

DORSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY HABITAT ASSEMBLAGES

Habitat assemblage:	Species of open woodland, glades, rides and early-stage coppice
Broad Habitat type:	Woodlands
S41 and Priority Habitat type:	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Wood-pasture and Parkland Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland
Composite species assemblages:	Woodland bats Invertebrates of open woodland, glades, rides and early-stage coppice Butterflies and day-flying moths of open woodland and early-stage coppice Plants of open woodland, glades, rides and early-stage coppice

Habitat assemblage description:	<p>In Dorset many woodlands, both large and small, were managed as coppice-with-standards the underwood (typically Hazel) cut on a regular cycle creating open areas within woodland. The warm and sheltered micro-climate created by this management is favoured by invertebrates particularly a small suite of butterflies and moths, plus several specialist bees. The first years following coppicing resulting in an abundance of flowers particularly in the spring and early summer.</p> <p>With the widespread cessation of coppicing which is now only carried out at a small scale, open areas within woodland are now mainly confined to rides and glades. Widening rides and coppicing small scallops along the margins can create habitat similar to coppice coups, and allow species to move through the woodland. Woodland bats use open areas and rides for feeding. The thicket stage three to seven years after cutting are important for woodland birds.</p>
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	<p>Species of ancient and long-established woodland</p> <p>Species of veteran and ancient trees and deadwood features of old growth woodland</p> <p>Species of wet woodland</p>
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Pressures and Threats	
PB04	Abandonment of traditional forest management
	<p>Traditional small-scale woodland management has ceased in the majority of woods particularly those small 'farm-woods' that are difficult to access by large machinery. This has led to a change in woodland structure and micro-climate with many sites becoming shadier and cooler resulting in the decline of some species particularly those associated with open habitats within woods and the early stage of coppice (see other guidance).</p> <p>Through the efforts of the Dorset Coppice Group there has been a slight increase in coppicing in recent years, and small-scale coppicing is often carried by conservation organisations on nature reserves.</p>

PB15	Wood transport
	The conversion of naturally surfaced tracks to extraction route by using gravel, hogging etc. Reduces the diversity of plants along rides, depending on the type of stone in can also enrich the soils favouring more robust and competitive plants. Importing soils to surface tracks can import non-woodland and non-native plants which can colonise the ride margins to detriment of native species.
PI02	Other invasive alien species
	High populations of sika deer are locally having an impact on woodlands by grazing reducing or even eliminating the field layer of species such as Bramble which is a very important nectar source and larval foodplant in woodland and provides important cover for nesting birds. They can also reduce the diversity of flowering herbs in the ground flora which leads to an increase in grasses.
PI03	Problematic native species
	Deer numbers are historically high at present and grazing and browsing at high levels within woodland damages coppice-regrowth and also reduce the diversity of flowers in the ground flora and encourage more grasses. Along woodland rides deer can graze out patches of Bramble which are important nectar and pollen resources for many insects.
PK04	Atmospheric N-deposition
	Prolonged low-level deposition of nitrogen compounds can encourage quicker growing more competitive species over the woodland specialists that generally require nutrient poor soils, many are slow-growing and poor competitors.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Woodland bats

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Bats	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Bechstein's Bat	LC	LC	VU (GRL)	1	PA03	PA14	PB04	PB07	PB08	PB14	PB17	.
Bats	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Brandt's Bat	DD	DD	LC	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered Bat	DD	DD	LC	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natter's Bat					.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's bat					.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Lesser Noctule	NT	NT	n/a	2	PA03	PA14	PB04	PB07	PB08	PB14	PB17	.
Bats	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	LC	LC	NT (ERL)	1	PA03	PA14	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Greater Horseshoe Bat	LC	LC	NT (ERL)	1	PA03	PA14	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Western Barbastelle	VU	VU	VU (ERL)	1	PA03	PA14	PB04	PB07	PB08	PB14	PB17	.
Bats	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule	LC	LC			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Lesser noctule	NT	NT	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	LC	LC			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	LC	LC			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Nathusius's pipistrelle	NT	NT	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared bat	LC	LC			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Grey long-eared bat	EN	EN	NT (ERL)	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Invertebrates of open woodland, glades, rides and early-stage coppice

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Bees	<i>Andrena helvola</i>	Coppice Mining Bee	.	n/a	LC	4	PB04	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Butterflies and day-flying moths of open woodland and early-stage coppice

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Butterflies	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	VU	n/a	n/a	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Minoa murinata</i>	Drab Looper		n/a	n/a	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Synanthedon myopaeformis</i>	Red-belted Clearwing				4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Lobesia occidentis</i>	Spurge Marble	pRDB	n/a	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>	Coppice Beauty; Arched Marble		n/a	n/a	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Phalonidia gilvicomana</i>	Wall Lettuce Straw; Wall Lettuce Conch	pRDB	n/a	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of open woodland, glades, rides and early-stage coppice

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Plants	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch	.	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	.	NT	n/a	2	PB04	PB15	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	VU	VU	n/a	1	PB04	PB15	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lungwort	LC	LC	n/a	3	PB04	PI03	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	.	NT	n/a	2	PA08	PB04	PK04	.	.	.	.	.