

Habitat management for the Drab Looper

The Drab Looper requires a plentiful supply of its foodplant in sheltered, open and sunny situations. Wood Spurge numbers will decline shortly after coppicing or other disturbance and regular and active management is required.

- ◆ The main aim of management should be to encourage a plentiful and continual supply of the larval foodplant, Wood Spurge, in sunny but sheltered situations.
- ◆ Where the larval foodplant has a scattered distribution within sites, effort should be made to link up stands of the foodplant through appropriate management, for example through a network of open rides.
- ◆ Rotational clearance of ride margins should be undertaken, ensuring some disturbance of the ground. Scalloping of ride edges, for example through removing trees, can create additional suitable habitat.
- ◆ The creation of box junctions where rides intersect should be considered so that these create open, sheltered situations.
- ◆ Where coppicing is not currently undertaken, this should be introduced and undertaken on a short rotation.



How to survey/monitor

The adult moth can readily be seen flying on sunny days in May and June in open situations or along ride sides within woodland habitats, usually where there are good stands of its foodplant, Wood Spurge. During dull weather the moth can also be disturbed from its foodplant or surrounding ride side vegetation. Potential monitoring techniques could include incorporating the species on butterfly transects or undertaking timed counts.



top left Wood Spurge, the larval foodplant
right and top right
Ideal habitat for the Drab Looper



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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