




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

Species/assemblage name	Conservation status
<p data-bbox="188 387 738 421">White-spotted Sable (<i>Anania funebris</i>)</p>  <p data-bbox="188 969 616 1003">White-spotted Sable (Nigel Jarman)</p>	<p data-bbox="802 387 1222 421">Section 41, Nationally Scarce</p>  <p data-bbox="802 887 1305 920">White-spotted Sable habitat (David Green)</p>  <p data-bbox="802 1444 1110 1478">Golden-rod (David Green)</p>
<p data-bbox="188 1507 379 1541">Introduction</p> <p data-bbox="188 1574 1401 1776">This species has an annual life cycle. It flies by day in May, June and into July, but has been recorded in late April, August and September. The larva feeds from July until autumn on the leaves and flowers of the foodplant, goldenrod, inhabiting a slight silken web under the lower leaves. It frequents woodland glades, margins and rides, as well as cliffs and hillsides, especially on limestone.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1809 1401 1977">It is found in south-east woodlands in Kent, Sussex and Surrey, otherwise recently recorded from several sites in north-west England, the Morecambe Bay area being a national stronghold. Also known from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, reported from Lincolnshire, and also historically recorded from several other counties.</p>	

Why a bespoke species/assemblage?

This species is associated with a sole foodplant, goldenrod. Goldenrod is apparently declining, probably more so in woodland and scrubby areas where it disappears as conditions become too shady. Management should aim to retain a plentiful, annual supply of goldenrod in open, sunny situations. It requires an open sward for seed germination and does not persist in tall herb communities, but is often found in association with bare or sparsely vegetated ground. The re-introduction of coppicing or the implementation of a regular coppicing regime is likely to be beneficial where the plant occurs. The occurrence of the plant in woodland glades should be monitored and, if necessary, areas between glades opened up in order to link isolated stands of the plant.

Where goldenrod occurs on cliffs, management may be less critical, but stands should be protected from invasive scrub.

When and where to apply this guidance

Any coppicing work or opening up of woodland glades should be undertaken over the late autumn/winter months.

Where the moth occurs on cliff and coastal habitats, scrub clearance should be undertaken over winter, leaving at least some stands uncut in any one year. If grazing is undertaken in any areas where the moth occurs then this should be light, through cattle and in the winter months. This should be carried out in conjunction with monitoring of the foodplant, the aim being to maintain a plentiful, annual supply of goldenrod.

Developing a Countryside Stewardship agreement

Relevant CS options

SB2	Scrub control – difficult sites
WD2	Woodland Improvement

Where the species occurs on coastal sites the capital item SB2 could be used to manage scrub invasion.

WD2 Woodland Improvement

A woodland management plan (PA3) will be required to carry out specific management for this species following the methods outlined below:

The moth requires frequent goldenrod growing in open sunny situations. This can be achieved through the coppicing of hardwoods, felling of conifer blocks and the creation of open space such as rides and glades. It should be noted that in permanent open spaces, it is likely that goldenrod populations will decline over time as the plant requires an open sward for germination and will not compete with a tall herb community. This means that there will

be an ongoing requirement for rotational cutting, clearance and also ground disturbance in order to provide a continuity of habitat.

Monitoring

Survey the adult moth by day. This should be undertaken by a specialist. Sites known to support the species should be surveyed at least once every three years, although some sites may require more frequent survey.

Further information

A factsheet covering Lepidoptera species associated with goldenrod, including White-spotted Sable, is available at <http://butterfly-conservation.org/files/habitat-golden-rod.pdf>

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

Although a little dated, see also Parsons, M.S. 1993. *A review of the scarce and threatened pyralid moths of Great Britain*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (UK Nature Conservation, No.11).

Authorship/version control

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