

Habitat management for the Buttoned Snout

The overall aim is to maintain an abundance of Hop, suitable overwintering sites for adults, and an annual continuity of supply of suitable nectaring sources, e.g. ivy blossom in autumn and sallow blossom in spring.

Maintaining footpaths with Hop

- ◆ Local authorities and landowners have a duty to keep footpaths open and safe, but care needs to be taken where this declining species occurs.
- ◆ Cutting-back or spraying of plants should be delayed until August or September, by which time the larvae will have left the plant.
- ◆ Ideally the plants should not be disturbed or sprayed at all, particularly as there are other species associated with Hop.

Hedgerow management

- ◆ Where this species occurs in hedgerow habitats, management should aim to promote the annual continuity of good stands of Hop.
- ◆ If cutting is unavoidable, then the hedgerows should be cut on rotation and not all in a single year. Cutting should take place during autumn or winter and never between the end of April and September.

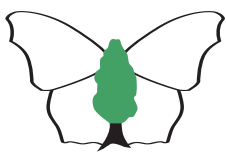
Hibernation sites

- ◆ In a densely populated urban environment, there are likely to be plenty of hibernation sites, including unheated outbuildings and sheds, coal-bunkers, air-raid shelters and probably natural sites such as hollow trees.
- ◆ Avoid disturbing the moth whilst in hibernation, and also try to avoid any disturbance to the hibernation sites.
- ◆ Wartime pillboxes are a favoured hibernation site of this and other species, such as the Peacock *Inachis io* and Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* butterflies, due to their thick walls that maintain a more even temperature during the winter months.
- ◆ Such structures are expensive to demolish but often need to be bricked up. Where possible small openings should be retained so that wildlife, including insects and bats, can still gain access.

How to survey/monitor

The best method is to search for larvae by beating Hop using a beating tray, and leaf damage made by the larvae can often be used to identify suitable plants. As there are other species feeding on Hop whose larvae can look similar to the Buttoned Snout, confirmation of the identification will be needed. The adults will also come occasionally to light-traps, and can sometimes be found overwintering near stands of the foodplant.

below left Typical urban habitat with Hop
below right top Hop, the larval foodplant
below right bottom Ideal hibernation site



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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