



## Habitat management for the Scarce Vapourer

As the early stages and the adult female are always found on the foodplant, this species can be at threat from over-zealous cutting or removal of hedgerows and other vegetation. The timing of the rapid decline of the Scarce Vapourer has seemingly coincided with the development of mechanical flailing of hedgerows, at least within parts of its national range. Drainage of its habitats is also a potential threat. Sites have been lost to landscaping and hedgerow removal, as well as peat and gravel extraction. On some sites, fragmentation of the moth's population has resulted in isolated colonies, these being more susceptible to accidental destruction.

### Hedgerow management

Hedgerows should be managed on a rotation of at least three years and care should be taken to avoid managing all the hedgerows on a site in any one year. Where management is undertaken, this should be in sections cut or trimmed across the hedgerow.

### How to survey/monitor

The brightly coloured larva can be found by searching for or by beating foodplants (late spring and early summer perhaps being the best time for this). Care should be taken if surveying for the larva as the larval hairs can cause skin irritation. Alternatively, a freshly emerged, unmated female can be used to attract the male at potential sites; this should be undertaken in June or July.



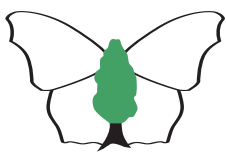
above Scarce Vapourer adult male  
below Scarce Vapourer larva



below Breeding habitat (Norfolk)



above Vapourer adult male  
below Vapourer larva



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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