

## High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*)

**Areas and status:** Very localised distribution within SW and NW England & one site in southern Wales.

Significant declines in distribution (-96%) and abundance (-62%) 1976-2014. The UK's fastest declining butterfly and now extinct over large parts of its former range.

**Woodland type:** Upland Broadleaved Woodland, Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub.

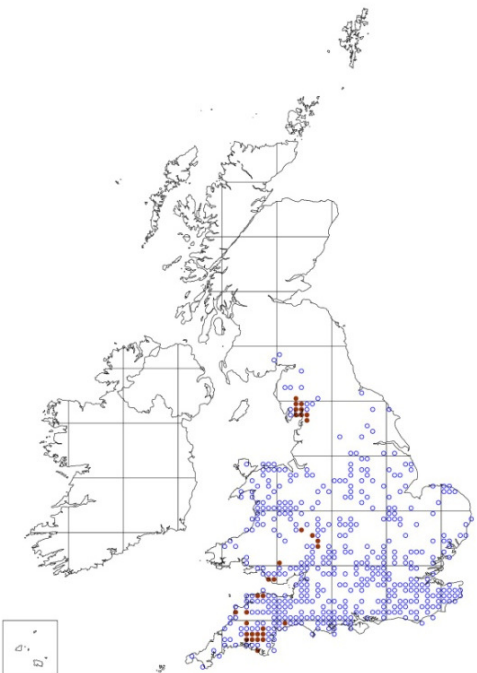
**Preferred habitat niches:** Glades, rides, edges, clear-fell, coppice, scrub and open grassland mosaics. Breeds on violets; favours short (<5cm) sparse vegetation, comprising low grass cover, and shallow Bracken litter (<15cm).

### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Overshading and scrubbing up of glades, rides, edges, clearings, scrub and open grassland mosaics
- Abandonment or irregular coppicing and felling leading to loss of canopy gaps
- Scrub/dense field layer developing on areas of sparse grassland and Bracken mosaic
- Re-stocking of woodland clearings and tree planting of open areas adjacent to woodlands
- Intensive management of rides and clearings, such as repeated mowing (e.g. more than once a year) leading to grassy swards and loss of larval food plants
- Habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity leading to isolation of surviving populations



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○ Pre 2005  
● 2005 – 2014  
Source: Butterfly Conservation

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades	Cut in 2 zones; 1 regularly for access and nectar sources, 2 on a 4-7 yr rotation. Scarify rides to create shorter vegetation with patches of bare ground; do not scarify whole ride at once. Cut glades on rotation to ensure sward height 1-5 cm. Retain nectar patches in sunny, sheltered areas. Widen and enlarge if necessary; width should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges to create sheltered conditions. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods provides valuable links.
Rotational coppice (<12 yr rotation) /Small group clear-fell	Coppice 70x70m to 140x140m coupes on short (<12yrs) rotation, leaving less than 10-15% standards canopy cover (about 40 standards/ha). Remove brash to leave at least 50% of the ground clear. Clear-fell coupes (max. 50x50m) on 15-30yr cycles Coppice/fell adjacent coupes or locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
Scrub	Cut on rotation when cover exceeds 20% by area, to prevent overshading of breeding habitat. If known in past reinstate controlled rotational burning (swaling) in grassland/scrub mosaic.
Bracken	Where stands are very dense spray, cut or bruise Bracken on a 3-10 yr rotation. Cattle and/or ponies can break up dense stands in winter/early spring.
Grazing	Where livestock/deer are having a negative impact on coppice re-growth, erect stock-proof/deer-proof enclosures. Deer control will also be required if they are causing significant problems.
Connectivity	Manage woodlands on a landscape-scale by widening rides which connect clearings within woods and link up with rides/clearings in adjacent or nearby woods.