

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Areas and status: Mainly restricted to the uplands of north and west Britain. Population has stabilised after significant decline between mid 1990s and mid 2000s. BoCC red list.

Woodland type: Upland oakwoods, mature mixed woodland, old growth conifer plantations

Preferred habitat niches:

- Mature oak dominated closed-canopy woodland, with an open structure beneath the canopy and thin shrub layer.
- Usually absent from intensively managed woodland.
- Found in heavily wooded landscapes, with higher densities in larger woods.
- Avoids small woods <1ha in size.
- A secondary hole nester, nesting in existing natural tree holes but will readily use nest boxes.

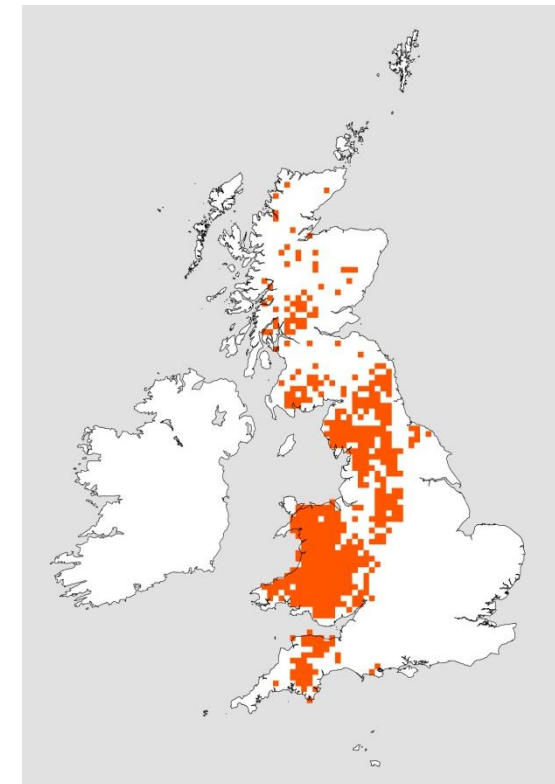
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Insufficient grazing to maintain open shrub layer
- Excessive grazing preventing regeneration
- Reduction in coverage of bigger trees due to previous excess harvesting
- Lack of deadwood features for nesting and invertebrate provision
- Invasive non-native plant species, notably Rhododendron, crowding understorey

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Establish ability to manage grazing/browsing	To maintain a low, species rich field layer, sparse distribution of shrubs with some replacement trees
Thinning for tree development/partial halo thinning	Selectively thin, retaining >75% canopy to limit understorey regeneration through maintaining shade. Select for bigger trees, retain trees with natural holes etc. Partially halo thin semi-mature oaks
Long term rotation of group felling	To aid oak regeneration which needs good light to germinate and thrive in small gaps, over a long rotation (>100 years), but excluding areas for old growth (determine at site level)
Provide nest boxes where needed	Only where lack of natural tree holes is limiting population. Provide in small groups, site >2m from the ground with a south easterly aspect to avoid exposure to prevailing bad weather and provide some warmth in spring.
Retain deadwood	Fallen and standing. Also retain wind or operationally damaged tree to develop dead wood and nest sites. Create new deadwood using partial stem injection if possible.
Plant new native (oak) woodlands where suitable, to increase woodland cover in landscape	Plant new native woodlands where suitable in a landscape context, containing a high proportion of oak. Make sure that any planting is appropriate in the landscape and do not plant on top of other priority habitats



©Mike Langman (rsps-images.com)



■ Breeding

Distribution data taken from the Bird Atlas 2007-2011 with kind permission of BTO/BW/ISOC'