Common Fan-foot
Pechipogo strigilata
DRAFT Species Action Plan

1. Introduction
The common fan-foot was included as a priority species within the UK BAP and subsequently listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

2. Current Status
2.1 Ecology and habitat requirements
The common fan-foot 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 understory, low branches of trees or mature coppice. Research on this species in Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire (Grundy, 2002, 2004, 2005a,b, and 2006a) showed that the larvae prefer feeding on the wilted leaves of oak (*Quercus* spp.) on dying or dead branches hanging from trees.

2.2 Population and distribution
Globally the range of the common fan-foot extends through Western Europe to the Caucasus, through Russia and Japan (Waring *et al.*, 1999). In Britain, it used to occur throughout much of England and parts of Wales but now persist in only a handful of oak woodlands in south-central England and the West Midlands.

In Worcestershire the moth now appears largely confined to the Wyre Forest where it is still relatively widespread.

2.3 Legislation
The common fan-foot is listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act.

2.4 Summary of important sites
The Wyre Forest is one of the largest ancient semi-natural woodlands in Britain extending to over 2,400 hectares. Approximately half of the forest is in Shropshire and half in Worcestershire. Large areas are managed by Forestry Commission and Natural England with the remainder being privately owned. The Wyre Forest has one of the largest Lepidoptera species lists for any site in Britain with just short of 1,200 species recorded. This represents nearly half of the total number of species recorded in Britain (Grundy, 2006b).

The Wyre Forest is a well-known national stronghold for a significant number of nationally and regionally important butterflies and moths such as pearl-bordered fritillary *(Boloria Euphrosyne)*, small pearl-bordered fritillary *(Boloria selene)*, silver-washed fritillary *(Argynnis paphia)*, drab looper *(Minoa murinata)*, great oak beauty *(Hypomecis roboraria)*, orange moth (*Angerona prunaria)* and the dead wood specialist moths *Schiffermuellerina grandis* and *Oecophora* bractella. The reason for

this incredible diversity is the historical management of the forest and the subsequent mosaic of habitats present.

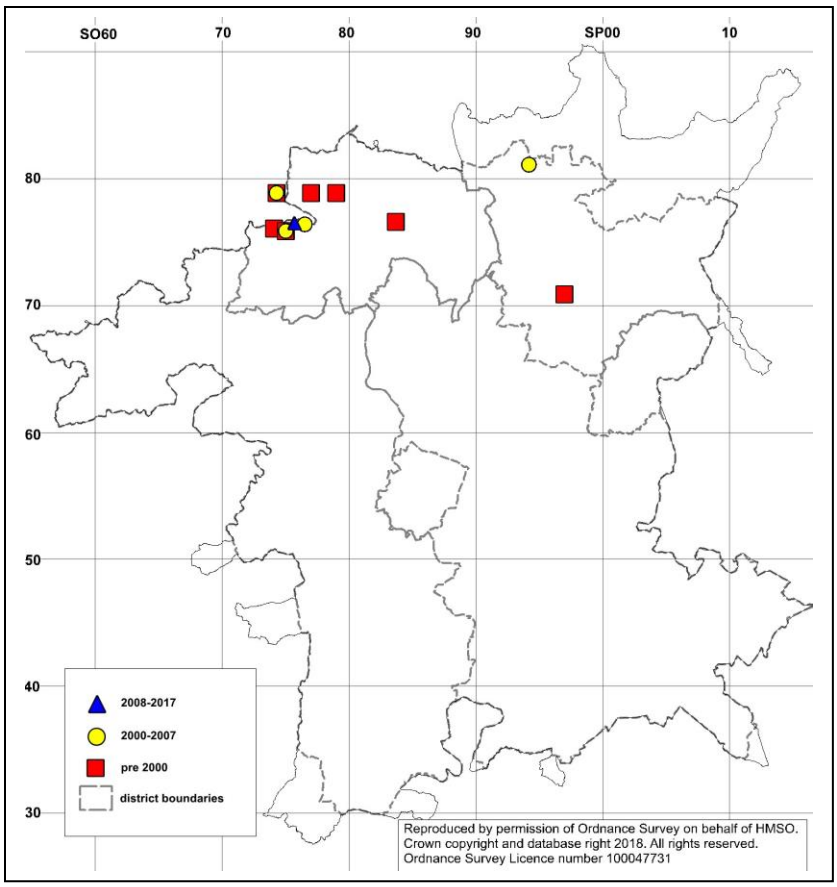

Figure 1. Records for common fan-foot in Worcestershire. Data provided and maps produced by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.

3. Current Factors Affecting the Species

- Climatic factors, especially warm wet winters, may result in poor larval survival although the effects are not fully understood.

- This moth appears to survive at low population densities therefore may only survive in the long term in big woodland complexes that support suitable habitat.

- The species is probably also affected by a lack of appropriate woodland management.

- Parasitism of caterpillars by wasps may also be a factor.

4. Current Action

4.1 Local protection

A large part (over 1700 hectares) of the Wyre Forest is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with the National Nature Reserve (NNR) covering over 500 hectares.

Other parts of the forest have Local Wildlife Site (LWS) status and the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has two nature reserves within the forest.

4.2 Site management and programmes of action

- Butterfly Conservation has worked with local partners on a series of funded projects within the Wyre Forest from 2003 to the present, including the 3-year SITA Trust-funded project 'Back to Orange' from 2007-2010. One of the main aims of all of this work is to improve and increase habitat for the various priority Lepidoptera species found within the forest.

4.3 Survey, research and monitoring

- Common fan-foot has been monitored in the Wyre Forest since 2002. This has consisted of light trapping for adults (with traps set up at set intervals in specific areas of the forest) and the searching of pre-snapped branches for larvae along both a set transect route established in 2003 and elsewhere in the forest. The moth has now been recorded in 16 different areas of the forest (Grundy, 2004, 2005a, b, 2006a) with this research leading to an increased understanding of the habitat needs of this species nationally.

5. Associated Plans

Woodland.

6. Conservation Aim

TBC

7. Conservation Objectives

TBC

References and further information

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