

## Common Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*) and Early Dog Violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*)

**Areas and status:** Common Dog Violet is common all over the British Isles (flowers in April). Early Dog Violet is found in central, eastern and southern England (flowers in March).

**Woodland type:** Upland Broadleaved Woodland, Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Young Woodland

**Preferred habitat niches:** Open deciduous woodland; clearfell and coppice; glades, rides and edges; scrub [mosaic](#); hedge banks; road verges, meadows, heaths, moorland, rocky slopes, cliff edges etc. Avoids wet areas but grows on most soil types except most acidic.

### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- No significant change in distribution

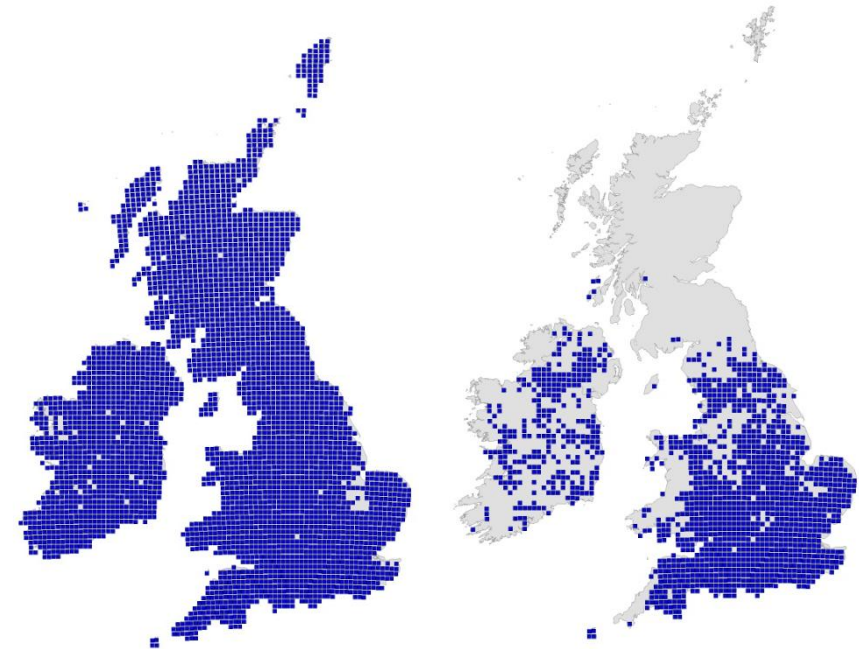


Common Dog Violet © Beth Halski



Early Dog Violet © Trevor Dines

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Thinning	Aim to achieve > 25 – 35 % canopy gap
Small group felling	Open up woodland
Coppice	Short to medium rotation 7-12 years
Clearfell	Create open areas
Create/maintain glades	Create/maintain glades adjacent to existing populations
Create/maintain rides	Create/maintain wide rides (2 or 3 zone)
Public access	Dog violets along with primroses form spectacular early spring displays so create linked paths which allow viewing but avoid trampling
Maintain connectivity	Seek to connect woods with hedge banks, area of old grassland etc by planting or natural regeneration
Use in woodland creation	Dog Violet is the best native violet for creating new woodland flora being easily propagated by division or raising plants from seed



■ Distribution 1987-2016 (BSBI)

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