


Managing for bespoke species/assemblages within Countryside Stewardship – guidance template

<p>Species/assemblage name</p> <p>Liquorice Piercer (<i>Grapholita pallifrontana</i>)</p>  <p>Liquorice Piercer (Keith Balmer)</p>	<p>Conservation status</p> <p>Section 41, pRDB</p>  <p>Wild Liquorice growing in a lane (Mark Parsons/Butterfly Conservation)</p>  <p>Wild Liquorice (Mark Parsons/Butterfly Conservation)</p>
<p>Introduction</p> <p>This species has an annual life cycle, flies from late May to July and, although small, can readily be found by day, the males flying over the foodplant in afternoon sunshine. The larva feeds within the seedpods of wild liquorice from August to early September, but has been found in late July. It overwinters in a cocoon pupating in spring. It is found on rough, unimproved calcareous grassland, along lanes and scrub margins, where the foodplant occurs in good quantities. Some sites are lightly grazed, others are ungrazed.</p> <p>Although declining, it has recently recorded from several counties in southern England, from Kent north to Northamptonshire and west to Worcestershire.</p>	
<p>Why a bespoke species/assemblage?</p> <p>This moth is restricted to a sole foodplant, wild liquorice, and requires the foodplant to flower and set seed on an annual basis. It is likely that this species will suffer from overgrazing, but</p>	

conversely a lack of management leading to scrub invasion will have a negative impact. Mowing is likely to be detrimental.

When and where to apply this guidance

This species has been recorded in the period since 2000 from Somerset, Wiltshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Kent, Essex, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. Light cattle grazing on rotation is likely to be the most beneficial regime for this plant and moth. Where this is not possible and scrub is encroaching, small scale management to remove competing vegetation in and around wild liquorice may be required. Ideally this should be undertaken on rotation, in late autumn/winter, not all the site being treated in any one year, and with the arisings removed from the site.

It may be that some small scale ground disturbance is beneficial to this plant helping the seed get into the soil, although this is not known for certain.

Developing a Countryside Stewardship agreement

Relevant CS options

GS1	Take field corners out of management
GS6	Management of species rich grasslands
GS7	Restoration towards species rich grasslands
GS13	Management of grassland for target features
GS14	Creation of grassland for target features
SP9	Threatened species supplement

Prescription guidance for GS1

P290 - Only cut or graze once every 5 years. Do not cut or graze during the bird breeding season [1 March to 30 September]. If you have more than one field corner [patch], do not cut or graze all patches in the same year. – *Higher Tier*

Prescription guidance for GS6/7

P135 – Only top [to leave a height of 10-15cm between [1 October] and [31 March]][except][in patches to control injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, bracken or areas dominated by rushes]. [Do not top more than [30%] of the total area and do not remove cut wild liquorice.]

P423 – Establish [Wild liquorice by planting in parcels XXXX / in the areas identified in XXX.]

P667 - [From [establishment] onwards], manage by [light winter cattle grazing on rotation] [to maintain ungrazed Wild Liquorice before 1st October (no summer or light summer grazing to avoid damage to the plant)].

P455 - Manage [dense Bracken stands / deep Bracken litter layers] rotationally in years [1 to 3] [by spraying]. Cut bracken by hand on [XXXX] historic and archaeological features.

IoS for GS6/7

[in all years], species [Wild Liquorice should be at least (locally) frequent], and flowering during [June to August]

[By year X/ in all years] [Liquorice piercer] [present] on the site

Prescription guidance for GS13

To be used where the species is present on roadside verges and other rough grassland sites where Wild Liquorice occurs.

P135 – Only top [to leave a height of 10-15cm between [1 October] and [31 March]]. [Do not top more than [50%] of the total area.]

IoS as per GS6/7**Prescription guidance for GS14**

P135 – Only top [to leave a height of 10-15cm between [1 October] and [31 March]]. [Do not top more than [50%] of the total area.]

P423 – Establish [Wild liquorice by planting in parcels XXXX / in the areas identified in XXX.]

P667 - [From [establishment] onwards], manage by [light winter cattle grazing on rotation] [to maintain ungrazed Wild Liquorice before 1st October (no summer or light summer grazing to avoid damage to the plant)].

Prescription guidance for SP9

If appropriate-Planting of Wild Liquorice according to a feasibility study. Plug plants are difficult to grow and require specialist knowledge to reach to a suitable stage for planting.

Monitoring

Searching for the adult moth by day. Larvae may also be found in the seedpods in late summer, their presence can be betrayed by a small hole in the pod. This should be undertaken by a specialist. Each extant site should be surveyed at least once every two years.

Further information

Sterling, P. & Parsons, M. 2012. *Field guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*. British Wildlife Publishing, Gillingham.

Authorship/version control

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