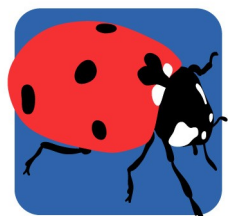
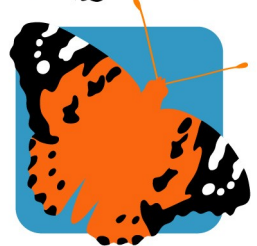
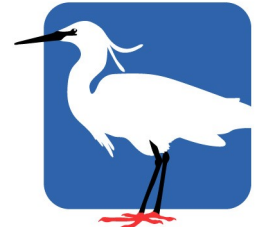




Blomer's rivulet © Robert Woods

Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership



Priority moth species

Blomer's rivulet (*Discoloxia blomeri*), crescent striped (*Apamea oblonga*) large red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon culiciformis*), lyme grass (*Chortodes elymi*), shore wainscot (*Mythimna litoralis*) and The forester (*Adscita statices*)

Species Action Plan 2010-2014

Plan Lead Organisation	INCA
Plan Coordinator	Robert Woods
Action Group	All
Associated Plans	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, saltmarshes, sand dunes, lowland heathland
Latest version	Draft 31 March 2010

Description

Moths are closely related to butterflies, but because most moth species are nocturnal they are perhaps less obvious and overlooked. Nevertheless they are important as a food source for various predators such as bats and insectivorous birds and like butterflies many species have a role in plant pollination. They are highly sensitive to changes in their environment, both physical and climatic, so regular moth recording can give a snapshot of the environmental health of a site.

Different species of moth use a range of different habitats. This is influenced by the larval food plant which each species chooses. Those which are associated with scarce or localised plant species that are adapted to particular habitats tend as a consequence also to be similarly localised. Those which are less specific about their requirements tend to be more widespread in their distribution.

There are some 2600 species of moth to be found in the UK. Of these roughly 50% occur in the Tees Valley. This plan focuses on five species which are nationally scarce and one, the forester, which although widespread across much of the UK is declining nationally. All but the forester have a UK status listed as 'nationally notable category B', signifying that they occur in between 31 and 100 10km squares of the National Grid. The forester is listed as a priority species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Blomer's rivulet: A scarce species which occurs sporadically throughout England and Wales in deciduous woodland and depends upon Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) as its larval food plant.

Crescent striped: This is a saltmarsh species living on saltmarsh grasses (*Puccinellia* sp.) which is found sporadically along the south and east coasts of England.

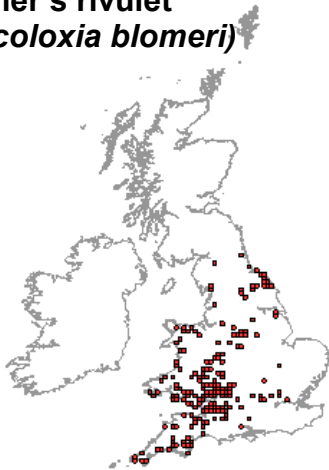
Large red-belted clearwing: This exclusively day-flying species is associated with birch woodland and birch scrub growing on heathland. The larva has very specific requirements, feeding under the bark of two-year old birch stumps (*Betula* sp.).

Lyme grass: This species is restricted to coastal sandhills from Suffolk northwards to eastern Scotland. As its name suggests, it is dependent upon lyme grass (*Elymus arenarius*) as the larval foodplant.

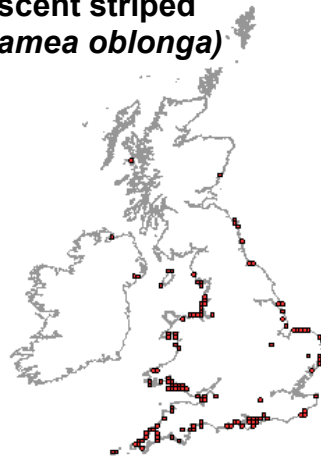
Shore wainscot: A coastal species which occurs locally in sand dunes, mainly in England and Wales. The larvae feed on marram (*Ammophila arenaria*).

The forester: A thermophilic day flying species which is associated with common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) growing in acid grassland, often, though not always, in association with lowland heathland. The NBN database shows a wide distribution for this species over much of England, Wales and Northern Ireland although it is by no means common.

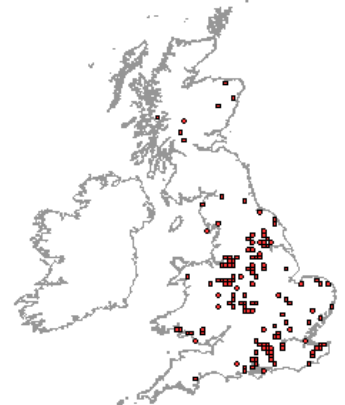
Blomer's rivulet
(*Discoloxia blomeri*)



Crescent striped
(*Apamea oblonga*)



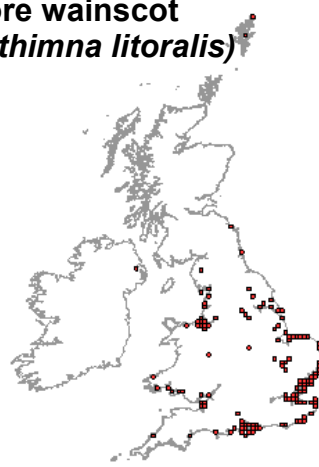
Large red-belted clearwing
(*Synanthedon culiciformis*)



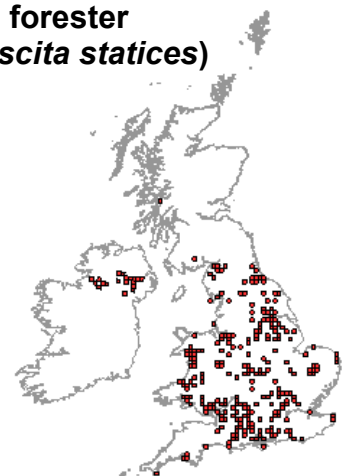
Lyme grass
(*Chortodes elymi*)



Shore wainscot
(*Mythimna litoralis*)



The forester
(*Adscita stances*)



Maps showing recorded UK distribution using data from NBN database

Current factors causing loss and decline

- ◆ Loss of habitat. This is very specific in the case of Blomer's rivulet which is susceptible to decline in the wych elm population as a result of Dutch elm disease.
- ◆ Deterioration of suitable sites through successional changes.
- ◆ Lack of site management. This is particularly important for large red-belted clearwing, which requires an ongoing supply of two year old birch stumps in order to flourish.
- ◆ Fragmentation of suitable sites leading to isolation of existing colonies and local extinctions.

Conservation Status

All but the forester are listed as 'Nationally Notable category B', being of national and regional importance. The forester is a priority UKBAP species. All of the listed species are key indicators of the priority UKBAP habitats with which they are associated.

The Species in the Tees Valley

Blomer's rivulet – recorded from Boulby, Saltburn Gill and Skelton. It is likely to be present in other suitable areas in the Borough of Redcar & Cleveland and possibly in Hartlepool.

Crescent striped – recorded from the Saltholme RSPB Reserve in 2009. The origin of the specimens concerned is likely to be saltmarsh in the Greatham Creek area.

Large red-belted clearwing – known to be established on Eston Moor. There are historical records from Wilton Woods.

Lyme grass – Is well established on both Gares and at Bran Sands. It is likely to occur wherever the foodplant is present in quantity.

Shore wainscot – Present on both Gares, at Bran Sands and also on dunes adjacent to Spion Kop in Hartlepool. May be present in other dune systems to the north of Hartlepool and south of South Gare.

The Forester – Established on Eston Moor, but is present on other sites across the Tees Valley including the Darlington area.

Current Activity in the Tees Valley

There is an active network of amateur lepidopterists who submit records to the NBN database via County Recorders. To complement this INCA has conducted a survey of moths on industrial sites that do not have general public access.

Despite the recording activity which has taken place so far all six species are probably under recorded in the Tees Valley.

Vision Statement

To have a network of sites that provide suitable habitat conditions to support viable populations of the six species detailed.

Targets

- M.T1 Survey suitable sites to more fully understand the distribution of each of these species in the Tees Valley.
- M.T2 Maintain the current range of each species in the Tees Valley.

Further Information

Butterfly Conservation—Moths Count' Project, www.mothscount.org
Skinner. B., (2009), 'Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles' (3rd Edition), Apollo Books
Waring. P., and Townsend.M., (2009), 'Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland' (Revised Edition), British Wildlife Publishing
Woods.R., (2008), 'Moths Recorded on INCA members sites in the Tees Valley', INCA

Actions

Code	Action	Organisational lead	Action contact	Partners	End date
M.A1	Identify further possible sites for Blomer's rivulet by mapping locations of woodland containing significant stands of Wych Elm through the Tees Valley Ancient Woodland Initiative.	Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Sue Antrobus	Wildflower Ark	Dec 2011
M.A2	Identify possible areas for the Crescent Striped. Survey Cowpen Marsh, Greatham Creek and the Brinefield areas to map out the distribution of <i>Puccinellia</i> sp.	INCA	Robert Woods	RSPB SABIC John Jenkins	End Dec 2010
M.A3	Identify possible areas for the Large Red-belted Clearwing. This will be woodland or heathland containing a significant amount of birch.	Redcar & Cleveland Council	Eston Moor Site Manager		Annual
M.A4	Retain some fresh birch stumps at Eston Moor as part of annual heathland strategic management operations	Redcar & Cleveland Council	Eston Moor Site Manager		Annual
M.A5	Identify possible new sites for the lyme grass moth by locating areas of dune containing <i>Elymus arenarius</i>	Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Sue Antrobus	Hartlepool BC; Redcar & Cleveland BC	End Dec 2010
M.A6	Identify possible new sites for the shore wainscot by locating areas of dune containing <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Sue Antrobus	Hartlepool BC; Redcar & Cleveland BC	End Dec 2010
M.A7	Based on available information from all potential sites develop a plan to survey selected sites for these 6 species	INCA	Robert Woods	Landowners	Survey 2011-2012
M.A8	Collate and maintain a database of sightings, surveys and monitoring and share data with NBN database (via county recorders), Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership and ERIC	INCA	Robert Woods	TVBAP partnership Vice County Moth Recorders	Annual update reports at end Dec 2011 & 2012
M.A9	Advise landowners about areas which are important for the species concerned in order to aid habitat condition assessment & management plans	INCA	Robert Woods	TVWT Landowners	Initial reports from end of 2011
M.A10	Identify possible new sites for the forester by locations areas of acid grassland containing <i>Rumex acetosa</i> .				2011