



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

To find out more about the JNCC priority species pages visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5161>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

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

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

**Coenagrion mercuriale (Charpentier, 1840)**

**Southern Damselfly**

**1 General information**

Level 1	Terrestrial invertebrates
Level 2	damselfly
On 1997 UK BAP list	Species Action Plan

**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)
True	False	False	True

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

Criterion 1	Threatened throughout most of its range (Merritt, 1996); on the edge of extinction in seven European countries and declining in three others, incl. Britain. Listed in Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive; Listed on red lists of European countries other than Britain (Grand, 1996)
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	For a species on the current Priority List, factors that caused the original decline are still operating or the species' population has not recovered to a point where it is likely to be viable in the long term

**4 Distribution by Country**

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	N	Y	N	

**5 Distribution Information**

Distribution data source	Stage 1 information, BAP 2005 reporting and NBN Gateway
Distribution data notes	
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	Maintain populations of Southern Damselfly across the current geographical range in the UK. Site management should take both habitat maintenance and creation into consideration.	Prescriptive habitat action
2	Expand the UK range by restoring habitat in additional 36 one-km squares in England and Wales to achieve larger and better linked population clusters by 2015.	Priority habitat action
3	Increase the number of population clusters in Favourable Condition (as defined by the statutory agencies). 100% to be in favourable condition by 2030.	Not assigned (nature of action unclear)
4	Repeat comprehensive species and habitat monitoring on all occupied sites at least every six years	Species-specific monitoring/survey
5	Investigate possible species re-introduction on historical sites and/or sites adjacent to occupied ones, where habitat restoration alone may not be sufficient, due to species' poor dispersal abilities	Species-specific management action

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

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Coenagrion mercuriale
NBN common name	Southern Damselfly
classification level 1	Terrestrial invertebrates
classification level 2	damselfly
Crit 1 Global threat	Similar to European threat as species is endemic to Europe and NW Africa
Crit 1 European threat	Threatened throughout most of its range (Merritt, 1996); on the edge of extinction in seven European countries and declining in three others, incl. Britain
Crit 1 Supporting info	Listed in Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive; Listed on red lists of European countries other than Britain (Grand, 1996)
Crit 2 % of global pop	up to 25%
Crit 2 % of European popn	Up to 25%
Crit 2 % of int population Supporting info	(See Grand, 1996 and Thompson, Rouquette & Purse, 2003) Listed in the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations (1994);

	full protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Crit 2 Decline %	30%
Crit 2 Decline no of years	40
Crit 2 Decline dates	1960-2000
Crit 2 declines supporting info	30% decline in the UK over 40 years falls short of the >25% decline over 25 years according to Appendix 3 of the criteria.
Crit 3 Decline %	30%
Crit 3 Decline no of years	40
Crit 3 Decline dates	1960-2000
Crit 3 supporting info	30% decline in the UK over 40 years falls short of the >25% decline over 25 yrs, i.e. far short of the qualifying >50% decline in 25 yrs
Crit 4 other important factors	
Sources	- Grand, D. (1996). Coenagrion mercuriale (Charpentier, 1840). In: van Helsdingen P.J, Willemse L. & Speight M.C.D (eds). Background information on invertebrates of the Habitats Directive of the Bern Convention –Part II: Mantodea, Odonata, Orthoptera and
Quality	Existing scientific information reliable.
Criterion(existing bap species)	1,2

## 9 Additional information for species listed under the Habitats Directive<sup>v</sup>

Attribute	Value
Conclusions - overall assessment	(U1+) - Inadequate but improving
Conclusions - range	(FV) - Favourable
Conclusions - population	(U1) - Inadequate
Conclusions - habitat	(U1+) - Inadequate but improving
Conclusions - future prospects	(FV) - Favourable
Published sources and/or websites	<p>BDS website (2006). www.dragonflysoc.org.uk British Dragonfly Society, December 2006.</p> <p>BOYCE, D. 2004. Condition assessment for the southern damselfly &lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt; on candidate Special Areas of Conservation in Pembrokeshire (Gweunydd Blaencleddau &amp; Preseli (part)). CCW Contract Science. 627. Countryside Council for Wales.</p> <p>MERRITT, R., MOORE, N.W. AND EVERS HAM, B.C. 1996. Atlas of the dragonflies of Britain and Ireland. ITE research publication no 9. London.</p> <p>PURSE, B.V. 2001. The Ecology and Conservation of the Southern Damselfly (&lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt;). PhD Thesis, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK.</p> <p>PURSE, B.V., HOPKINS, G.W., DAY, K.J., AND THOMPSON, D.J. 2003. Dispersal characteristics and management of a rare damselfly. Journal of Applied Ecology 40, 716-728.</p> <p>ROUQUETTE, J.R. 2005. The Ecology and Conservation Requirements of the Southern Damselfly (&lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt;) in Chalkstream and Fen Habitats. Environment Agency R&amp;D report W1-066.</p> <p>ROUQUETTE, J.R &amp; THOMPSON, D.J 2005. Habitat associations of the endangered damselfly, &lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt;, in a water meadow ditch system in southern England. Biological Conservation. 123 (2), 225-235</p>

	<p>THOMPSON, D.J., PURSE, B.V. &amp; ROUQUETTE, J.R. 2003. Monitoring the Southern Damselfly, &lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt;. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 8, English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>UK BAP websites. <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk">www.ukbap.org.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk">www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk</a></p> <p>WATTS, P.C., ROUQUETTE, J.R., SACCHERI, I.J., KEMP, S.J. AND THOMPSON, D.J. 2004. Molecular and ecological evidence for small-scale isolation by distance in the endangered damselfly, &lt;I&gt;Coenagrion mercuriale&lt;/I&gt;. Molecular Ecology 13, 2931-2944.</p> <p>Map Data Sources</p> <p>Biological Records Centre - Dragonfly and Damselfly records; CCW - UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Invertebrate data for Ceredigion; Dragonfly Recording Network; Dorset Environmental Records Centre - Dorset SW Pilot species dataset; Natural England – Invertebrate Site Register (via the NBN Gateway)</p> <p>University of Liverpool &lt;I&gt;C. mercuriale&lt;/I&gt; survey data (D. J. Thomson pers comm)</p>
surface area of range in km2	4033
surface area of range in km2 EU	4033
Date of range determination	2000-2005
Quality of data concerning range	Good
Range trend	Stable (=)
Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable
Range trend period	1994-2006
Range trend reasons 0 - Unknown	False
Range trend reasons 1 - Improved knowledge/more accurate data	False
Range trend reasons 2 - Climate change	False
Range trend reasons 3 - Direct human influence	False
Range trend reasons 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	False

Range trend reasons 5 - Natural processes	False
Range trend reasons 6 - Other (specify)	False
Reasons for reported trend in range specify	Not applicable
Population_min	82
Population_min EU	82
Population_max	82
Population_max EU	82
Population units	Other
Population date	2005
Population method	2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population
Population quality	Moderate
Population trend	Decreasing (-)
Population magnitude (%)	Unknown
Population period	2002-2005
Pop trend reasons 0 - Unknown	False
Pop trend reasons 1 - Improved knowledge/more accurate data	False
Pop trend reasons 2 - Climate change	False
Pop trend reasons 3 - Direct human influence	True
Pop trend reasons 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	True
Pop trend reasons 5 - Natural processes	False
Pop trend reasons 6 - Other (specify)	False
Surface area of the habitat in km2	Unknown
Date of area estimation	05/2007
Quality of data on habitat area	Poor
Habitat trend	Stable (=)
Habitat trend period	1994-2006
Hab trend reasons 0 Unknown	False
Hab trend reasons 1 Improved knowledge	False
Hab trend reasons 2 Climate change	False
Hab trend reasons 3 Direct human influence	False
Hab trend reasons 4 Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	False
Hab trend reasons 5 Natural processes	False
Hab trend reasons 6 Other (specify)	False
Reasons for reported trend in Hab specify	Not applicable
Justification of % thresholds for trends	Not applicable
Future prospects	Good prospects_Species expected to survive and prosper

Favourable reference range	4033
Favourable reference range EU	4033
Favourable reference population	110
Habitat name	The southern damselfly <I>C. mercuriale</I> has very specialised habitat requirements, being confined to shallow, well-vegetated, base-rich runnels and flushes in open areas or small side-channels of chalk rivers. Most sites are on wet heath
Other relevent information	Population units (not on EU standard list): no of 1 km squares See audit trail documents for further information.

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

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
Bern:A2	Bern Convention	Appendix 2	Special protection (appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures) for the animal taxa listed, including: all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites; the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention; the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty; the possession of and	1988	Bern Convention	

			internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article.			
HabDir:A2*	Habitats Directive	Annex 2 - non-priority species	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.	1992	Habitats Directive	Note on status=Not in Ann IV or V.
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	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only

			public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.		(section 41) and Wales (section 42)	
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	status on former BAP list: Species Action Plan
RedList_GB_post2001:EN	Red listing based on 2001 IUCN guidelines	Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.	2008	The Odonata Red Data List for Great Britain - 2008 (Caroline Daguët, Dr	Increase attributed to recording effort. Qualifies under B1a and B2a due to declining severely fragmented

					Graham French and Dr Pam Taylor - Eds)	populations.
WACA:Sch5_sect9.1(kill/injuring)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.1(taking)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking)	Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.2	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.2	Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.4a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.4a	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	

WACA:Sch5_sect9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.4b	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5Sect9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.4c	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.	2007	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	Geographic constraint=Does not apply to Scotland
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5a	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5b	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.	1998	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	

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

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

### 11 General status

Country	Attribute	Value
Wales		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	38
	Units	Occupied 1 km squares
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Edits made by reporting group	
England		
	Date	2007
	Status unknown	No
	Value	64
	Units	Occupied 1 km squares
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Edits made by reporting group	

UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	102
	Units	Occupied 1 km squares
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Edits made by reporting group	

## 7 Trends

Country	Attribute	Value
UK		
	Date	2007
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Declining (slowing)
	Accuracy	Best guess
	Adequate data	No and not likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	Yes
	Data source / comments	Data from the Dragonfly Recording Network, (available on the NBN) plus LBAP reports (available on BARS). This data is not of sufficient detail or regularity to qualify as adequate monitoring data. Personal communications on individual sites have been used in addition to available data to inform the report.
	Edits made by reporting group	
England		

	Date	2007
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Stable
	Accuracy	Best guess
	Adequate data	No and not likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	Yes
	Data source / comments	See UK comment
	Edits made by reporting group	
Wales		
	Date	2007
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Declining (slowing)
	Accuracy	Best guess
	Adequate data	No and not likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	Some
	Refer to LBAP data	Yes
	Data source / comments	See UK comment
	Edits made by reporting group	

## 8 Successes

Success text	Success category 1	Success category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits by reporting group
Habitat improvement and creation works by the National Trust at Mottisfont Abbey in the Test Valley appear to have been successful in the early stages.	Species and habitat management	Habitat creation / restoration - achieved	Yes	No	No	No	

## 9 Threats

Threat category 1	Threat category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits made by reporting group
Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture	Undergrazing	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Habitat loss / degradation - management practice	Inappropriate heathland management	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Pollution - land	Agricultural (nutrient enrichment)	No	No	No	Yes	

Global warming	Climate change	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Habitat loss / degradation - drainage/abstraction	Drainage (for agriculture)	No	No	No	Yes	
Habitat loss / degradation - drainage/abstraction	Water abstraction (surface water)	No	No	No	Yes	

## 15 Constraints

Rank	Constraint category 1	Constraint category 2	Constraint summary	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Solution category	Solution summary
				No	No	No	No		
	No data entered			No	No	No	No	No data entered	

## 10 State of Knowledge

State of knowledge category	Notes	Edits made by reporting group
Knowledge sufficient to effectively deliver the plan targets		

## ENDNOTES

---

<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> This is only applicable to Species listed under the Annexes 2 4 and 5 of the Habitats Directive. The information presented here was collated by the UK Government in fulfilment of the requirement under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. For further information see the [2<sup>nd</sup> UK Report](#) on the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>vi</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>vii</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.