



## **UK priority species pages – Version 2**

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**SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES**

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

**Eulithis mellinata (Fabricius, 1787)**

**The Spinach**

**1 General information**

Level 1	Terrestrial invertebrates
Level 2	moth
On 1997 UK BAP list	

**2 UK BAP criteria<sup>i</sup>**

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	True	False

**3 Evidence for Criteria<sup>ii</sup>**

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	common and widespread, but rapidly declining moths – research needed; Declined by 95% over the last 35 years.
Criterion 4	

**4 Distribution by Country**

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	Y	Y		

**5 Distribution Information**

Distribution data source	Stage 1 information
Distribution data notes	Based on Rothamsted Insect Survey data from over 430 sites across Great Britain, with an average of 83 traps running per year. Data from 1968 to 2002.
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	
Units used for number of sites	



**6 Actions identified by experts<sup>iii</sup>**

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
1	Ensure moths adequately covered by agri-environment schemes and by other wider countryside policies, e.g. forestry, brownfields. The key pressures are: agricultural intensification; habitat fragmentation; inappropriate and inconsistent management, i.e. excessive tidying such as hedge flailing, use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, climate change and possibly light pollution.	Wider "landscape" action
2	Investigate the effects of land use policy and management, such as agri-environment schemes, forestry practices, hedgerow management, and land use policies and practices within the urban and brownfield environments on suites of species within this group of moths. Investigate the effects of light pollution on moth populations. Investigate the effects of climate change on moth populations. Investigate the effects of eutrophication on moth populations. Investigate the international status of these species.	Research
3	The National Macro-moth Recording Scheme and Rothamsted Insect Survey should be supported and resourced to provide trend data for this widespread but declining species, so that success criteria and targets can be reported against.	Monitoring/survey
4	This species should be part of a grouped action plan that investigates the causes of decline of widespread moth species. The grouped plan would serve 69 of the BAP listed moths.	Research

**8 Additional information from specialists<sup>iv</sup>**

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Eulithis mellinata
NBN common name	The Spinach
classification level 1	Terrestrial invertebrates
classification level 2	moth
Crit 1 Global threat	Not assessed
Crit 1 European threat	Not assessed
Crit 1 Supporting info	Widely recorded in central & northern Europe, though not known from Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey

Crit 2 % of global pop	Not assessed
Crit 2 % of European popn	Not assessed
Crit 2 % of int population Supporting info	N/A
Crit 2 Decline %	?
Crit 2 Decline no of years	
Crit 2 Decline dates	
Crit 2 declines supporting info	
Crit 3 Decline %	95
Crit 3 Decline no of years	35
Crit 3 Decline dates	1968-2002
Crit 3 supporting info	common and widespread, but rapidly declining moths – research needed; Declined by 95% over the last 35 years.
Crit 4 other important factors	A Good “indicator” of what is happening in the wider environment.
Sources	Rothamsted Insect Survey data Conrad, K.F., Woiwod, I.P., Parsons, M., Fox, R. & Warren, M.S. 2004. Long-term population trends in widespread British moths. <i>Journal of Insect Conservation</i> , 8: 119-136. Karsholt, O. & Razowski, J. 1996. <i>The Lepidoptera of Europe. A distributional checklist.</i> Apollo Books, Stenstrup. Waring, P. Townsend, M. & Lewington, R. 2003. <i>Field guide to the moths of Great Britain and Ireland.</i> British Wildlife Publishing, Hook.
Quality	Good – based on data from over 430 sites across Great Britain, with an average of 83 traps running per year. Data from 1968 to 2002.



### 10 Species designations<sup>v</sup>

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only
Wales NERC S.42	Biodiversity Lists - Wales	Wales NERC S.42	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2009	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for Wales only
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species	not on former UK BAP list

## UK BAP 2008 reporting<sup>vi</sup>

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

### ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

<sup>ii</sup> The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

<sup>iii</sup> Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

<sup>iv</sup> This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

<sup>v</sup> Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

<sup>vi</sup> As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.