

Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)

Areas and status: Widespread but commonest in north and west. More commonly found in hedgerows as a shrub as many trees were lost from woodland through Dutch elm disease over the last 50 years. However, new healthy trees are now being found that are over 15/20 metres high in lowland woodland and it is possible that it will return to its original range in future, covering much of Britain.

Woodland type: Lowland broadleaved woodland.

Preferred habitat niches: Lowland woodland on fertile soils.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Dutch elm disease

Note: The potential loss of ash through ash dieback from woodland could be partially offset by an increase in wych elm, a tree which supports species that are also associated with ash. It is a food plant for white-letter hairstreak butterfly.



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
<i>Prescription</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Maintain new wych elms found in woodland and in hedgerows	The tree will grow in woodland from seeds not through suckering/cloning as the English elm does, improving its chances of survival through having greater genetic diversity
De-bark or remove adjacent diseased elms	Dutch elm (bark) beetle live under the bark of dying elm trees so the removal of bark from dead and dying trees adjacent to new wych elms trees is recommended.
Pollarding	It may be worth pollarding occasional new elm trees if local density is high.



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