

## White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*)

**Areas and status:** Locally frequent in southern England on chalk and limestone soils.

**Woodland type:** Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub, Young Woodland

**Preferred habitat niches:** Shady woods (commonly of Beech) with little ground cover. The ground is often bare, stony or mossy or with a thick layer of dead beech leaves. Relatively dry soils and/or steep and well-drained slopes. Can be found in dense thickets or among bushes in open scrubby places. Colonises new Beech plantations.

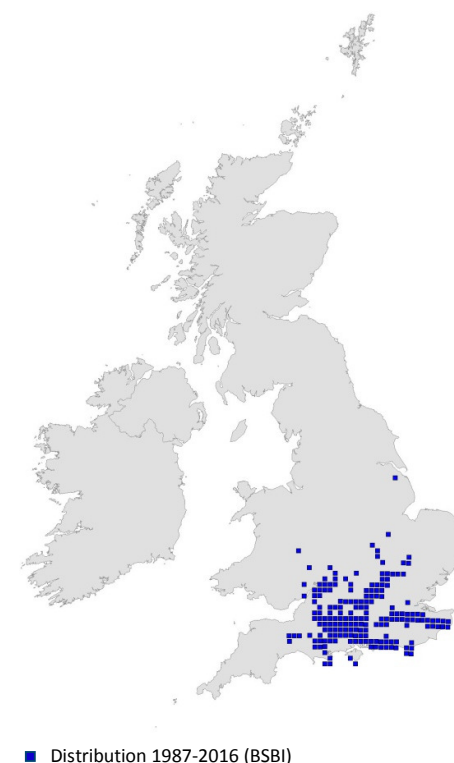
### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Woodland habitat loss
- Inappropriate management letting in light



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Maintain continuous shade canopy	Aim to prevent the spread of light-living competitors and maintain sparse ground cover
Avoid creating rides, glades and paths	Aim to maintain shady, bare ground conditions
Do not clearfell or coppice	
Natural regeneration/colonisation	Aim to create/maintain suitable shade and ground cover niches for new colonies near existing populations e.g. dense beech shade and bare ground
Maintain canopy	Encourage shade-bearing seedlings of existing canopy to grow on e.g. Beech
Plant native species (beech)	Plant young beech trees near existing populations or natural regeneration
Encourage natural regeneration of beech trees	
Fence (to control grazing of new planting or Beech regeneration)	
Maintain undisturbed soils	Protect from soil compaction
Keep soils free draining	
Connectivity	Aim to connect suitable habitat within and between woods
Manage scrub	Ensure continuity of dense thickets and bushes
Protect from fertiliser and soil enrichment	Fungal communities in the soil may be key to this plants growing cycle. Fertilisers could kill these off.
Minimal intervention	



■ Distribution 1987-2016 (BSBI)