

Clay Fan-foot (*Paracolax tristalis*)

Areas and status: South-eastern England. The moth is now very local and scarce but can be common where found.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland

Preferred habitat niches: Open areas with low growth and coppice. It is not known if other habitat niches are important to this moth (e.g. rides, glades and edges). The food plants of the early stages of this moth are poorly understood though related species are associated with dead and decaying leaves of deciduous trees. Eggs are probably laid on dead but not dry leaves; possibly those which have fallen onto the ground. It is possible that Oak is the main food plant and those growing in open situations are favoured. Sweet Chestnut, Hawthorn and Midland Hawthorn may also be used.



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Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Changes in woodland management, e.g. abandonment of coppicing and a reduction in frequent clearance of small areas in woodland

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rotational coppice (>12yr rotation)	Paucity of detailed information but aim to achieve warm sunny areas with good ground flora, also carpets of dead leaves on the ground. The moth has been recorded in a series of 'glades' (<1ha) close to each other in a woodland containing Sweet Chestnut stools. Possible that the moth was present in medium-large coupes (70x70m to 100x100m) coppiced on a rotation of 12-15yrs (possibly up to 20yrs). Coppice adjacent coupes and if this is not possible, locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
Small group felling	Fell in medium-large coupes (70x70m to 100x100m) on 30-70yr cycle. Plan felling programme in a similar manner as for coppicing.
Woodland creation (native species >80% and locally appropriate)	Commercial hardwood plantations have been used by the Clay Fan-foot but become unsuitable as they mature and/or became neglected. New woodlands in south-eastern England have the potential to provide suitable habitat; plant a diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs (including Oaks, Sweet Chestnut and Hawthorns).



● Pre 2000

● 2000 – 2014

Source: Butterfly Conservation