

Garden warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

Areas and status: Widespread in Britain; overall general long term decline, but with fluctuations. Some northward expansion of range.

Woodland type: Lowland broadleaf and mixed woodland, young conifer plantation, wet woodland, scrub, orchards with shrub layer.

Preferred habitat niches:

- Thicket, successional scrub, woods with patches of dense shrub and bramble, young woodland, coppice
- Nests in dense vegetation 0.5 to 1.5m high
- Uses scrub patches in woodland with no shading canopy trees (e.g. wide ride edges) and rarely shrub layer beneath canopy
- More common in well wooded landscapes

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

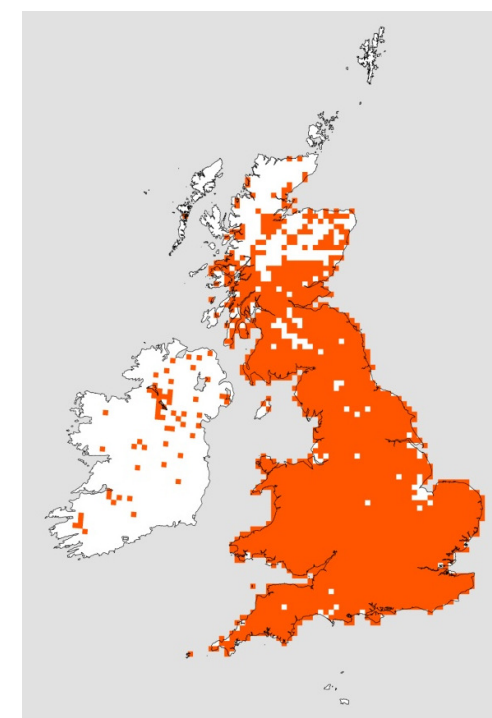
- Decline in area of young successional woodland
- Reduction in extent of active coppice
- Deer browsing limiting successional scrub, coppice or shrub layer regeneration
- Reduction of invertebrate prey during summer months due to agricultural operations and drying out of woodlands

Potential habitat management solutions:

<i>Prescription</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Restore neglected coppice	Ideally coppice on cycle (7-10 years)
Thinning canopy to restore shrub layer/understorey	Thin to 30%+ canopy gap to allow sufficient light to encourage good shrub layer development
Group felling	Will readily use regenerating group felled areas
Ride enhancement	Wide 3 zone rides with good scrub cover at edges; manage on rotation to retain balance of structure (cut sections of scrub)
Develop scrubby woodland edge	Provide buffers to woodland with a structured edge including young birch etc. Apply graduated edge structures: thicket > scrub-grass mosaic > field margin
Maintain or enhance naturally high water levels	Reverse or slow internal drainage, buffer wood from external drainage
New woodland creation	Ensure opportunity for thicket stages; natural succession preferred. Minimal weeding other than of invasive non-native species
Deer control	Assess need; reduce and hold deer numbers below levels that create browse lines or suppress regeneration as requires dense shrub layer



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■ Breeding

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