



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).

Dolomedes plantarius (Clerck, 1757)

Fen Raft Spider

1 General information

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

2 UK BAP criteriaⁱ

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	False	True

3 Evidence for Criteriaⁱⁱ

Criterion 1	
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 , The species is declining and is a good 'indicator' for a declining group of species, a threatened habitat or conservation issue

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)	3
Units used for number	Site(s) / population(s)

of sites	
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6 Actions identified by expertsⁱⁱⁱ

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
1	Maintain habitat at known sites both in terms of extent and quality.	Species-specific management action
2	Wider countryside measures to maintain wetland habitats are likely to benefit this species. Abstraction, drainage, climate change etc are all potential threats to this and many other wetland dependent species	Wider "landscape" action
3	Introduction to the Redham & Lopham Fen population of individuals from Sussex and/or Wales populations could be tried, to increase genetic diversity of this isolated and apparently struggling population.	Species-specific management action
4	Survey is needed to find any new sites, monitoring is needed to understand the status of the species at existing sites. These data are needed to allow reporting against success criteria.	Species-specific monitoring/survey

8 Additional information from specialists^{iv}

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Dolomedes plantarius
NBN common name	Fen Raft Spider
classification level 1	Terrestrial invertebrates
classification level 2	spider
Crit 1 Global threat	N/A
Crit 1 European threat	High? (habitat)
Crit 1 Supporting info	The proportion of countries in Europe from which a species had been recorded as a proxy for the threat criterion. For the purpose of this exercise, species which were found in 8 or fewer countries out of 20 considered were considered as potentially threatened. A few additional species were included here where members of the sub-committee felt there was other evidence for decline within Europe as a whole.
Crit 2 % of global pop	N/A
Crit 2 % of European popn	8%
Crit 2 % of int population Supporting info	The species has been recorded from 13 out of 20 countries in Europe. Consult spreadsheet to see which other countries this species occurs in.

Crit 2 Decline %	68
Crit 2 Decline no of years	25
Crit 2 Decline dates	1951-1986 and 1987-2000
Crit 2 declines supporting info	The method of estimating decline is explained under Criterion 3.
Crit 3 Decline %	68
Crit 3 Decline no of years	25
Crit 3 Decline dates	1951-1986 and 1987-2000
Crit 3 supporting info	Decline was measured between two time periods, 1951-1986 and 1987-2000. These two survey periods were chosen on the basis that 1951-1986 represents the first major modern survey of spiders resulting from the publication in 1951 of British Spiders by Locket & Millidge and 1987-2000 is the second major survey of spiders resulting from the instigation of the Spider Recording Scheme and the publication of the provisional national atlas. The second survey period was much more intensive than the first, despite its shorter time period. In order to take account of this, species were compared for 10km squares with a minimum of 100 records in both survey periods. There was a clear proportional relationship between these results enabling predictions to be made of the expected numbers of 10km squares for each species resulting from the increased effort of the second survey period.
Crit 4 other important factors	A species of very restricted distribution – known only from Redgrave and Lopham Fens in East Anglia, the Pevensy Levels and the Tennant Canal in South Wales. A potential flagship species.
Sources	BAS – SRS recording scheme Provisional Atlas of spiders (Arachnida, Araneae) 2 vols. P. Harvey, Nellist, D.R. & Telfer, M.G.
Quality	Good recent data has been, and continues to be, collected via the SRS.
Criterion(existing bap species)	1,3,4

10 Species designations^v

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	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and	status on former BAP list: Species Action Plan

	priority species		and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).		Species	
RedList_GB_Pre94:EN	Red Listing based on pre 1994 IUCN guidelines	Endangered	Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.	1991	Red Data Book of Invertebrates	pre 1994 IUCN criteria
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.	1981	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.	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.2	Wildlife and	Schedule 5	Section 9.2 Animals	1981	Wildlife and	

	Countryside Act 1981	Section 9.2	which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).		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.	1981	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.	1981	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	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected	

			either live or dead, whole or part.		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.	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	

UK BAP 2008 reporting^{vi}

(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	1
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	A relatively newly discovered population in S Wales for this species.
	Edits made by reporting group	
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	3
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP data	No

	Edits made by reporting group	
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	2
	Units	Site(s) / population(s)
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Pevensey levels and Lopham & Redgrave fen remain the classic English sites for this species, though a small and artificial pond site was recently discovered from Pevensey derived material. The Lopham population remains obstanantly small and stable, despite much work, and there is a need to review the Pevensey population since last it was counted.
	Edits made by reporting group	

7 Trends

Country	Attribute	Value
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Fluctuating - probably stable
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source /	The Lopham Population has suggested a range extension in the face of better grazing of the fen

	comments	vegetation, whilst the Pevensey population was quite large in the last survey. It is considered, in combination, that this is probably a stable English population, in the light of the number of agi-environment agreements on the Pevensey levels, though these are not specifically ditch-focused. An analysis of a smaple of nursery webs between 1990 and 1991 should not statistically significant differences,
	Edits made by reporting group	
Wales		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Fluctuating - probably stable
	Accuracy	Best guess
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Asides from establishng its presence it is not considered that the full extent of Dolomedes occupation across Crymlyn Bog and asspiciated and connected wetlands is fully known. This is, in part, becuase of the extreme difficulty of surveying in this terrain, and the difficuty, (despite its size) of seeing Dolomedes in situ. It is considered that the habitat is probably good enough at present for the spider not to be declining.
	Edits made by reporting group	
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Fluctuating - probably stable
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	No but likely by 2011
	Data on NBN	No
	Refer to LBAP	No

	data	
	Edits made by reporting group	

8 Successes

Success text	Success category 1	Success category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits by reporting group
A new work plan with funding has been established to re-focus on establishing new populations of this spider, if suitable sites can be found.	Action plan process	Work plan established	Yes	No	No	No	
Part of this programme's core funding current work.	Funding and incentives	Species recovery programme - delivering wildlife gains	Yes	No	No	No	
Work with BAS members	Partnership	Voluntary / charitable body involvement	Yes	No	No	No	
Recent agreement with the John Innes Centre on developing the protocols for rearing Dolomedes spiderlings has just started. Also some interest in genetics from Nottingham University.	Partnership	Research institutions - engaged	Yes	No	No	No	
The "new" Welsh population has been recognised, but more work is needed to ascertain the true extent of occupation.	Research, survey and information	Baseline survey - achieved or started	No	No	No	Yes	

Grazing regimes have improved on Lopham & redgrave Fen	Species and habitat management	Grazing regime improvement	Yes	No	No	No	
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9 Threats

Threat category 1	Threat category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits made by reporting group
Invasive/non-native species	Habitat degradation	Yes	No	No	No	

15 Constraints

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

10 State of Knowledge

State of knowledge category	Notes	Edits made by reporting group
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<p>Knowledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed</p>	<p>The years of research at Lopham & Redgrave Fen have given us much information on the habitat preferences of this large and striking spider. One of the remaining gaps in information is the protocol for rearing spiderlings as part of any recovery programme. This is being addressed as of 2008. As part of the consideration of adding the species to new sites, new volunteer field survey is proposed in the coming years to see if more populations are already present in the many wetlands available for potential re-introduction. The threat at pevensey from Hydrocotyle invasion of some of the ditches has an unknown impact on the spider, and should be investigated.</p>	
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ENDNOTES

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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](#).

^{iv} 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.

^v 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.

^{vi} 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.