

# Violet Click Beetle

*Limoniscus violaceus*

## Species Action Plan

### 1. Introduction

The violet click beetle is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. It is listed within Annex II of the Habitats Directive. The beetle was listed as a UK BAP priority species and subsequently included in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

### 2. Current Status

#### **2.1 Ecology and habitat requirements**

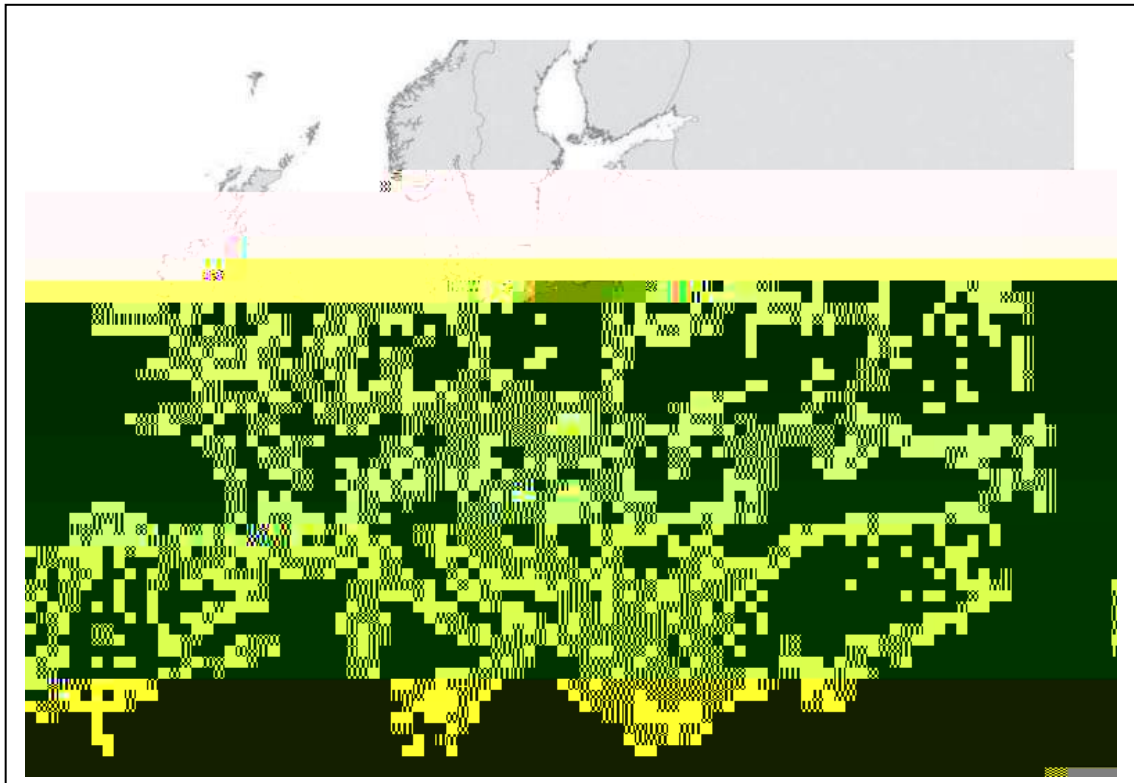


Figure 1. Known global distribution of violet click beetle. Map taken from Gouix *et al* (2012).

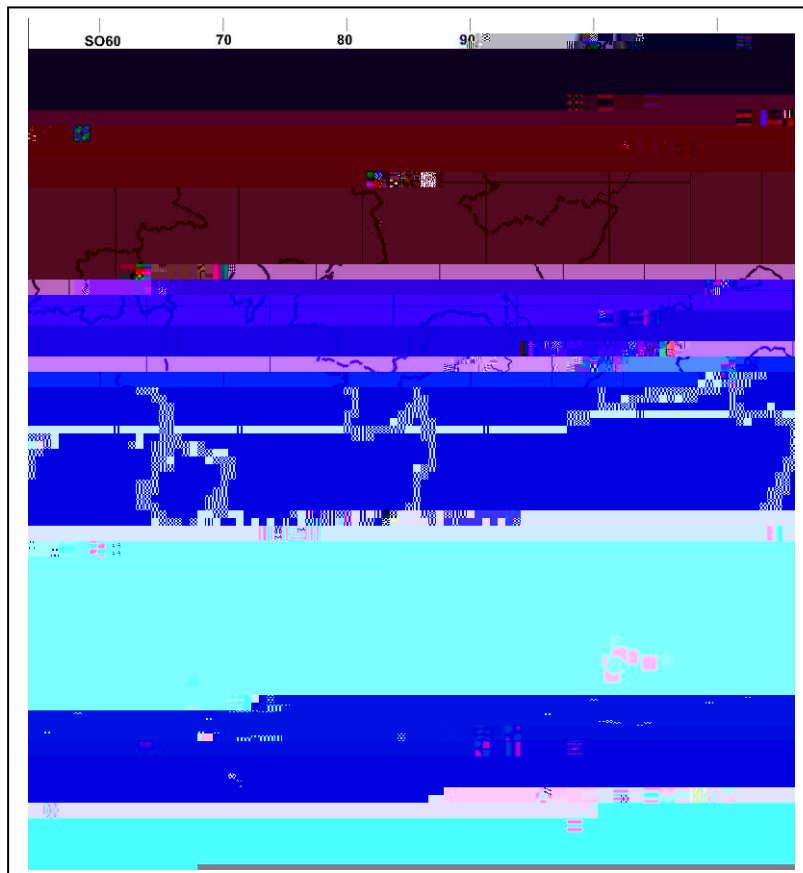


Figure 2. Records of violet click beetle in Worcestershire. Data supplied and map prepared by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.

### **2.3 Legislation**

The violet click beetle is protected under Annex II of the EC Habitats and Species Directive. It is listed on schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

## 4. Current Action

### 4.1 Local protection

Almost 360 ha of Bredon Hill are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a SAC due to the presence of the violet click beetle. Part of this area is also designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and the entire hill falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

7KH YROHW FOLFN EHHWOH LV SDUW RI 1DWMDO (QDQY 6SHFLHV 5HFRMU) Programme, which began in 1991 with the aim of reversing declines and / or improving the status of some of the country's most endangered species.

Skidmore undertook a survey in Windsor Park in 2002-2003 on behalf of English Nature as part of a several year investigation into the range and status of the violet click beetle in Britain. The methodology and results were published in English Nature Research Report 514.

Several papers presented at the second pan-European conference on Saproxylic Beetles in London in 2002 focused on current research and status of violet click beetle. The conference was hosted jointly by English 1DWMHDQWKH3HRSOHY7UXWIRU(QDQYHUHG6SHFLHV37(6\$RSRI the proceedings, including full text of all the papers, can be purchased from PTES. See: [www.ptes.org/about/publications.html](http://www.ptes.org/about/publications.html).

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Where appropriate plant tree species including beach, field maple, oak and sycamore on sites with Violet click beetle as a possible future alternative host tree for the species

Support the survey work for adult beetles taking place as part of the Buglife 'Back from the Brink' project

Continue to experiment with, research and monitor artificial breeding site designs

### References and further information

Alexander, K. N. A., Bengtsson, V. J., Jansson, N and Smith, J. P (2016). *The role of trees outside woodland in providing habitat and ecological networks for saproxylic invertebrates*. Natural England Commissioned Report Number 225. <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4828234842112000>

Gouix, N., Mertlik, J., Jarzabek-Muller, A., Nemeth, T and Brustel, H (2012). *Known status of the endangered western Palaearctic violet click beetle (Liminiscus violaceus) (Coleoptera)*. Journal of Natural History Vol. 46, Nos 13-14, April 2012, 769-802.

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