

Fingered Sedge (*Carex digitata*)

Areas and status: Very local in England from N Somerset to Westmorland and NE Yorks, SE Wales. Stronghold around River Severn.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: Open deciduous woodland, scrub and grassy rocky slopes on chalk and limestone and sheltered limestone pavement. Glades, rides and edges. Typically concentrated on broken banks at edges of woodland rides, on S facing slopes. Although scarce, not now thought to be declining. New recent records.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Woodland management - ceases to flower and dies out if the canopy becomes too closed or the site overgrown
- Plants seed freely in lightly shaded habitats. Seed is wind borne.
- New plants can appear from dormant seed following disturbance.



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
<i>Prescription</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Thinning	Thin to create dappled light (to achieve 25 -25% canopy gap)
Small group felling	Clear fell small areas but > 0.25 ha
Coppice	Coppice on short-medium rotation (< 12 years)
Clearfell	Create disturbance through clearfell
Create/maintain rides	Create new rides and paths. For maximum seed dispersal, align to prevailing wind in some places.
Create/maintain glades	Create glades within woodland
Use horses for light extraction work	To drag logs and to disturb soil along track edges
Maintain free-draining soils	Avoid creating waterlogged or wet features near existing populations
Manage scrub	Clear scrub around existing populations



■ Distribution 1987-2016 (BSBI)