

## Black Hairstreak (*Satyrrium pruni*)

**Areas and status:** East Midlands of England. Significant declines in distribution (-61%) 1976-2014.

**Woodland type:** Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub.

**Preferred habitat niches:** Glades, rides and edges. Occasionally recorded in scrub mosaic, canopy gaps and in hedgerows close to woodlands. Usually breed on mature (>10 yrs old) Blackthorn growing in sheltered but sunny situations.

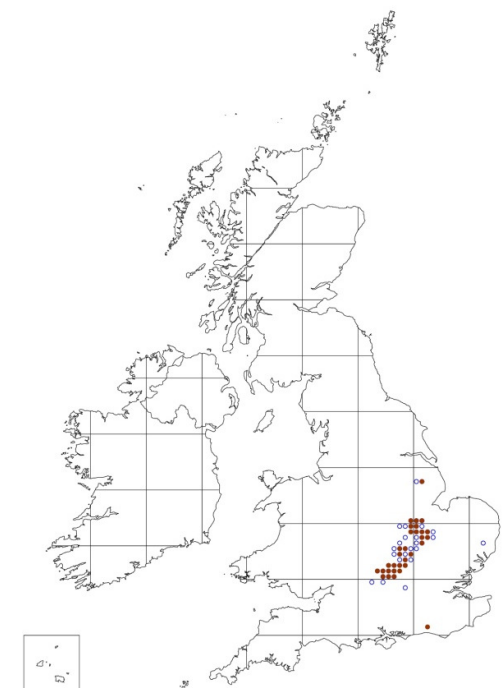
### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Loss of dense mature Blackthorn shrubs
- Excessive shading of Blackthorn especially on woodland edges
- Decline of long (25+years) rotational coppicing
- Failure of Blackthorn regeneration due to deer browsing
- Habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity leading to isolation of surviving populations

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades, Woodland edge, Scrub	Retain Blackthorn thickets 3-4m high alongside glades, rides and edges, especially in sunny, sheltered areas. Coppice 25% by area of 30-50 years old Blackthorn; coppice individual bushes or small areas (10x10 or 15x15m) on 20-50 yrs rotations. Lay Blackthorn under 25 years old like a hedge to encourage re-growth. To minimise deer browsing, top Blackthorn at 1.5-2m, in 4-5m long scallops.
Rides, Glades	Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges (but retain Blackthorn) to create sheltered conditions. Cut in 3 zones: regularly for access, on a 4-7 yr rotation & on an 8-20 yr rotation (but retain old Blackthorn with shorter rotations). Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable. Retain nectar and honeydew (Field Maple & Ash) sources in sunny, sheltered areas.
Small group clear-fell, Manage standards (>60% canopy gap)	Create canopy gaps (10x10 or 15x15m coupes) on a 20-50 yr felling cycle. Ensure coupes are adjacent or linked by rides and glades. Whilst felling, retain areas of Blackthorn.
Grazing	Protect suckering and young Blackthorn with stock-proof/deer-proof fencing; control deer if necessary.
Woodland creation (natural regeneration/colonisation, native species and/or variable density planting)	Develop indented scrub mosaic in south-facing, sheltered areas of low ecological interest, inside or within 500m of woodland. Use Blackthorn, Wild Privet and Dog Rose plus some Ash and Field Maple, only plant 50% of area.
Connectivity	Lay hedges within 500m of woodland by hand or mechanically trim 20-30m sections on long rotations. Encourage natural regeneration and/or plant Blackthorn in suitable areas (e.g. road verges, disused railway cuttings, abandoned quarries and field corners) within 500m of woodland. Aim to have Blackthorn bushes 3-4m high in sunny, sheltered locations; connect these areas to the woodland with scrub, shelterbelts and/or hedgerows.



©Doug Goddard



○ Pre 2005  
● 2005 – 2014

Source: Butterfly Conservation