

White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*)

Areas and status: Southern, eastern, mid and north-eastern England; eastern Wales. Significant declines in distribution 1976-2014 as a result of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) but has recovered in a few areas.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: High forest, glades, rides, edges, scrub mosaic, parkland, elm-rich hedgerows and road verges. Breeds on elms.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

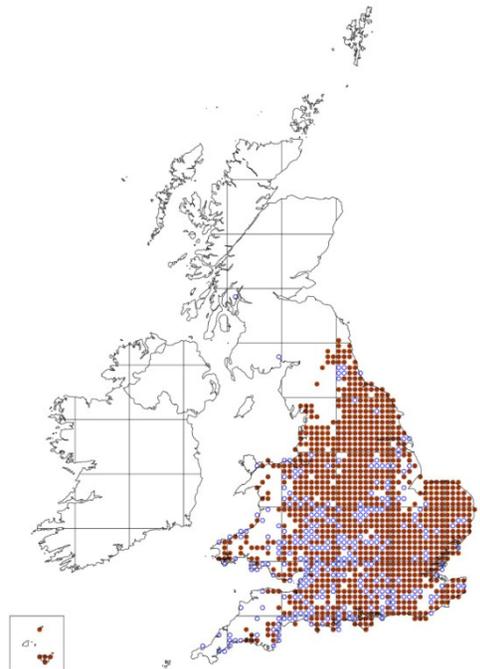
- Loss of elms, due to Dutch Elm Disease and preventative management (infected but fairly healthy elms support the White-letter Hairstreak)
- Overshading of suckers
- Lack of initial or correct assessment of elm status and health in woodland and across the landscape
- Elm rarely included in woodland and other planting schemes



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Potential habitat management solutions:

| Prescription | Comment |
|---|--|
| High forest, glades, rides, edges, scrub mosaic, parkland, elm-rich hedgerows and road verges | Identify healthy elm populations of local provenance, which may have some resistance to DED; consider propagating from these sources. Do not fell fairly mature and healthy elms to protect against DED. Where elms have been lost or are very badly affected, plant disease-resistant native elms alongside rides, glades and edges. These and any re-growth may require fencing to protect from grazing. Suckering elms often become re-infected when c12 years old and 5-10m tall; control by felling on a 10yr rotation. |
| Rides, Glades | Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges to create sheltered conditions. Cut in 3 zones: regularly for access, on a 4-7 yr rotation & on an 8-20 yr rotation. If elm trees and/or suckers are present, retain those which are not infected but coppice those which show signs of disease. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable especially when linking breeding areas. |
| Rotational coppice/Small group clear-fell | Where DED prevalent, protect from re-infection, and overshading by coppicing or felling 40x40m coupes on 10yr cycles; if DED is present also coppice/fell elms within the coupe; burn infected elms (most effective if undertaken at landscape-scale). |
| Scrub | Where DED prevalent, coppice scrub containing elm trees/suckers on a 10yr cycle. |
| Woodland creation (native species, variable density planting) | Manage on a landscape-scale to include tree planting schemes (road verges, farmland, around buildings etc). Plant on areas of low ecological interest adjacent to and/or within 2km of woodland; include disease-resistant elms, Field Maple, Ash and Lime in the planting mixes. Ensure that planting plans include extensive networks of glades and rides (ideally running east-west). Propagate elms for planting using disease resistant varieties of local provenance or transplant disease resistant elm suckers. |
| Connectivity | Maintain hedgerows and shelterbelts containing elms. Do not tidy up field corners and headlands as these may contain elm suckers and nectar plants. Include disease resistant elms in new hedgerow and field edge plantings. |



○ Pre 2005
● 2005 – 2014
Source: Butterfly Conservation