

Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Boloria euphrosyne

Species Action Plan

1. Introduction

The pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly was listed as a UK BAP species and subsequently included within Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

2. Current Status

2.1 Ecology and habitat requirements

The pearl-bordered fritillary is one of the earliest fritillaries to emerge and can be found as early as April in woodland clearings or on rough hillsides with bracken where it feeds on spring flowers such as bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). The most widely used larval food plants are common dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) and early dog-violet (*V. reichenbachiana*). In all habitats it requires abundant larval food plants growing in short, sparse vegetation where there is abundant leaf litter (Asher *et al.*, 2001).

2.2 Population and distribution

The pearl-bordered fritillary is widespread across Europe from northern Spain to Scandinavia and eastwards to Russia and Asia. It appears to be stable in many European countries but elsewhere has undergone serious declines (e.g. populations in Belgium and Denmark show >50% decreases in 25 years). **The State of the UK's Butterflies 2015** report (Fox *et al.*, 2015) shows that the pearl-bordered fritillary underwent a rapid decline between 1976-2014 with a -95% change in occurrence and -71% change in abundance. However, from 2005-2014 the changes in occurrence and abundance are +3% and +45% respectively, indicating a recovery that can in part be attributed to successful working at a landscape scale in places such as Wyre Forest.

The Wyre Forest is a nationally important stronghold

1,200 species having been recorded. This represents nearly half of the total number of species recorded in Britain (Grundy, 2006).

The Wyre Forest continues to be a well known stronghold for a significant number of nationally and regionally important butterflies and moths such as small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*), silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), common fan-foot (*Pechipogo strigilata*), great oak beauty (*Hypomecis roboraria*), orange moth (*Angerona prunaria*) and the dead wood specialist moths *Schiffermuellerina grandis* and *Oecophora bractella*. The reason for this incredible diversity is the forest's historical management, large size and the c

Hurst Coppice transect since 2010 and the Pound Green Common transect since 2013. All of these transects recorded pearl-bordered fritillary in 2017.

As part of the legacy of the 'Back to Orange' project the Wyre Forest Butterfly Group was set up in 2010 to encourage more local people to become involved in survey and monitoring work across the forest. Membership of this group has gradually increased to 40 active volunteers in 2017.

5. Associated Plans

Woodland.

6. Conservation Aim

The core population of pearl-bordered fritillary in the Wyre Forest has been maintained and the species has

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