

Yellow Bird's Nest (*Hypopitys monotropa*)

Areas and status: Scattered in Britain and Ireland but rarer in the N and W.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Plantation (pine), Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: On leaf litter in shaded woods and in damp dune slacks. Epiparasitic, using *Tricholoma* fungus to extract nutrients from nearby living trees. Most frequent under Beech and Hazel on calcareous soils and under Pine in more acidic soils. Two subspecies which are not easily separated morphologically. Has been found in secondary woods. Likes deep shade. Populations fluctuate and don't appear in the same spot every year but usually within several metres of old one. Marked recent decline recorded in S England.



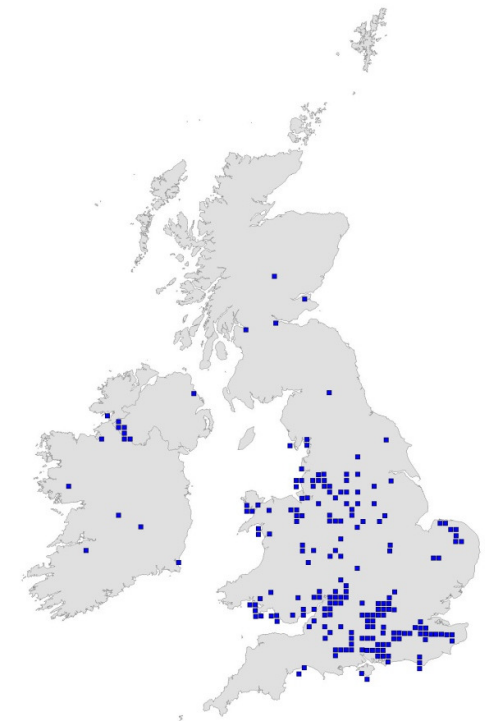
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Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Woodland management – dependent on leaf litter under appropriate tree canopy. Any changes in these conditions will impact on the species
- Competition from other species e.g. bramble
- Grazing – over grazing
- Habitat fragmentation – small isolated colonies vulnerable to extinction through chance events, natural population fluctuations and genetic decline

Potential habitat management solutions:

Prescription	Comment
Maintain soil rich in humus	Allow leaf litter to accumulate
Retain host trees	Keep hazel, beech or pine trees in the vicinity of populations
Maintain shade	Do not thin, coppice or clearfell, but manage existing trees to retain long term. Consider future replanting of host species
Maintain undisturbed soils	Keep soils undisturbed for at least 100 m from existing populations (maybe more for fungal mycorrhiza)
Avoid competition from other plants	Keep light levels low to reduce competition.
Maintain damp but not waterlogged soils	
Manage scrub	Control scrub and bramble encroachment
Control grazing	Fence wide zone around plants (at least 100m away) if grazing is a threat
Minimal intervention	



■ Distribution 1987-2016 (BSBI)

