



Butterfly
Conservation

factsheet

Common Fan-foot

Pechipogo strigilata

Conservation status

Priority Species in UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

This moth gets its English name from the fan-shaped scent appendages on the hindlegs of the male adults. It is distinguished from other related species by having hindwings distinctly paler than the forewings. Similar species are also a deeper, richer brown colour. Contradicting the English name, this species is no longer common. Formerly the moth was widely recorded in England and Wales but recent records are few, coming only from south-eastern and southern central England, Buckinghamshire and the West Midlands.

Foodplants

The larvae are reported to feed on a variety of plants, including oak *Quercus* spp., birch *Betula* spp., Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, bramble *Rubus* spp. and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg.. However, recent observations indicate that larvae prefer brown withered oak leaves hanging from trees, as a source of both food and shelter.

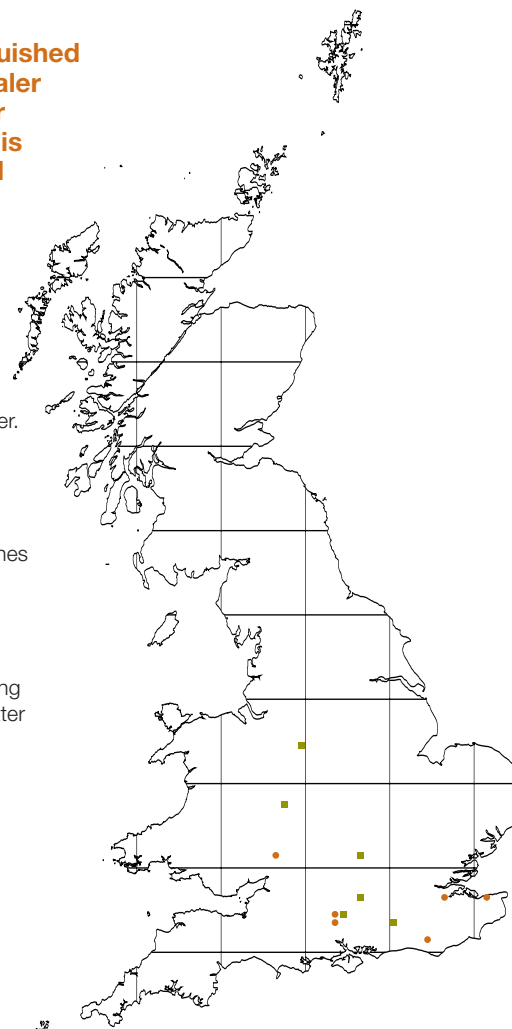
Habitat

The species is associated with open woodland and recently abandoned coppice, usually on heavy soils. Important habitat features for this moth seem to include the presence of leaf litter, humid conditions, and cover from shrubs and the low branches of scattered trees.

Life cycle

The species is single-brooded. The eggs are laid in June, with the larvae occurring from July to the following April. The larvae overwinter when nearly fully-grown among dead or decaying leaves on damaged or fallen branches, or possibly among leaf litter on the ground. The species pupates from late April to early June, with the adults flying in late May and June and occasionally into early July. Adults fly at night but can be disturbed from vegetation by day.

- Larval record 1999 to 2004
- Adult record 1999 to 2004



	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Egg						■	■					
Larva	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pupa				■	■	■	■					
Adult					■	■	■					

Habitat management for the Common Fan-foot

The ecological requirements of this species are not precisely understood, though it appears that the later successional stages in coppice woodland are desirable whilst retaining some open conditions with dappled sunlight.

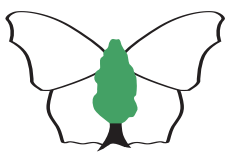
- ◆ Regular woodland management (such as a long-term coppice rotation) is desirable. The aim is to provide good quantities of dead and dying leaves, particularly of oak, hanging from the tree, during the larval period.
- ◆ Occasional felling of individual trees in leaf, which are then left in situ, may be beneficial to the species.
- ◆ Where the species is found, and in the absence of further advice, management should aim to maintain continuity of the existing habitat structure.

How to survey/monitor

This moth can be disturbed during the day by tapping bushes and the lower branches of trees. It also comes sparingly to light-traps. A new technique, whereby a branch with leaves is snapped prior to or around the moth's flight period and then searched for larvae in the autumn, is proving a useful tool for locating and monitoring this species.



above Larvae feed and shelter among wilted oak leaves
below Late coppice provides Ideal habitat



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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