

Pine hoverfly (*Blera fallax*)

Areas and status: Critically Endangered in UK. Declined from 8 known sites in 1900 to currently only 2 sites in the Central Highlands of Scotland (1 indigenous, 1 reintroduction to historic site).

Woodland type: Native pine woodlands

Preferred habitat niches: Caledonian pine woodlands with an abundance of mature 'granny pines' with falling limbs and snags. Alternative man-made habitat is cut stumps of large Scot's Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) with heart rot.

- rot holes and decaying roots in dead and dying Scots pine, for larvae and puparia to feed in.
- Cut stumps of Scots pine trees with a minimum breast height diameter of 40cm to provide sufficient quantity of heart rot.
- Flowering shrubs especially rowans (*Sorbus aucuparia*) for adult nectaring

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Lack of Caledonian pine woods with large mature Scot's Pines.
- Commercial forestry operations fell trees before they reach sufficient size
- Removal of deadwood
- Lack of heartwood rot.

Potential habitat management solutions (e.g.):	
Prescription	Comment
Extend area of Caledonian pine woods	Encourage regeneration through deer management and planting of Scots pine (where appropriate)
Encourage forestry operations to leave selected mature trees	Identify suitable trees and mark and map them. Liaise with foresters at time of operations.
Supplement natural habitat with artificial stumps	Cut a stump and take the top 5 cm layer off to create a lid. Cut a rectangular hollow into the centre of stump, aiming for an optimum of 30cm long, 15-20cm wide and 20cm deep (as the size of the stump dictates - if the diameter of the stump is smaller, the width and breadth of the cut can be reduced but a deeper hole should be made). Cut chips or small chunks of pine, can be various sizes. Add chips plus some sawdust and pine needles to the cut hollow, aiming to fill it about 75%. Place lid over the hole but allowing a gap of a few cm so that rainwater can enter the hollow.
Encourage rowan growth in proximity to mature pine trees and large stumps	Protect rowan regeneration from browsing by livestock. Remove shading trees to increase growth. Plant where appropriate.



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Source: NBN (Highland Biological Recording Group)