

IUCN protected area management categories

Statement of Compliance for

Butterfly Conservation wildlife reserves

Introduction to Statements of Compliance

Statements of Compliance are an innovation of the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom's *Putting Nature on the Map* project. The project has developed guidance on the use of the IUCN definition of a protected area and the assignment of the associated management categories and governance types¹. The guidance suggests that short but authoritative Statements of Compliance are produced for a conservation site or group of sites.

For groups of sites designated for conservation under one overriding piece of legislation or public policy the statements should concentrate on whether the sites meets the IUCN definition of a protected area. For statutory designations the Statements of Compliance should review all relevant legislation, focussing on the priority given to nature conservation in the long-term. For sites not covered by legislation the statements should review the significance for nature conservation of all relevant public policy positions that specifically affect the area.

In addition to reviewing legislation or policy in relation to the IUCN definition of a protected area, the Statement of Compliance can also assign sites to IUCN management category and governance type. In this case the statements should also provide an overview of current management objectives in particular in relation to prioritising nature conservation and summarize examples of current management practice that demonstrate the priority given to nature conservation and the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the future.

Note: Statements of Compliance should be prepared with full reference to the 2008 Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories (see footnote for details)

The Statement of Compliance below has been prepared for a group of sites some of which are defined in legislation and others in a non-statutory context.

¹ Dudley, N (Editor) (2008) Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. X + 86pp. <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>

AND

IUCN NCUK (2012); *Putting nature on the map - identifying protected areas in the UK: A handbook to help identify protected areas in the UK and assign the IUCN management categories and governance types to them*, IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom, UK <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Portals/0/PNOTM%20Final%20January.pdf>

Background

Butterfly Conservation (BC) is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468) at Manor Yard East Lulworth Wareham Dorset BH20 5QP, and is a Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

Butterfly Conservation (BC) is a membership society that was founded in 1968 to further the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats throughout the UK.

As well as promoting those aims in terms of habitat management practices to public, farming and forestry audiences, BC engages with land management organisations and policy making bodies to ensure that the problems affecting species conservation are addressed through all relevant mechanisms. In particular that entails using monitoring data collected at the UK scale to support and guide the implementation of agri-environment and forestry management schemes as well as habitat protection and restoration measures. In conjunction with other countryside organisations BC runs campaigns at local and national levels to ensure our environment and its wildlife is protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

BC also promotes, undertakes and sponsors scientific research to support the conservation of *Lepidoptera*. This involves working with universities, research bodies such as Rothamsted Research, Forestry Research and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH).

BC currently has over 23,000 members in 31 Branches across the UK, and within these some 3,500 actively volunteer to some degree in our work. Estimates quantify that voluntary work contribution as equivalent to 726 full time staff (c. £10 million) at present.

BC's UK work currently covers direct conservation action on sites in up to 73 key landscapes across the UK. In 2013 this entailed action (survey/assessment/habitat work) on 629 sites with 1,395 visits by staff and involving 2,658 staff and volunteers overall.

BC operates UK wide survey and monitoring programmes (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey) in conjunction with CEH and the British Trust for Ornithology. BC set up the National Moth Recording Scheme and in partnership with Rothamsted Research evaluates trends in moth populations and identify conservation requirements.

Our educational activities currently entail a new 'Munching Caterpillars' project for school age children and over 2,200 Branch led local events through which over 20,000 people see butterflies and moths in their habitats. Our promotion objectives are also being delivered through 'Citizen Science' recording projects: Big Butterfly Count, Butterfly Week, Moths Count and National Moth Night.

BC has increasingly become active in Europe through partnerships with similar conservation organisations. This entails running highly respected international Symposia drawing researchers from all over the world, the formation of a European Interest Group and collective survey and research projects such as led to publication of the "Prime Butterfly Areas in Europe" (with De Vlinderstichting and Pan-European Ecological Network partners) in 2003.

BC owns or manages over 35 reserves covering more than 740 hectares of land. These are the formal reserves on which responsibility for management and liability for care and use lies with BC. More than 50 further sites where BC volunteers undertake or support the habitat management needed by Lepidoptera of conservation importance are termed 'partnership reserves'.

Our objectives for the acquisition of nature reserves guide us to select sites that are:

- *Priorities for the conservation of butterflies and moths*
- *Opportunities for restoration as a conservation measure for threatened populations*
- *Are suitable for visitor access, education and promoting nature conservation*
- *Extending existing reserves, consolidating their function in the landscape*
- *Provide opportunities for effective partnerships*

Through the reserves we aim to protect habitat areas that can help populations of threatened species to persist, and promote landscape scale approaches to conservation and restoration. The reserves should also be exemplars for habitat management.

Butterfly Conservation aims to manage its nature reserves to:

- maintain and, where possible, enhance their nature conservation value;
- promote the conservation of Lepidoptera, through management, research, education and publicity as appropriate;
- ensure safe access, and adhere to safe working practices;
- ensure the highest standards of management, using best practice and appropriate materials reflecting local character.

Reserves are managed in accordance with objectives for maintaining the habitat requirements of the key Lepidoptera species involved any conservation designations and the requirements of any management scheme agreements that support their enhancement or maintenance. There is an expectation that all our reserves will be open to visitors but a small number need to have restricted access for conservation and safety reasons. Much of our reserve maintenance is undertaken by volunteers and such participation in habitat management, likewise on other sites and in conjunction with the public and other groups, is an important aim for us.

Key documents:

Memorandum of Association of Butterfly Conservation 1987 – The Companies Act 1985-2006

Butterfly Conservation Reserve Acquisition Policies (2005) and Strategy (2010)

The management of Butterfly Conservation Nature Reserves: aims and policies

Landscape-scale conservation for butterflies and moths – lessons from the UK (2012)

The State of Britain's larger Moths 2013

The State of the UK's Butterflies 2011

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme – (annual reports to 2012)

Woodland management for butterflies and moths – a good practice guide (2011)

Main elements of IUCN definition	Discussion of element in relation to BC wildlife reserves
Are the sites in clearly defined geographical areas?	Yes – all but three (*) BC reserves have a clear boundary that is usually legally defined as the extent of ownership or tenure, and thus recorded by the Land Registry. In addition the boundaries are mapped digitally on BC's GIS and the Rural Payment Agency's (DEFRA) Rural Land Register – even if not within an ERDP scheme (ES / WGS)
Are they recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature? NB 'nature' includes all levels of biodiversity as well as geodiversity, landforms and broader natural values.	Yes – acquiring nature reserves is a specific function for BC and is in fulfilment of our purpose. They are purchased to be held in perpetuity as nature reserves and where leased the tenure is secured for as long as possible. 19 reserves are in whole or in part designated SSSI. This is mentioned in any descriptions of the reserves and the full details of the SSSIs are available to the public through the Statutory Agencies. SSSI notification ensures appropriate management requirements for the widest range of biodiversity features and priorities.
Is the main management objective nature conservation? Other objectives of equal standing may be present but they do not cause conflict, i.e. nature conservation is the priority	Yes – it is the priority objective and purpose and determines management approaches and methods. Public access may be limited where dictated by conservation requirements though the extent to which that might be applied will be limited by statutory access provisions.
Does the designation of the site prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation?	Yes. Where present SSSI designation provides means of limiting all management and uses that might be adverse to the designation features. Ownership by BC allows full control of management and uses other than access in accordance with statute. Leases provide a more limited level of control but are invariably negotiated so as to provide the means of control needed. In case of both ownership and lease there are a few instances where sporting rights are not within BC control but no adverse impacts are known at present.
Does the designation of the site aim to maintain, or ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected?	Yes – largely as an ideal given the degree of semi-naturalness represented by the habitats on our reserves. The requirement for achieving favourable condition for the SSSI designation features, in so far as those accord with levels of 'naturalness' within what might be termed 'traditional' or low-intensity farming practices, would also support that aim as an 'ideal'.
Is the long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means? E.g. national or international statutory law/ agreement/convention, traditional rules or NGO policy.	Yes – where SSSI, SAC and SPA designations do not apply then BC's objectives and policies for the reserves are effective means for ensuring their long term nature conservation purpose

(*) Allt Mhuic, Mabie Forest and Wester Moss

IUCN Management categories:

All Butterfly Conservation reserves can be assigned to Category IV

IUCN Governance types:

Private Governance is where reserves are owned or leased by BC and where only BC staff and members directly undertake and control management.

Shared Governance is where reserves are managed in partnership with the landowner or the joint owner (in case of those reserves in shared ownership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust) or the landowner retains sufficient rights of use as to require close liaison over management.