

Drab Looper (*Minoa murinata*)

Areas and status: Southern and south-eastern England; also south-eastern Wales and south-western Midlands. Once found more widely in southern England but now has a restricted distribution.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland

Preferred habitat niches: Rides, glades, edges, clear fell, coppice, disturbed ground and open areas. Breeds on large stands of Wood Spurge; eggs are laid on the flowers and floral leaves.

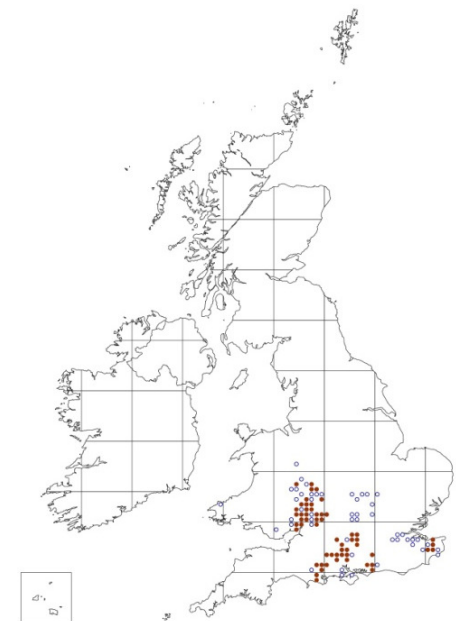
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Lack of/inappropriate maintenance of rides, glades, edge, open areas within woodlands
- Decline in coppicing and/or regular clear felling operations leading to closed canopies

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades	Cut areas on short rotation (3-5yrs) to maintain suitable conditions for Wood Spurge. Widen rides and enlarge glades if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable especially where they link existing breeding areas and establish large open areas where extensive patches of Wood Spurge can grow. Retain nectar patches (e.g. thistles).
Rotational coppice (<12yr rotation), Small group felling	Coppice medium-large coupes (40x40m to 80x80m) on short rotations (4-7yrs). Clear fell coupes (40x40m to 80x80m). Coppice/fell adjacent coupes and if this is not possible, locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
PAWS	Felling and extraction of conifers creates ideal conditions for Wood Spurge.



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● Pre 2000
● 2000 – 2014
Source: Butterfly Conservation