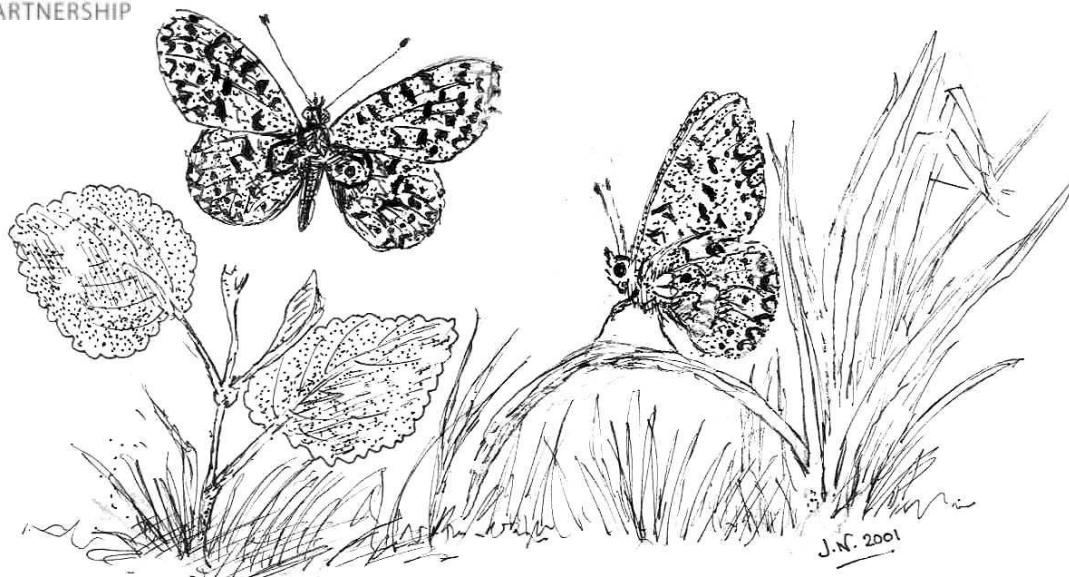


Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)



This butterfly is similar in size and habitats to the Pearl-bordered Fritillary but is more widespread and occurs in damper, grassy habitats as well as woodland clearings and moorland. Although the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary still remains widespread and locally abundant in Scotland and Wales, it has undergone a severe decline in England. Shropshire is now the only West Midlands county where this butterfly is still widespread (although it is concentrated in the south of the county). On most Shropshire sites (exceptions being the Wyre Forest and Llyncllys Common), larvae appear to be utilising marsh violet (*Viola palustris*) as their main foodplant.

1 Objectives and Targets

1.1 Objectives

- A. Protect and enhance the existing populations of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.
- B. Increase the amount of suitable habitat available to this species on existing sites as well as encouraging appropriate management on other nearby sites.
- C. Raise awareness of the status and needs of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary through communication and education.

1.2 Targets

- Maintain, enhance and monitor the six main population centres for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Shropshire and encourage appropriate management of at least 15 key sites within these areas by 2010.
- Carry out targeted surveys on at least five new sites to see if this species is present by 2010.

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2 Current Status

2.1 Importance

The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is widespread across central and northern Europe and through Asia to Korea. Although the range of this butterfly appears to be stable throughout much of Europe declines have been reported in at least nine countries (e.g. Netherlands >75% decrease in 25 years).

2.2 Trends

The decline of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is estimated to be >50% in the UK over the last 25 years (hence its inclusion as a UK BAP Priority Species Candidate in 2005). In Shropshire the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary appears to be relatively stable after having been lost from a number of sites in the past ten years.

2.3 Population and Distribution

The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is still a widespread butterfly in Scotland and Wales. In England dramatic declines have meant it is now extinct in many central and eastern counties and is on the verge of extinction throughout central-southern England. In Shropshire, there are still at least six main population centres for this butterfly and probably at least 10-15 colonies remaining.

3 Current Factors Affecting the Species

Nationally and locally the species has suffered losses to:

- Overgrazing and undergrazing
- Lack of woodland management
- Conifer planting
- Changes in bracken management

4 Current Action

4.1 Policy and Protection

- The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is currently listed on Schedule 5 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (for sale only).
- It is now listed under the following category:
 - UKBAP Priority Species Candidate (2005)
 - A species action plan for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was prepared by Butterfly Conservation in 1995.
- A number of the Shropshire sites for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary fall within the Shropshire Hills AONB
- The Wyre Forest, Shropshire Hills, Oswestry Uplands and the Clee Hills are all Biodiversity Enhancement Areas

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- Some other Shropshire sites for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary are SSSI's (e.g. Llyncllys Common).

4.2 Management, Research and Survey

- Several Shropshire sites are being managed sympathetically for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary e.g. Stiperstones Monastery, Brook Vessons.

5 Key Habitats

- Grassland and moorland habitats
- Woodland glades and clearings (including wetter areas of open woodland)
- Open wood pasture (mainly in Scotland)

6 Complementary Plans

Shropshire Purple Moor grass and Rush Pasture HAP

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7 Action Plan

Habitat / Species	Action code	Action text	Location of action	Start date	End date	Lead	Assisting
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB CP 01	Produce at least two press releases on the conservation status of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Shropshire and how to record and conserve it by 2010.	Shropshire	2006	2010	BC	SWT, SC, FC
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB HS 01	Undertake practical habitat management to benefit Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at 3 sites identified by action 'SHR SPB SU 04' by 2015.	Shropshire	2008	2015	BC	SWT
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB SP 01	Encourage adoption of all 15 key sites for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary as County Wildlife Sites by 2010.	Shropshire	2006	2010	SWT	BC
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB SM 01	Achieve favourable management for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary on at least 50% of its 15 key sites by working together with other organisations and land managers in the six main population centres for this species in Shropshire by 2010.	Wyre Forest, Clun Forest, Catherton Common, Stiperstones, Norbury Hill and Llynclys	2006	2010	BC	NE, SWT, FC
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB SU 01	Carry out targeted surveys on at least five new sites (within the area where the species occurs) to see if Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is present by 2010.	Shropshire	2008	2010	BC	SWT
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB SU 02	Undertake habitat quality assessments on the 15 key sites for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at least once every three years until 2012.	Shropshire South Shropshire	2006	2012	BC	SWT, NE, FC
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	SHR SPB SU 03	Monitor all 15 key sites for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at least once every three years until 2012.	Shropshire	2006	2012	BC	NE, SWT, FC

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Key to organisations

BC	Butterfly Conservation
FC	Forestry Commission
NE	Natural England
SC	Shropshire Council
SBP	Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership
SWT	Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Plan Author: Jenny Joy, Butterfly Conservation (July, 2006)

Plan last revised: April, 2008 by Fran Lancaster, Biodiversity Support Officer, Shropshire Council.

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