

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	<i>Stethophyma grossum</i> – Large Marsh Grasshopper
Lead Partner/Agency	CABI Bioscience
Steering Group/Other organisations	A steering group exists, but is yet to meet formally – subgroups have met to discuss implementation of particular actions. (CABI Bioscience; English Nature; Bristol Zoo, Invertebrate Section; National Trust; independent consultants)
Work programme in existence?	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 Prevent further contraction in range, and decline in population sizes, at known sites.		*				Information on current range and locations of extant colonies is being collated.
4.2 Restore populations to five suitable sites within the historic range of the species by 2010.		*				Likely priority areas for population restoration are being identified.

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 Where appropriate, include the requirements of the species when preparing or revising prescriptions for agri-environment schemes.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.1.2 Address the requirements of this species in the LEAP process and in relevant WLMPs.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.1.3 Take account of the species' requirements in response to applications for water abstraction licences.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)

5.2.1	Where possible, ensure that all occupied and potential habitat is appropriately managed by 2010, for example through SSSI or agri-environment scheme management agreements.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.2.2	Ensure that the habitat requirements of the large marsh grasshopper are taken into account in any relevant development policies, plans and proposals.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.2.3	Ensure that the species is included in site management documents for all relevant SSSIs.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.2.4	Consider notifying as SSSIs sites holding key populations of this species, where this is necessary to secure their long-term protection and appropriate management.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.3.1	(Re)introduce the large marsh grasshopper to sites within the former range of the species, where appropriate habitat and site management are available, in order to restore populations to five sites.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.4.1	Advise landowners and managers of the presence of the species and the importance of beneficial management for its conservation.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.5.1	Undertake further surveys to determine the status of this species and to identify potential sites for (re)introductions.		*				Y	on-going (see Table B)
5.5.2	Conduct targeted autecological research to inform habitat management.		*				Y	on-going (see Table B)
5.5.3	Establish a regular monitoring programme for this species.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.5.4	Support the development of a captive breeding strategy as a component of any (re)introduction programme.		*				N	on-going
5.5.5	Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to a central database for incorporation into national and international databases.		*				N	on-going (annual reports submitted to EN).
5.6.1	Promote opportunities for the appreciation of the species and the conservation issues associated with its habitat. This should be achieved through articles within appropriate journals, as well as by a publicity leaflet.		*				N	on-going
5.7.1	Implementation of this action plan could benefit other species of lowland mire, including the ground beetle <i>Pterostichus aterrimus</i> .		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)
5.7.2	This plan should be considered in conjunction with that for fens.		*				N	not started (the distribution, status and habitat requirements of the species are still being clarified)

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							*
Northern Ireland							
Scotland							
Wales							
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
Information on current range and locations of extant colonies is being collated.							

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 key initial proposed actions are on-going, principally through surveys to clarify the current range and status of the species, and autecological research, building on a programme of activities which commenced in 1997 (see annual reports to English Nature). From this work, early indications are that the species was lost from Surrey and Somerset during the early 1990s, but persists at a number of sites in Dorset and as a reasonably substantial network of more or less isolated colonies in the New Forest. The species is (as the general literature suggests) confined in these areas to “quaking bog” mire habitats. Field-based research is currently focused on determining more precisely the within-site patterns of distribution of the species, to assess aspects of habitat usage and the basis of colony delimitation. When further information on the habitat requirements of the species becomes available, it will be possible to initiate progress on a number of the other published action points.

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	Oliver Cheesman & Val Brown	Dave Stone
Organisation	CABI Bioscience	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	30/9/99	

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 Prevent further contraction in range, and decline in population sizes, at known sites.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					*
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Information on current range and locations of extant colonies is being collated.					

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 Restore populations to five suitable sites within the historic range of the species by 2010.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					*
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Likely priority areas for population restoration are being identified.					

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.)	5.5.1 Undertake further surveys to determine the status of this species and to identify potential sites for (re)introductions. (ACTION: EN).
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	cf. above and below.
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	yes – on-going

Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Since 1997, CABI Bioscience and independent consultants have been engaged in a programme of surveys to clarify the current range and status of this species in the UK. Early indications are that <i>S. grossum</i> was lost from Surrey and Somerset in the early 1990s, but persists at a number of sites in Dorset and as a reasonably substantial network of more or less isolated colonies in the New Forest. Somerset appears to be the obvious priority area for (re)introductions, but further work on the species' habitat requirements is necessary before specific sites can be judged to be in suitable condition or otherwise for a (re)introduction attempt.	
Output and timescale	See annual project reports to EN.	<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>	No significant constraints.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	Continue current approach.	
Output and timescale	See published action points.	<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.2 Conduct targeted autecological research to inform habitat management. (ACTION: EN).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	cf. above and below.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes – on-going	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	During 1998 and 1999, targeted autecological research has been initiated to characterise the habitat preferences and requirements of the species. This involves field-based work, conducted by CABI Bioscience and independent consultants, to assess patterns of within-site distribution of <i>S. grossum</i> , elucidating aspects of habitat usage and constraints to colony expansion. A programme of laboratory-based research to assess feeding and ovipositional preferences is also being developed, by CABI Bioscience and Bristol Zoo Invertebrate Section, in conjunction with on-going investigations of the feasibility of a captive rearing approach for this species (action point 5.5.4).	
Output and timescale	See annual project reports to EN.	<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>	No significant constraints.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	Continue current approach.	

Output and timescale	See published action points.	<i>Action by</i>
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