

Noble Chafer

Gnorimus nobilis

Species Action Plan

1. Introduction

The noble chafer is classed as Nationally Scarce in Great Britain and has an IUCN status of Vulnerable. It was selected as a priority UK BAP species and subsequently listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

2. Current Status

2.1 Ecology and habitat requirements

In Worcestershire the known noble chafer breeding sites are all in old, traditional orchards. In other countr

Figure 1. Records of noble chafer in Worcestershire. Data supplied and map prepared by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.

2.3 Legislation

The noble chafer is listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

2.4 Summary of important sites

The following sites are considered to be the most important locations within

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
Vale Landscape Heritage Trust
Kemerton Conservation Trust
Wyre Community Land Trust
Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust
The Lenches Community Orchard trustees

Agri-environment funding scheme options have included those for the creation, restoration and management of traditional orchard. Management of many of Worcestershire's high value traditional orchard sites is supported by agri-environment payments.

Traditional orchard management and restoration advice is available from Natural England.

4.3 Survey, research and monitoring

University dissertations completed in 2012 by Jenni Schenke and Anna Bunney researched the habitat preferences of the noble chafer within Worcestershire orchards. The outcomes of the projects were reported in the Worcestershire Record, the journal of WBRC and the Worcestershire Recorders.

WBRC's 'Conserving Worcestershire's Flagship Orchards' project added a number of new noble chafer sites to the list of those known within the county. WBRC is currently running a 2-year 'Finding Rare Species on the Malverns' project (2017-2019). This aims to increase our knowledge of the distribution and abundance of rare species in and around the Suckley Hills area of the Malvern Hills AONB. Noble chafer is one of the flagship species for which survey work is taking place.

The Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project (TCTOP) has undertaken wildlife surveys within a number of orchards and added several new noble chafer records to the database.

In October 2012 the University of Birmingham, in partnership with Aberystwyth University, Royal Holloway University of London and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), was awarded a 3-year Leverhulme Trust grant for a project entitled 'Integrating ecology and social science in conservation: Orchards, beetles, and agroecology'. This focused on the genetics, ecology and use of pheromones by t

Geotrupidae, Trogidae and Scarabaeidae. Species Status No.31. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR224.

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5488450394914816>

Schenke, J (2012). *The autecology of the Noble Chafer Gnorimus nobilis within Worcestershire*. Worcestershire Record **32**, pp 33-39.

People's Trust for Endangered Species (the national species champion for noble chafer beetle conservation) <https://ptes.org/noble-chafer-beetles/>

Worcestershire Biological Records Centre projects

<http://www.wbrc.org.uk/WBRC/projects.html>