

Goat Moth (*Cossus cossus*)

Areas and status: Throughout England, south and west Wales and Highlands of Scotland; also occurs locally in Ireland. Substantial decline throughout its range.

Woodland type: Upland Broadleaved Woodland, Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, PAWS, Wet Woodland, Wood-pasture and Parkland

Preferred habitat niches: High forest, veteran trees, wood-pasture, parkland, glades, rides, edges, clear fell, coppice, wet woodland. Breeds on a wide range of deciduous trees and age classes. Favours damaged or stressed trees growing in damp soils and/or in sunny situations including: Willows, Poplars, Ash, Alder, Crab Apple, Apples, plus a range of other domestic fruit trees, and Oak Elm and Birch.

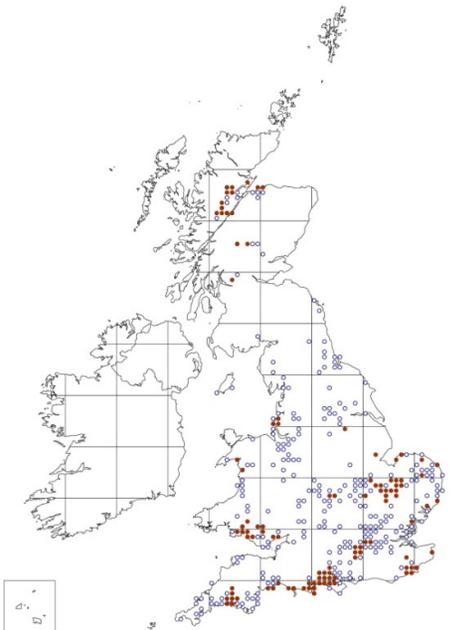


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Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Overzealous management resulting in removal of sickly looking and dying trees/branches

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Minimal intervention	Retain large, veteran, sickly looking and dying trees/branches; especially if located in wet woodlands and/or sunny situations. Also retain trees with damage to their branches, trunks and/or bark.
Thinning, Selective felling	Carefully manage whole woodland to ensure the presence of a wide range of age classes. Especially favour those trees which have the potential to become the mature and veteran trees of the future.
Manage standards	Lightly thin trees (e.g. 1 tree/ha/yr) growing in areas of closed canopy; during felling, allow falling tree to damage nearby trees.
Drainage	Retain wet areas and if necessary, block culverts and drainage ditches.
PAWS	Retain all deciduous trees, including dying specimens; carefully fell and extract nearby conifers.
Woodland creation (native species, variable density planting and/or natural regeneration/colonisation)	If few young trees are present, create new woodland on areas of low ecological interest. Plant a range of tree species in preferred habitat niches. Alternatively, fence off areas of low ecological interest and allow natural regeneration. When thinning, favour potential food plants.



- Pre 2000
- 2000 – 2014

Source: Butterfly Conservation