

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)

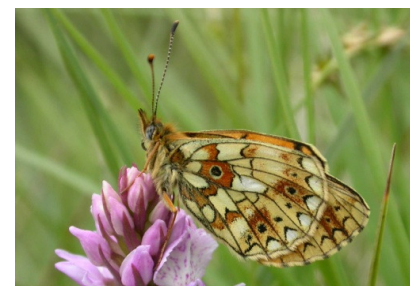
Areas and status: SW, West Midlands, NW & NE England; Wales; SW and highlands of Scotland. Significant declines in distribution (-76%) and abundance (-58%) 1976-2014. Severest decline in England.

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

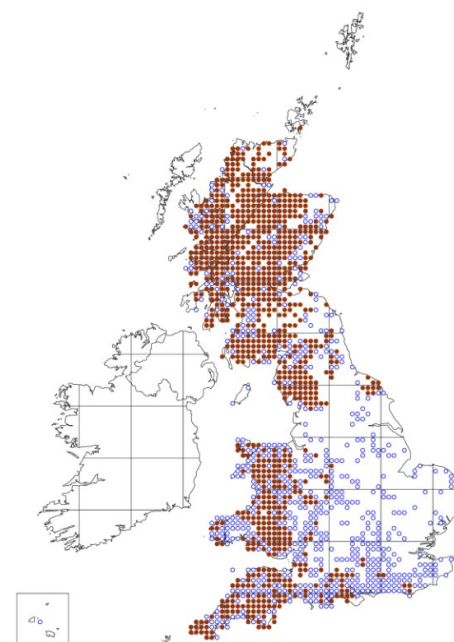
Preferred habitat niches: Glades, rides, edges, wood-pasture, coppice, clear-fell and scrub mosaic. Breeds on violets; favours sheltered, damp grassy habitats, with a medium sward height (10-15cm).

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
- Abandonment of management in scrub mosaics, e.g. cessation of burning in scrub mosaics containing Gorse
- Abandonment/agricultural improvement of suitable habitat adjacent to woodlands, e.g. damp acid grassland & wood-pasture, open scrub, bracken, and moorland
- 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 3 zones: 1 regularly for access, 2 on a 4-7 yr rotation & 3 on an 8-20 yr rotation. Scarify rides/glades to create shorter vegetation with patches of bare ground; do not scarify whole ride/glade at once. Retain nectar patches in sunny, sheltered areas. Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths 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 can be valuable.
Rotational coppice/Small group clear- fell	Coppice 20x20m to 40x40m coupes on <12yrs rotations. Ideally leave less than 10-15% standards canopy cover. >12 yrs rotations suitable if re-growth slow or where large area of coppice woodland. Clear-fell coupes (max. 50x50m) on 15-30 yr cycles. Coppice/fell adjacent coupes or locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
PAWS	In plantations, retain scrub and open grassland mosaic; enlarge rides and glades as necessary.
Scrub (including wayleaves)	Cut on rotation, when cover exceeds 20% by area. In absence of grazing, cut and rake field layer at 10cm where vegetation has become very rank. If known in past reinstate controlled rotational burning (swaling) in mosaic of scrub and grassland.
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	To maintain wood-pasture, woodland edges and other open habitat lightly graze with cattle/ponies. Fence where livestock/deer are having a negative impact on coppice re-growth. 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. Create/maintain areas of suitable non-woodland habitat between woods a few km apart.