

**Ecology**

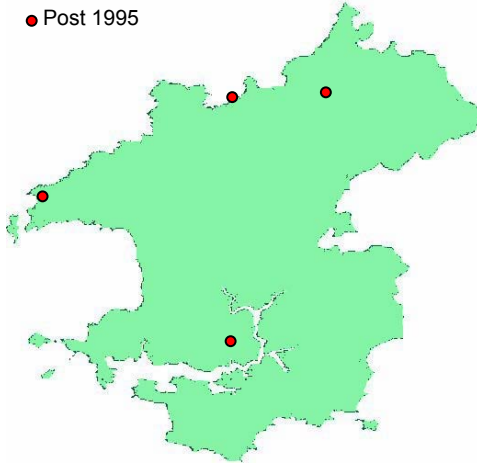
There are over thirty robberflies in the UK, but this one is particularly spectacular. It gets its name from the hornet-like yellow and black bands on the body. The adult feeds on grasshoppers and dung beetles, and the larvae are also predators, attacking the beetle grubs living in cow-pats and horse dung. They live in a range of grassy or heathy habitats, and are on the wing from mid July to September. They can be found sunning themselves on brambles around fields, or investigating dung. Populations are often small, and numbers vary widely from year to year.



**Where in Pembrokeshire?**

Until recently, the hornet robberfly was thought to be hanging on only in half a dozen fields near Crosswell in the north of the county and a site near Dinas Cross. A fairly big new population was found in 2003 near Sardis in south Pembrokeshire, and a single was seen on St David's Head. New populations could well turn up – look around horse paddocks, pony grazed coastal slopes or farms with organic beef cattle.

**Outline Distribution Map (1985 – 2004)**



**Why is it in trouble?**

- Changes in grazing – the shift from cattle to sheep farming and a lack of regular grazing on heathlands.
- Losses of old pasture and heath, particularly last century.
- The use of worming drugs, particularly Ivermectins, which can kill the dung insects that the robberfly feeds on.

**What can you do to help?**

- Look out for robberflies and let us know if you find any.
- If you own or manage grassland, use cattle or horses rather than sheep. Avoid intensive management of old pastures.
- Leave a rough edge with brambles around horse paddocks.
- Use alternatives to Ivermectins, or ask us about the safest way to treat stock parasites without harming the fly.

For more information on species identification, where to send records or how you can get involved with specific projects see part 2 of the plan or contact the Biodiversity Officer.

**What's being done?**

We're trying to get an up-to-date picture of where our robberflies are. CCW and the Wildlife Trust give advice on how to look after the robberfly to owners of some of the sites. Ponies on coastal heaths like St David's Head are not treated with drugs that harm the fly.

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# **HORNET ROBBERFLY ● PRYF LLADD ● ASILUS CRABRONIFORMIS**



The actions listed below are aiming to

- maintain the current population
- expand the current population

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>BARS CONTACTS</b>	<b>Link to</b>
1	Press Release to coincide with launch of plan	PBP	August 2004	Launch event	Bethan Cox	Education
				Western Telegraph/ Pembs Radio / Wildlife Trust	Bethan Cox	Education
2	Known populations - review existing management agreements and implement enhancements	CCW, WTSWW	Winter 2004/2005	Influence Management Plan at 5yr review if not before. Use persuasion, additional in-scheme funding, or top-up S15/39 agreement	Matt Sutton	Individual
3	Known populations – target new management agreements where required to maintain or expand populations.	PCNPA, CCW	2005	Proactively use S15/39/TG agreements to ensure sensitive management on and around known populations – target to get secure conservation management on 3 populations by 2005.	Matt Sutton	Individual
4	Survey potential sites – focussing on horse-grazed fields around Trooper’s Inn, Sardis and Rosemarket.	CCW, WTSWW, volunteers	August-September 2004	Species Challenge Fund project intended. Raise awareness with Tir Gofal and other field officers.	Matt Sutton Chris Lawrence	Biological Data
5	Provide management advice to owners of potential sites	CCW, WTSWW	By September 2005	Species Challenge Fund project intended	Chris Lawrence	Biological Data
6	Ensure use of ivermectin alternatives in all conservation grazing schemes, and through Tir Gofal and other agri-environment schemes where possible	Pembrokeshire Grazing Network, CCW	By September 2005	Share information about cost and efficacy of non-ivermectin based wormers and promote through Tir Gofal	Julie Webber Matt Sutton	Farming
7	Landscape-scale restoration projects – promote projects which look to join up fragmented habitat patches with grassland / heathland restoration and extensive grazing	CCW, PCNPA	2006	CCW internal review looking at potential projects. PCNPA conservation strategy review underway.	Matt Sutton Mike Howe	Funding
8	Survey associated dung fauna at known sites to improve our knowledge of other robberflies	CCW, volunteers	ongoing	Entomologists to visit known sites where appropriate	Steve Coker	Biological Data
9	Public Involvement - develop web page of species info, including places to see if suitable site available	PBP	2004	Local Media (Western Telegraph, Radio Pembs). Explore ways of raising awareness of this species and its habitat requirements.	Bethan Cox	Education
10	Monitor conservation status of species according to CSM on all known sites.	PBP	2008	Requires generic guidance on meta-population monitoring and development of conservation objectives	Matt Sutton, Mike Howe, Bethan Cox	Biological Data

This plan contains all known information on May 2004, future schemes will be updated on the website plans. The whole plan will be reviewed in 2010.

### **INTERACTION WITH OTHER HAPs AND SAPs**

Management for many species and habitats is compatible with that for the Hornet Robberfly, eg. neutral grassland, heathland, chough and greater horseshoe bats. However, there could be conflicts between management for the robberfly, and, for instance species associated with tall or ungrazed grass and heath. Any conflicts can be dealt with on a site-by-site basis.

A glossary for the abbreviations used in this plan can be found in the full Local Biodiversity Action Plan available from the website or the biodiversity officer.

**Website:** [www.biodiversitypembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.biodiversitypembrokeshire.gov.uk)

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