

Report under The Conservation of Habitats and
Species Regulations 2017 (as amended),
Regulation 9A

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1079 - Violet click beetle

(Limoniscus violaceus)

England



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This report was produced by JNCC in collaboration with Natural England.

This document should be cited as:

Natural England and JNCC. (2026). Conservation status assessment for the species: S1079 Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*).

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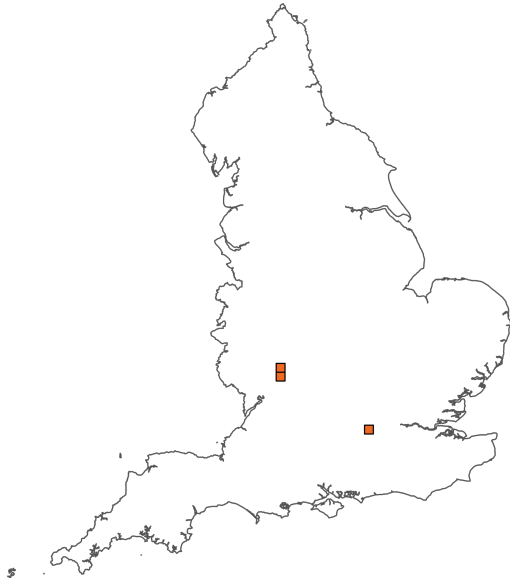
Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the England Report under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Natural England, which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

Assessment Summary: Violet click beetle

Distribution Map



Range Map



Figure 1: England distribution and range map for S1079 - Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1079 - Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Unfavourable-bad (U2)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)

Favourable (FV)

Population (see section 6)

Unfavourable-bad (U2)

Habitat for the species (see section 7)

Unfavourable-bad (U2)

Future prospects (see section 10)

Unfavourable-bad (U2)

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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	England
1.2 Species code	S1079
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Violet click beetle
Annex(es)	II

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	1994-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

2.5 Additional information

Robust surveys underpin data for this species.

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property

b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation

c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens

d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas

f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens

g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species

Other measures

Other measures description

3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

No additional information

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²) 300

5.2 Short-term trend; Period 2013-2024

5.3 Short-term trend; Direction Stable

5.4 Short-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

5.5 Short-term trend; Method used Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

5.6 Long-term trend; Period

5.7 Long-term trend; Direction

5.8 Long-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used

5.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

a) Area (km ²)	300
b) Pre-defined increment	
c) Unknown	No
d) Method used	Reference-based approach
e) Quality of information	high

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

a) Change	No
b) Genuine change	
c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data	
d) Different method	
e) No information	
f) Other reason	
g) Main reason	

5.12 Additional information

Heaver (2023) states that the range is stable at 3 English sites: Windsor Forest & Great park SAC, Bredon Hill SAC and Dixton Wood SAC.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period	2019-2024
6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)	
a) Unit	number of inhabited trees
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	

d) Best single value	23
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	moderate
6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	
a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
6.8 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	
e) Type of estimate	
f) Rate of decrease	
6.10 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
6.11 Long-term trend; Period	
6.12 Long-term trend; Direction	
6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude	

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

d) Rate of decrease

6.14 Long-term trend; Method used

6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

ai) Population size 81

aii) Unit number of inhabited trees

b) Pre-defined increment

c) Unknown No

d) Method used Reference-based approach

e) Quality of information moderate

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

6.17 Additional information

Heaver (2023) considers different estimates for Population: entire English population of 19 known, occupied trees, but acknowledging incomplete detection; compared to trees with high probability of occupancy (50%). As current population is a best estimate of 23 occupied trees (given 47 high probability trees; Heaver, 2023), this equated closely to 2019 reported values: minimum 22 and maximum 30 occupied trees.

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation Unknown

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient? No

b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient? No

c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality? Unknown

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

7.3 Short-term trend; Period 2013-2024

7.4 Short-term trend; Direction Stable

7.5 Short-term trend; Method used Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

7.6 Long-term trend; Period

7.7 Long-term trend; Direction

7.8 Long-term trend; Method used

7.9 Additional information

JNCC (2019) notes that the habitat at the 3 occupied sites is neither of sufficient quality or quantity to support the population long-term. Heaver (2023) identifies gaps in age

cohorts of Ash, Beech or Oak trees, which will enter the 200-300 age class (supporting suitable decay stages) as a risk to the habitat. However, the habitat modelling that estimates the number of suitable trees has not been applied to the entire areas of known sites, so this is a source of uncertainty. Suitable veteran trees continue to be lost gradually, e.g. wind throw of suitable or occupied trees during storms. It isn't clear to what extent this is balanced by targeted arboriculture in the last 20 years, to maintain stability of cohorts of high and medium probability trees, i.e. becoming less prone to storm damage. As the number of estimated, occupied trees has remained similar and due to the above sources of uncertainty, the habitat is judged stable.

Potentially suitable, unoccupied habitat exists in the form of veteran and ancient Ash and Beech trees between the Cotswolds Scarp and Windsor Great Park, in the Thames and Chiltern parklands, estimated at 2,180 trees (Heaver, 2023). However, this area is disconnected from existing populations and the appropriate tree density is unquantified. Due to the high uncertainty as to suitability, this is not counted as unoccupied habitat in the current assessment

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PI01: Invasive alien species of Union concern	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PI04: Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PJ07: Cyclones, storms, or tornados due to climate change	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

No additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed?	Yes
b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified and taken
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species
9.3 Location of the measures taken	Only inside National Site Network
9.4 Response to measures	Long-term results (after 2036)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
MB05: Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices	High (H)

9.6 Additional information

JNCC (2019) notes that over the three UK sites a range of tree management practices are or have been deployed, especially managing and securing the veteran tree resource to

maintain longevity and persistence. Rhododendron has been managed at Windsor. Managing the age cohorts of trees to establish habitat continuity at all the sites is a long-term objective.

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
bi) Population	Overall stable
ci) Habitat for the species	Overall stable

10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range Good

bii) Population Bad

cii) Habitat for the species Bad

10.2 Additional information

No additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range Favourable (FV)

11.2 Population Unfavourable-bad (U2)

11.3 Habitat for the species Unfavourable-bad (U2)

11.4 Future prospects Unfavourable-bad (U2)

11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status Unfavourable-bad (U2)

11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status Stable

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.8 Additional information

Violet Click Beetle conservation status was assessed as overall - Unfavourable Bad (Tab. 1A), with Range - Favourable (Tab. 1A, 2A) as current period (2013-24) = FRR.

Population - Unfavourable-Bad (Tab. 1A, 2B) as short-term (2013-24) >25% below FRP (for no. of inhabited trees minimum value at 23 < 81 trees) though short-term trend stable.

Habitat (Tab. 1A) - Unknown as occupied quantity and quality of occupied habitat uncertain (Tab. C1); short-term trend unknown.

Future Prospects conclusion (Tab. D2)- Unfavourable Bad - as Population & Habitat future prospects both Bad (Tab. D1: future trend stable x current status Bad = Bad).

JNCC (2019) reporting for 2013-18 also concluded Unfavourable Bad status for Violet Click Beetle.

Since 2019, Heaver (2023) noted that population and habitat estimates were based on incomplete surveys of trees throughout occupied sites (Table 3). This introduces greater uncertainty in the quality and extent of the resource, which is potentially greater than that recorded.

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

a) Unit	number of inhabited trees
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	23
12.2 Type of estimate	Minimum
12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction	Stable
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction

Stable

12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used

Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

12.8 Additional information

Entry is same as species parameters tab as all sites are within SACs.

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

Heaver D (2023). Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for violet click beetle. RP2966. Natural England.

JNCC (2019) European Community Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 on the implementation of the Directive from January 2013 to December 2018 Conservation status assessment for the species: S1079 - Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*)

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label

Note

No explanatory notes