

Dartmoor Species Action Plan for Bog Hoverfly

The bog hoverfly (*Eristalis cryptarum*) is a Red Data Book species, which is now confined to Dartmoor. Until its re-discovery in 1993 the species was thought to be extinct in the UK. It is a Species of Conservation Concern as defined by the UK Biodiversity Steering Group and a National Species Action Plan was produced in 1999. It was formerly widespread in the south and south-west of England where it was associated with mires on heathland and moorland.

The adults have been seen flying between late spring and early autumn and have regularly been observed visiting the flowers of bogbean, cuckoo flower and marsh marigold. Although recent studies have thrown some light on the ecology of the species, the larvae have yet to be described and their requirements are unknown.

Current status on Dartmoor

Concentrated survey effort since 1998 has established that the bog hoverfly occurs in at least 17 scattered locations along the eastern fringes of Dartmoor at altitudes ranging from 240-380m, stretching from Gidleigh in the north to Buckfastleigh in the south. It occurs in flushed areas of valley mires, both on the edges of the open moor and within Rhôs pasture systems running along the river valleys. Numbers visible at individual sites are invariably very low, and it seems likely that the

extensive population on Dartmoor exists within a metapopulation structure.

Current factors

affecting the species on Dartmoor

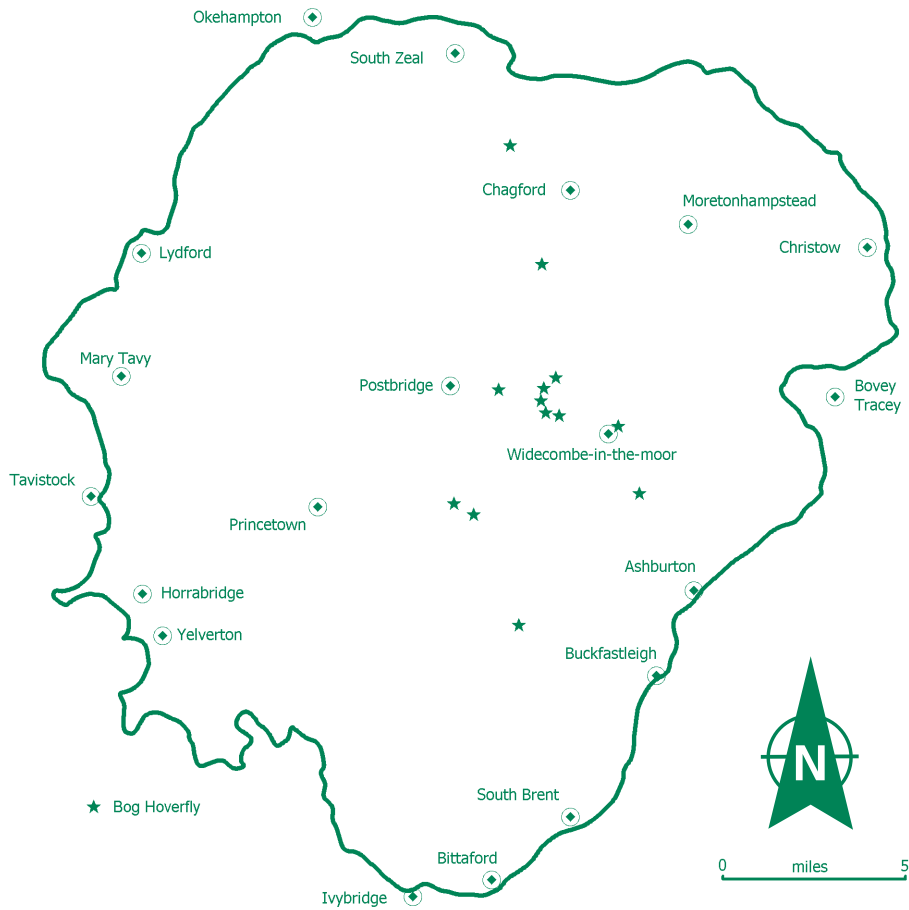
Current factors affecting the bog hoverfly are imprecisely understood. However, as all sites where it has been seen comprise open seepages that are regularly grazed, it is clear that sufficient grazing and scrub control are required to maintain these areas in suitable condition, at the very least for nectaring. Several sites have needed scrub management in recent years to control encroaching willows and alder, whilst appropriate grazing has proved difficult to arrange in other areas.

Current action on Dartmoor

Almost annual survey and behavioural studies since 1998 have provided a much better understanding of the distribution, behaviour and habitats used by this species. However, very little is known of the larval requirements. Management agreements have been maintained or recently established on the majority of sites.



Dartmoor Bog Hoverfly Distribution Map



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Bog Hoverfly Key Conservation Objectives and Targets

Bog Hoverfly Objectives

Objective 1

Ensure that Dartmoor remains a stronghold for the bog hoverfly.

Dartmoor targets

- A** Obtain an accurate distribution for Dartmoor by 2001.*
- B** Maintain at least six sub-populations known in 1999.
- C** Maintain the range known in 2004, covering 17 sites over 4 10km squares.

Objective 3

Provide support for the proposal in the UK Action Plan for bog hoverfly to re-introduce the bog hoverfly to parts of its former range.

Dartmoor target

- A** Locate suitable donor sites, if appropriate.

Objective 2

Achieve a better understanding of the ecological requirements of the bog hoverfly on Dartmoor to help inform management.

Dartmoor targets

- A** Obtain a working knowledge of the life cycle of the bog hoverfly and the habitat requirements of both adults and larvae by 2001.*

* Target from original (2001) version of the BAP that has already been achieved and therefore not taken forward in the revised Action Plan.

Actions for Bog Hoverfly on Dartmoor

Monitoring responsibility: Dartmoor National Park Authority

Action	Meets Objective/ Target	Deliverer		Complete by					Date achieved
		Lead	Partners	2007	2008	2011	2016	On-going	
Policy and Legislation									
Include protection policies for all sites in relevant statutory plans and LEAPs when reviewed	1B	DNPA	EA						●
Site Safeguard									
Safeguard sites against direct threats through planning controls and other consultation procedures	1B/1C	DNPA, EA, NE							●
Seek to establish management agreements on all 17 known sites	1B/1C	NE, DNPA			●				
Habitat Management									
Seek to maintain all 17 sites through appropriate stock grazing levels, with scrub managed where necessary	1B/1C	NE, DNPA							●
Research & Monitoring									
Monitor known sites every 3 years	1C	DNPA, NE			●	●	●		
Consider locating suitable donor sites for possible re-introduction of bog hoverfly to parts of its former range, if appropriate	3A	NE, DNPA							●

Abbreviations used in the table above:

DNPA – Dartmoor National Park Authority, EA - Environment Agency, NE – Natural England