

Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*)

Areas and status: Scattered throughout England and on Anglesey, frequent in Southern England.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: Open broadleaved woodland and scrub, grassland, limestone pavement, spoil heaps etc on calcareous soils. Light loving and most characteristic of wood borders or openings within woods but may be found in quite shady places, thickets or scrub. Likes moist soil.

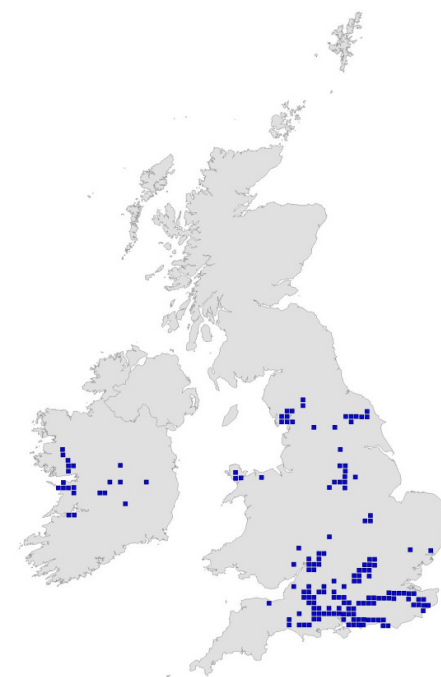
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Woodland habitat loss
- Scrub encroachment
- Closing of woodland canopies
- Drying out of woodland soil



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Thinning	Aim to provide light shade (more than 40% summer illumination)
Maintain undisturbed soil	
Retain soil moisture	Keep soils free from waterlogging but do not allow to dry out
Create/maintain rides	Create 2 or 3 zone rides near fly orchid populations whilst protecting existing plants
Create/maintain glades	Maintain and create open glades within woods
Coppicing	May be appropriate where formerly coppiced. Aim to mimic former rotations
High pruning of adjacent trees or pollarding around glades	As an alternative treatment for trees to coppicing
Control bramble if necessary	Best done in late August



■ Distribution 1987-2016 (BSBI)