

Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

Areas and status: Mainly south-eastern and central-southern England; also some scattered records for south-western and north-eastern England and the southern Midlands. Very patchily distributed in north and south Wales. Anecdotal evidence indicates the species has declined.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Wood-pasture and Parkland, Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites

Preferred habitat niches: High forest, veteran trees, wood-pasture, parkland, dead wood, glades, rides and edges. Stag beetles are also found in urban/suburban parks and gardens.

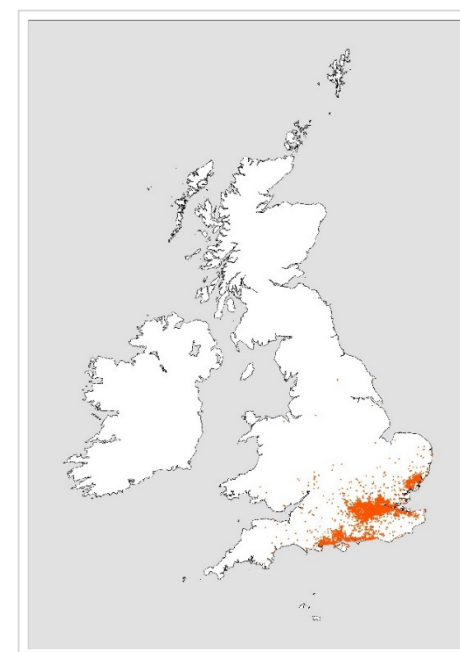
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Over tidying of woodlands resulting in loss of dead wood



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Dead wood	Retain all fallen and standing dead wood. Buried deadwood is a key habitat features for this species. If lacking, create dead wood by killing low numbers of standing trees, e.g. 1 tree/ha/yr Provide specialised conditions: excavate an area approx. 500mm deep, loosen soil in base of the scrape, place trunks/branches (e.g. 200-600mm diameter and 2m long) in the scrape - from a range of spp. but high proportion of Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) and some Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>); partially cover the timber with the excavated soil.
Minimal intervention	Retain dying and moribund trees; retain large, mature trees (trees which will become future veterans); retain, diseased and damaged trees, e.g. those with rot hollows, storm damage, fungi, etc.
Manage veteran trees	Carefully protect all veteran trees, including retaining their dead wood. Managing veteran trees may involve some tree surgery, pollarding, halo thinning, etc, do not burn this cut material but partially bury it (see above) or create a logpile in a semi-shaded area.
PAWS	Refer to FC/Woodland Trust guidelines. Ensure that all standing and fallen deadwood is retained and left undisturbed during this restoration process.



Source: People's Trust for Endangered Species