

**Dark Crimson Underwing (*Catocala sponsa*)  
and Light Crimson Underwing (*Catocala promissa*)**

**Areas and status:** Both species have a restricted distribution in southern England. More or less confined to the New Forest, though there are a few sites in south Wiltshire. Section 41 Species.

**Woodland type:** Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Wood-pasture and Parkland.

**Preferred habitat niches:** Wood-pasture, parkland, high forest and veteran trees. Both Dark and Light Crimson Underwing are found in extensive areas of woodlands containing numerous large, old Oaks growing in more open conditions; their larvae feed on Oak buds, catkins and leaves.

**Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:**

- Unknown, though the past felling and fragmentation of large stands of mature Oaks is likely to have had a negative impact.

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Minimal intervention	Carry out low levels of management, some individual large/veteran Oaks may require ‘ <a href="#">halo thinning</a> ’, pollarding, etc.
Manage standards	Selectively fell in areas of high forest containing dense growths of even-aged, small/medium-sized trees. To enable young and semi-mature Oaks to become large trees and also create more open conditions. Ensure mature and over-mature trees with sap runs are retained.
Grazing	Continue with conservation grazing in wood-pasture and parkland habitats. Where livestock/deer are having a negative impact on woodland regeneration, erect stock-proof/deer-proof enclosures. Deer control will also be required if they are causing significant problems.
Woodland creation (natural regeneration, native species and/or variable density planting)	Aim to improve connectivity and also create extensive areas of lowland broadleaved high forest. Enlarge existing woodlands and link nearby woods. Plant diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs; ensure 5% Oaks in the mix and thin around these trees as the plantation develops; this will create open conditions and provide mature Oaks for the future. Alternatively allow natural regeneration and then thin other species to favour young Oaks.



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