



The white admiral *Limenitis Camilla* is a butterfly of large woodlands, mostly in Southern and Eastern England. In the early 20th century its numbers had reached a low ebb in the UK, following a period of predominantly cool summers. The warm summers of the late 20th century, coinciding with the maturing of plantation forests, benefitted the white admiral and its range expanded. Herefordshire is at the North West frontier of its range.

It is restricted to woodland in the South East of the county and there have been recent records from Haugh Woods and other woods of the Woolhope Dome, Dymock Forest and on at least one HWT reserve on the Doward. It is a canopy species, not as dependant on ride edge management as other woodland butterflies and has possibly benefitted from woodland neglect over recent decades. There is currently concern that white admiral numbers maybe declining in the county. This may be due to lack of recording or maybe partly due to some of the forestry plantations coming to maturity and being clear felled.

The eggs are laid on honeysuckle, the larvae hibernating until April. They feed and grow rapidly until they pupate in late May and June. Adult larvae and pupae are particularly vulnerable to predation so cool Junes and late emergence leads to higher predation levels and big fluctuations in numbers of the adults from year to year. This is possibly another reason for the apparent recent decline in numbers.

### Threats

- Isolated and fragmented populations
- Unsympathetic habitat management, mowing and scrub clearance
- Damage and disturbance through recreational use
- Deer damage preventing coppice regeneration
- Climate change

### Current Action

- Management and monitoring Haugh Wood (FE, BC)
- Woodland management in Queenswood, Dymock. (HC)
- Woodland management on the Doward
- Targeted Woodland Defra Grant schemes (FC)

	Objective	Action
<b>A</b>	<b>Locate and map existing populations and investigate historic sites</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Monitor populations</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Increase sympathetic management and programmes of woodland restoration</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Reduce deer damage on woodland regeneration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Protect known colonies through targeting funding and protection through site designations</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Increase awareness of habitat requirements</b>	<b>4</b>

	Actions	Target
<b>1</b>	<b>Monitor populations annually</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Maintain existing populations and increase numbers through Defra funded projects</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Map distribution and publish in BAP Atlas</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Publicise habitat requirements to landowners and advice on beneficial management</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Implement deer management plans</b>	<b>Annual</b>

<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>BC</b>
<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>FE, HWT, DI, FC</b>