



West Winch Housing Access Road

Environmental Statement Chapter 8: Biodiversity: Annex 8.9: Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey Report: Appendix A

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1 Status Definitions

- 1.1.1 Much invertebrate conservation evaluation hinges on nationally threatened and scarce species. For many invertebrate groups, species rarity has often been gauged by the number of national 10 km grid squares in which they occur. The fewer “spots on a map”, the rarer it is. This, however, does not exactly equate with how threatened a species is, since some species may be naturally confined to very few localities but are very abundant where they do occur and under no immediate threat of extinction. The matter of how threatened the “rarest” species are has been addressed in a series of Red Data Books (RDB), such as for insects Shirt, D. B (ed) (1987) British Red Data Books: Insects. JNCC.
- 1.1.2 Here, the listing as RDB1 (Endangered), RDB2 (Vulnerable) and RDB3 (Rare) is an assessment of how threatened or endangered the species is in Britain, rather than how scarce it is in terms of map spot counting.
- 1.1.3 Over the last decade the RDB categories are slowly being replaced by IUCN red-list categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable), which use different criteria to those developed for the RDBs. The process of replacing RDB categories with IUCN ones is however slow, and IUCN categories are not available for all groups. Accordingly, wherever IUCN categories have been allocated in the report, these are also shown in preference, ahead of RDB categories.
- 1.1.4 IUCN also recognised the value of a Near Threatened category to identify species that need to be kept under review to ensure that they have not become vulnerable to extinction. This category is used for species which have been evaluated against the criteria but do not qualify for a threatened category, although they may be close to qualifying or likely to qualify in the near future.
- 1.1.5 At the national level, countries are permitted to refine the definitions for the non-threatened categories and to define additional ones of their own, which



essentially sit below RDB / IUCN status (i.e., Near Threatened). Thus, less rare but still significant species can be defined as Nationally Scarce (formerly called Nationally Notable), which is often sub-divided into Na (scarce), Nb (less scarce). These sub-categories were originally devised by Ball, S.G. (1986) Terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates with Red Data Book, Notable or habitat indicator status. Invertebrate Site Register internal report number 66. NCC and are based on 10 km square spot counting for the Great Britain grid system. The Na sub-category represents scarce taxa that are thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10 km squares of the Great Britain grid system. The Nb sub-category represents less scarce taxa that occur in 31 to 100 10 km squares. Taxa in the N- sub-category are those listed as 'Notable', but not always distinguished into sub-category Na or Nb. These species are thought to occur in 16 to 100 10 km squares of the National Grid but are too poorly known for their status to be more precisely estimated.

1.1.6 IUCN (pre 1994) categories remain relevant to certain taxa if an update has not been forthcoming. These categories are as follows:

- IUCN (pre 1994) Rare - taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk. In the UK, this was interpreted as species which exist in fifteen or fewer 10km squares. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
- IUCN (pre 1994) Vulnerable - taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.