

# Back from the Brink – Species summary

## Concolorous

BftB project: IPO6 Roots of Rockingham

Project lead organisation: Butterfly Conservation

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Species name – common & scientific	<p align="center"><b>Concolorous</b> <i>Photodes extrema</i></p>
<p>Photograph</p>	 <p align="center">© Keith Tailby / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Lepidoptera
Conservation status	Red data book species
UK distribution	Huntingdonshire fens. Found very locally at sites in Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire.
Habitat associations	Drier parts of fens, marshy open areas, rides and clearings in ancient lowland woodland on heavy soils. Larval foodplant is Wood Small-reed <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> .
BftB work carried out:	
<p>Survey &amp; Monitoring</p>	<p>At least 1 night of overnight light-trapping per primary site (with suitable habitat) for determining presence/absence. At Site 1, multiple trapping sessions took place in different locations to gauge distribution and abundance. Annual trapping over multiple nights at some sites.</p> <p>In total 15 project sites and 2 additional sites were surveyed for Concolorous in the Rockingham Forest landscape. Regular trapping also takes place at a 3rd additional site.</p>

<b>Sites habitat management works</b>	None specifically targeted at Concolorous. However, creation of additional clearings, scallops and rotational ride management increased suitable habitat for this species with positive impact on growth of larval foodplant <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> .
<b>Technical advice provision</b>	Site advice visits with landowners. Section on managing woodland for Lepidoptera was included in each of the three landowner workshops and in the video 'Managing woodlands for nature' available on <a href="#">YouTube</a>
<b>Links made with other taxa / conservation work?</b>	<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> is also the foodplant of Chequered Skipper larvae and the implemented habitat management should benefit both species.
<b>Wider engagement &amp; advocacy activities?</b>	Moth nights & 'Meet the Moths' breakfast events, site visits with landowners, species mentioned in project talks, surveys and advice to input into developing rewilding project on neighbouring estate.
<b>BftB results obtained:</b>	
<b>Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)</b>	Concolorous recorded on 10 (of 15) project sites surveyed over project. It has also been recorded at 3 other project sites in recent past (2016, 2011, 2007). Also recorded in surveys of 2 additional sites in Rockingham Forest Landscape and regularly recorded at a 3 <sup>rd</sup> additional site.
<b>Recorded Abundance of species populations</b>	Surveys focused on determining presence/absence. Intensive surveys at some sites used to assess abundance. e.g. At Site 1: 251 adults recorded over 9 trapping sessions, with a peak catch of 70 in one night (7hrs) using 6 traps – equating to catch rate of 1.67 per trap hour.
<b>Species Recovery Curve progress made</b>	Species Recovery Curve moved from 3 to 6. Additional sites have been discovered for Concolorous. Rotational management has been implemented at Site 1 which has had a positive impact on the growth of <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> , the larval foodplant of Concolorous, and recent surveys show that numbers of Concolorous remain stable at this site. Mosaic management through rotational mowing has been implemented at a number of other sites, although it will be some time before we can determine the impact of this on Concolorous abundance/ distribution as need long term data sets.
<b>Recommendations for future work:-</b>	Continued monitoring to gather additional data on effect of rotational management on abundance. Surveying at additional sites to determine if Concolorous is still present. Further intensive surveys could be carried out at key sites in order to gain more information on abundance.