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Brown hairstreak butterfly

On the wing in late summer, this butterfly is difficult to spot as it mostly flies around tree-tops to feed on honeydew secreted by aphids, though if you're lucky you might catch one nectaring on flowering bramble. The brown hairstreak lays eggs on young blackthorn stems so mosaics of woodland edge, scrub and hedgerows are essential. Mechanical hedge flailing and clearance of blackthorn scrub have had a devastating impact on the brown hairstreak in the countryside as overwintering eggs are lost. Fortunately, several of the Exeter Valley Parks now managed by DWT still form the perfect home for these chocolate orange butterflies. **Management of these varied habitats in Belvidere & Duryard, Barley Valley and Withycombe Way Valley Parks is crucial for the brown hairstreak's future.**

Your donation will support work for wildlife on all these sites.