

High Brown Fritillary

Argynnis adippe

DRAFT Species Action Plan

1. Introduction

The high brown fritillary underwent a drastic decline in abundance (-62%) and occurrence (-96%) within the UK between 1976 and 2014, making it one of our most threatened butterfly species. It is now known from only around 50 sites in England and Wales and conservation efforts are trying to save the species from extinction. For example, following a collapse in numbers of one of the butterfly's core meta-populations at Heddon Valley on Exmoor, targeted and intensive conservation management between 2002 and 2014 instigated a strong recovery. The species 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

The high brown fritillary forms discrete colonies that rarely contain more than a few hundred adults. However, the adults are highly mobile and are often seen feeding on flowers 1-2km away from main breeding areas. The two main habitats used are bracken dominated habitats or grass/bracken mosaics, and limestone rock outcrops usually where scrub or woodland has been cleared or coppiced. Formerly the butterfly occurred in wood has ss/b76s

Worcestersh