.4.1 Ensure landowners and managers are aware of the presence and importance of conserving this species, and appropriate methods of management for its conservation	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	The steering group aimed to use publicity and leaflets targeting land managers. Also articles in relevant journals. Planned to use the network of steering group to target local professionals.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Advice leaflet was prepared by PTES for land managers and was widely distributed by all members of the steering group in their local areas. Articles published in arboricultural magazines for professionals. Royal Parks cooperated in the launch of the survey by Mr Meacher in Richmond Park.	
Output and timescale	Above all launched in 1998 and ongoing	Action by ALL
Constraints to action	No difficulties have so far been insurmountable	

Action complete or ongoing?	Ongoing
Next steps	Continuation of above in 1999 and beyond. Printed material may be modified in the light of results of survey.
Output and timescale	As appropriate <i>Action by ALL</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.5 Future research and monitoring 5.5.1 Undertake surveys to establish more precisely the current distribution and identify key sites for conservation action	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Aim to carry out a national survey and to identify key sites.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	National survey during flight season. Targeted surveys where lack of data and in peripheral areas.	
Output and timescale	National survey in 1998 Targeted, further surveying in 1999.	<i>Action by ALL</i>
Constraints to action	It was more difficult to reach people living in the countryside rather than towns (Steering Group linked in with the NFU Wildlife Checklist initiative to try to alleviate this problem). There was an overwhelming public response which involved telephone calls and correspondence. Never enough staff time available for this and data entry.	
Action complete or ongoing?	Ongoing	
Next steps	Identify key sites	
Output and timescale	Identify key sites in 1999 for future monitoring.	<i>Action by ALL</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.5.2 Promote (a) research to clarify the precise habitat requirements of the species and (b) the effects of collection on the species	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	(a) Hoped that results of survey would direct areas of future research. (b) Aimed to seek evidence of trade in the species.	
Action/workplan undertaken?	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	(a) Habitat requirements learnt from the results of the 1998 survey. Trapping techniques (Royal Holloway) and breeding sites (Corporation of London, Colchester Museums, London Wildlife Trust, Bromley Council, Suffolk Naturalists' Society and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust) being trialled in 2000 to establish habitat requirements. (b) No evidence found to date.	
Output and timescale	(a) Results of survey in Autumn 1999, Trapping and breeding site research in 2000 and beyond.	<i>Action by ALL</i>
Constraints to action	(a) Long life-cycle of species means that results won't be immediately available.	
Action complete or ongoing?	Ongoing	
Next steps	Key sites to be established using habitat knowledge gained from research in 1999.	
Output and timescale	Key sites in 2000.	<i>Action by ALL</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.6 Develop and implement a high profile strategy for raising public awareness (especially at the local community level) of the conservation needs of the stag beetle, in particular, its reliance on dead wood.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible	Planned a high profile survey with lots of publicity. Group members have participated in radio and television programmes and written magazine articles, both locally and nationally and responded to many enquiries from the general public.	
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		<i>Action by</i>
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>		
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	continuation of the above	<i>Action by</i> ALL