

## Wood White (*Leptidea sinapis*)

**Areas and status:** Very localised distribution in central and southern England; south-east Wales; western Ireland. Significant declines in distribution (-89%) and abundance (-88%) 1976-2014. The UK's third most rapidly declining butterfly and now extinct over large parts of its former range.

**Woodland type:** Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, PAWS, Scrub

**Preferred habitat niches:** Glades, rides, edges, coppice, clear-fell and scrub mosaic. Breeds on Meadow Vetchling, Bitter Vetch, Tufted Vetch and Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil; favours extensive open space and scrub habitat in woodlands with species-rich grassy vegetation.

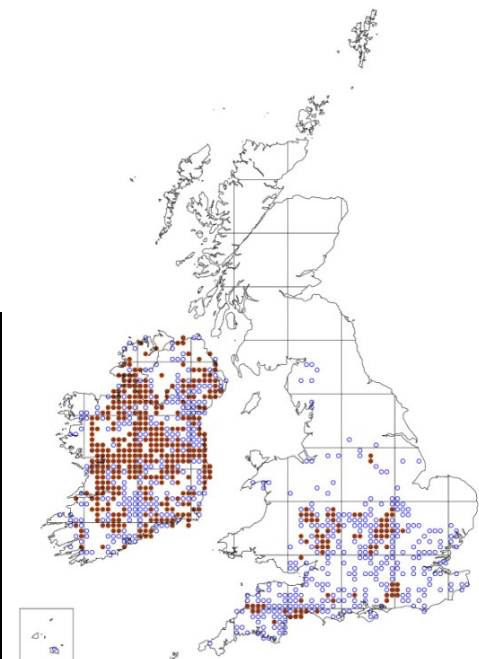
### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Overshading and scrubbing up of glades, rides, edges, clearings, scrub and open grassland mosaics
- Abandonment or irregular coppicing and felling leading to loss of canopy gaps
- Deterioration of suitable habitats within conifer plantations
- Re-stocking of woodland clearings and tree planting of open areas adjacent to woodlands
- Intensive management of rides and clearings, such as repeated mowing (e.g. more than once a year) leading to grassy swards and loss of larval food plants
- Inappropriate management of tall grassland and scrubby areas (abandoned railway lines, brownfield sites, disused quarries, etc) in the wider landscape
- Habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity leading to isolation of surviving populations

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades	Cut in 2 zones: 1 regularly for access & 2 on a 3-6 yr rotation. Plan maintenance to ensure range of vegetation structures through the ride/glade network. Scarify rides/glades to create shorter vegetation with patches of bare ground; do not scarify whole ride/glade at once. Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges to create sheltered conditions. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable, especially when linking breeding areas.
Rotational coppice	Coppice 40x40m to 60x60m coupes on <12yrs rotation, leaving about 40 standards/ha. >12 yrs rotation suitable where re-growth slow or where large area of coppice woodland. Coppice adjacent coupes or locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
PAWS	In plantations, retain scrub and open grassland mosaic; enlarge rides and glades as necessary. Restoration offers opportunities if non-native trees are cleared to provide extensive areas for natural regeneration.
Scrub	Cut scrub patches on rotation when cover exceeds 20% by area.
Grazing	Where livestock/deer are having a negative impact on coppice re-growth, erect stock-proof/deer-proof enclosures. Deer control will also be required if they are causing significant problems.
Connectivity	Manage woodlands on a landscape scale by widening rides which connect clearings within woods and link up with rides/clearings in adjacent or nearby woods. Create/maintain areas of suitable non-woodland habitat between woods a few km apart, e.g. unimproved grasslands, scrub mosaic, brownfield sites - disused railway lines and brickworks etc.



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○ Pre 2005

● 2005 – 2014

Source: Butterfly Conservation