

Chequered Skipper (*Carterocephalus palaemon*)

Areas and status: Restricted to central western Scotland. Once fairly widespread in East Midlands of England but became extinct in 1976. Experimental reintroduction in late 1990s. Significant declines in distribution (-44%) 1976-2014.

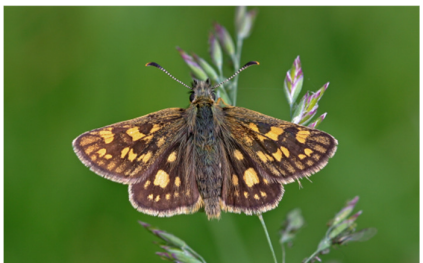
Woodland type: Upland Broadleaved Woodland (Scotland), Lowland Broadleaved Woodland (England), PAWS, Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: Rides, glades, clearings, wayleaves, edges, scrub, sheltered open hillsides (Scotland), coppice (England), young/open conifer plantations (England) and sheltered scrubby grassland adjacent woodland edge (England). Breeds on Purple Moor-grass (Scotland), False Brome and Heath False-brome (England), favours sunny, sheltered open space with tall herbaceous vegetation

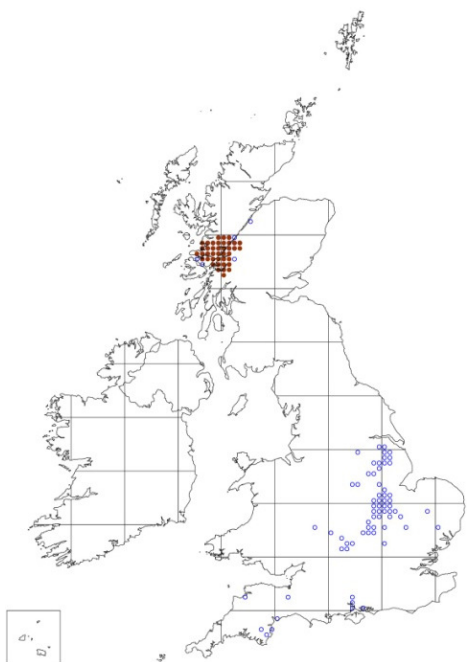
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Overshading and scrubbing up of glades, rides, wayleaves, trackways, edges, clearings, scrub and open grassland mosaics
- Abandonment of coppicing leading to loss of canopy gaps
- Conversion of broad-leaved woodland to conifer plantation; tree planting on breeding habitat (Scotland) and on rough grassland at woodland edges (England)
- Loss of rough grassland to agricultural intensification (England only); drainage of sites (Scotland only)
- Invasion by dense scrub and Bracken due to changes in grazing regimes, especially at sites where stock has been excluded and/or deer controlled (Scotland only)
- Over grazing reducing breeding habitat (Scotland only)
- Habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity leading to isolation of surviving populations

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades	Cut in 3 zones: 1 regularly for access, 2 on a 4-7 yr rotation & 3 on an 8-20 yr rotation. Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges to create sheltered conditions. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable especially when linking breeding areas. Retain nectar patches in sunny, sheltered areas; mowing (reciprocating) in spring or autumn (leaving arisings for a few days before removing) will help promote nectar sources.
Rotational coppice	Cut coupes (30x30m – 40x40m) on <12yrs rotations. Rotations >12 yrs if re-growth slow or large area of coppice woodland. Coppice next to areas cleared 1-3 years previously and link coupes to lightly shaded rides and glades.
Small group clear-fell	Clear-fell coupes (30x30m – 40x40m) on 10-15 yrs cycles. Plan to ensure that fell is next to areas cleared 1-3 years previously and link coupes to lightly shaded rides and glades.
Scrub (including wayleaves and trackside)	Cut scrub patches (e.g. 10x10m – 20x20m) on a 4-7 yr rotation, when cover exceeds 20% by area. Stagger clearance on larger sites to produce open areas at different stages of succession.
Grazing	Late autumn/winter cattle or light sheep grazing to maintain sward and prevent/reduce scrub and bracken spread.
Drainage	Ensure ditches and culverts do not become blocked; flushed habitats are preferred to standing water habitats.
Connectivity	Manage woodlands on landscape-scale by widening rides to connect clearings within woods and link up with adjacent or nearby woods. In Scotland, encourage establishment of Purple Moor-grass in open ground/woodland mosaics by reducing grazing/browsing; remove blockages to dispersal, e.g. thin plantations and/or create rides.



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○ Pre 2005
● 2005 – 2014
Source: Butterfly Conservation