



## COLIN PLANT ASSOCIATES (UK) CONSULTANT ENTOMOLOGISTS

14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP  
UK tel/fax: 01279 507697 mobile telephone: 07770 766416  
E-mail: cpauk1@ntlworld.com

### INVERTEBRATES AND ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A survey of invertebrate interest should always form part of wider ecological assessments, even if this takes the form of a quick look to determine that the interest is insignificant and may be safely ignored.

The views of local entomologists and others should always be sought and these should be collated then passed to a qualified invertebrate specialist for an opinion. The most appropriate way of assessing the need for a more detailed survey on any site is, however, for a specialist entomologist to undertake a site visit as this allows for any opinions provided from other, potentially non-independent, sources to be critically and impartially examined.

**Notice:** You are welcome to use the criteria and my notes in the report. However, please note that "*Colin Plant Associates (UK) Consultant Entomologists*" assert and give notice of their right under Section 77 of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act, 1988 to be identified as the author of the following invertebrate assessment criteria and explanatory notes.

### CRITERIA USED TO DEFINE SIGNIFICANCE OF INVERTEBRATE HABITAT

Note that the information below refers to Great Britain, including offshore islands, but excludes all parts of Ireland.

In arriving at an allocation of significance level using these criteria, the site should always be considered in the context of other sites containing similar macro- and micro-habitats at the same geographical category level.

Criteria below those for National and International significance should be regarded as flexible; in particular, geographical variations in the distributions of species should be taken into account as should real and semi-permanent changes in status that have taken place since the publication of status codings. Sites that do not meet these criteria may nevertheless be significant at the level stated for other reasons. Geographical parameters may need to be altered significantly for sites on offshore islands. For these reasons, an assessment of invertebrate significance should always be performed by a qualified invertebrate specialist with adequate field experience and not by a general ecologist for whom entomology is not a primary discipline.

- Within each of the geographical categorisations, the significance may be Moderate, High or Very High (there is no "Low Significance" category - such sites are already defined by the Evaluation Table).
- The application of Moderate, High or Very High significance at each geographical level is based on a wide number of factors and does not sit well with a table of pre-defined rules. Additionally, within a site of particular geographical significance, different component parts may have differing levels of actual significance. The allocation of the level of significance should always be performed by, or subsequently approved by, a qualified entomologist.

<b>Significance</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Minimum qualifying criteria</b>
International	European important site	Internationally important invertebrate populations present <b>or</b> containing RDB 1 (Endangered) species <b>or</b> containing any species protected under European legislation <b>or</b> containing habitats that are threatened or rare at the European level (including, but not exclusively so, habitats listed on the EU <i>Habitats Directive</i> ).
National	UK important site	Achieving SSSI invertebrate criteria (NCC, 1989) <b>or</b> containing RDB2 (Vulnerable) <b>or</b> containing viable populations of RDB 3 (Rare) species <b>or</b> containing viable populations of any species protected under UK legislation <b>or</b> containing habitats that are threatened or rare nationally (Great Britain).
Regional (for border sites, both regions must be taken into account)	Site with populations of invertebrates or invertebrate habitats considered scarce or rare or threatened in south-east England	Habitat that is scarce or threatened in the region <b>or</b> which has, or is reasonably expected to have, the presence of an assemblage of invertebrates including at least ten Nationally Notable species <b>or</b> at least ten species listed as Regionally Notable for the <i>English Nature</i> region in question in the Recorder database or elsewhere <b>or</b> a combination of these categories amounting to ten species in total.
County (for border sites, both counties must be taken into account)	Site with populations of invertebrates or invertebrate habitats considered scarce or rare or threatened in the county in question	Habitat that is scarce or threatened in the county <b>and/or</b> which contains or is reasonably expected to contain an assemblage of invertebrates that includes viable populations of at least five Nationally Notable species <b>or</b> viable populations of at least five species regarded as Regionally Scarce by the county records centres and/or field club.
District	Site with populations of invertebrates or invertebrate habitats considered scarce or rare or threatened in the administrative District	A rather vague definition of habitats falling below county significance level, but which may be of greater significance than merely Local. They include sites for which Nationally Notable species in the range from 1 to 4 examples are reasonably expected but not yet necessarily recorded and where this omission is considered likely to be partly due to under-recording.
Local	Site with populations of invertebrates or invertebrate habitats considered scarce or rare or threatened in the affected and neighbouring Parishes (except Scotland, where the local area may best be defined as being within a radius of 5 kilometres	Habitats or species unique or of some other significance within the local area.
Low significance	—	Although almost no area is completely without significance these are the areas with nothing more than expected “background” populations of common species and the occasional Nationally Local species.

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