Tree Pipit *(Anthus trivialis)*

Areas and status: Two main distributions: 1) western and northern England where highest densities associated with upland habitats; and 2) central and southern lowlands where mainly on heathlands and acid grasslands. Decline of 86% between 1967-2008.
BoCC red list.

Woodland type: Upland broadleaved woodland, lowland broadleaved woodland, parkland, wood pasture, young conifer, heathland

Preferred habitat niches:
- Open ground within woodlands usually on dry free-draining soils (generally avoids areas >60% tree cover)
- Upland grazed woods which lack understorey and contain glades and clearfell areas
- Sparse/open field layer, such that birds can search for food on ground
- Mosaics of open tree cover, bracken, grasses and or heath
- Woodland edge where scattered trees, scrub and grassy habitats grade from woodland to open vegetation
- Scattered trees are important as song perches
- Early stage conifer regeneration after clearfell with scattered trees, dwarf shrub and grasses
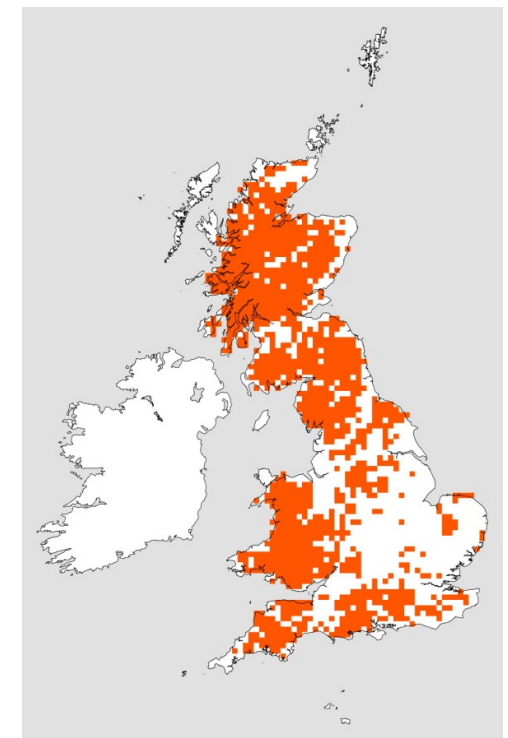- Open parkland, wood pasture and coppice in dry lowland woodlands

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:
- Loss of open-structure woodland through a) maturation and canopy closure, b) reduction/loss of grazing c) agricultural 'improvement' of land adjacent to woodland edge that removes mosaics and inter-grades
- Lack of scattered trees in clear fell areas
- Excessive deer or sheep grazing removing grassy nest cover; tree pipit is a ground nester

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■ Breeding
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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	*Comment*
Manage grazing/browsing	Assess stocking levels and timing; some grazing beneficial to maintain open structure and to suppress excess regeneration of trees, scrub and tall grasses and herbs. Encourage scattered shrubs in understory, clearings and edges.
Retain/create/manage scrubby woodland edge habitat interfaces	Particularly where adjacent to open upland habitats; promote gradation from woodland through scattered trees and scrub to open habitat. Rotationally manage woodland edge scrub to provide a variety of structure including open space.
Rotationally manage scrub habitat	Manage small areas on rotation, including minimum 20% open space. A woodland - grassland - scrub mosaic with occasional isolated trees is ideal.
Heavily thin woodland/restructure young closed canopy woodland – heavy thinning or small group fells	Restructure immature closed canopy woodland with a first thin of 40% to maintain successional nature of woodland. Develop open canopy progressively to ensure continuity of early successional stage. Aim for sparse canopy with varied understory structure and a high proportion of internal open space.
Ride enhancement	Widen rides in lowland dry woodlands to minimum 1.5x adjacent tree height.
Gap creation and enhancement	Create temporary glades via small group felling to minimum 2x canopy height. Create enlarged open space at ride junctions. Three-zone management of rides/glades/enlarged ride junctions to achieve scrubby edge structure. Retain occasional in-space trees.
Maintain/reintroduce coppice	This species can utilise coppice in first 1-2 yrs. Provide continuity of new coppice. Retain low density of standards/some scattered trees/larger shrubs. Coupes ideally contiguous with one another or >1ha in size.
Conifer clearfell and replanting	Retain scattered trees as song perches, maybe 10-15/ha when clear felling. Include birch where it occurs.