

Blue Ground Beetle (*Carabus intricatus*)

Areas and status: Limited to 12 known sites in south-western England (Devon and Cornwall) and one in south Wales (Glamorgan). Rare.

Woodland type: Upland Broadleaved Woodland, Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Wood-pasture and parkland

Preferred habitat niches: High forest, wood-pasture and parkland with good quantities of dead wood. Occurs in moist deciduous woodlands containing mature Oak (*Quercus* spp.) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), usually on south-facing slopes of river valleys. Most sites are grazed/browsed woodlands with sparse field and shrub layers, plus high humidity and abundant mosses. The beetles are nocturnal and shelter in winter under loose bark of or moss on damp, rotten wood. Occasionally ranges outside woodlands and may be found on the moorland fringe.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Changes to or removal of grazing resulting in a dense field layer (especially brambles) within woodlands.
- Over-tidiness in woodlands resulting in a loss of dead wood habitats.
- Loss of veteran trees, or lack of younger age-classes to act as longer term replacements for existing veterans.
- Some threat from invasive species e.g. Rhododendron.

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Grazing	May require fencing to control light to moderate sheep, pony and cattle grazing between November-March with some sporadic grazing during April-October.
Deadwood	Retain standing and fallen dead wood; it is particularly important to retain standing dead trees and trees with dead branches as these have a somewhat drier microclimate that is especially favoured by the beetle. If the woodland has a paucity of dead wood, fell, ring-bark and pollard low numbers of standing trees (e.g. 1 tree/ha/yr) with all fallen dead wood retained. Alternatively, remove branches (e.g.10 branches/ha/yr) and allow these to fall to the ground and rot down naturally.
PAWS	Refer to FC/Woodland Trust's guidelines. Retain all deadwood (fallen and standing) also retain mature, moribund trees to ensure continuity of supply of dead wood



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