

# Pearl-bordered Fritillary

## *Boloria euphrosyne*



The pearl bordered fritillary *Boloria Euphrosyne* is one of the earliest fritillaries to emerge and can be found as early as April in woodland clearings or rough hillsides with bracken. It flies close to the ground, stopping regularly to feed on spring flowers such as bugle *Ajuga reptans*. It lives in woodland clearings, usually in recently coppiced or clear-felled woodland and in mosaics of grass, dense bracken, and light scrub. In all habitats it requires abundant food-plants growing in short, sparse vegetation, where there is abundant leaf litter. The caterpillar feeds on common dog-violet *Viola riviniana* although it can use other violets such as heath dog-violet *V. canina*. As soon as the coppice growth is 3-5 years old violets no longer grow, so a constant coppice cycle has to be maintained. Recent research has shown that coppicing along woodland rides in sunny spots produce good habitat.

This butterfly is an endangered species which only occurs on a small number of sites in the region, where it exists in coppiced woodland or on bracken dominated commons. Nationally its range has declined by 90%, most rapidly in the last 50 years, with the bulk of the declines occurring in woodland. It is now found on three sites in Herefordshire. One site is on Forestry Commission land, two are on bracken dominated commons.

### Threats

- Isolated and fragmented populations
- Fragmentation of habitat by roads and arable farming
- Unsympathetic habitat management, mowing and scrub clearance
- Damage and disturbance through recreational use
- Lack of bracken management
- Decline of coppicing and other woodland management
- Deer damage preventing coppice regeneration

### Current Action

- All known sites surveyed in flight period and regularly visited (BC)
- Sympathetic actions undertaken through Haugh Woods management plan (FE, BC)
- Some populations are on SSSIs (NE)
- Targeted Woodland Defra Grant schemes (FC)

	Objective	Action
<b>A</b>	<b>Locate and map existing populations and investigate historic sites</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Monitor populations</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Increase sympathetic ride management and programmes of coppice restoration</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Reduce deer damage on coppice regeneration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Protect known colonies through targeting funding and protection through site designations</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Increase awareness of habitat requirements</b>	<b>4</b>

	Actions	Target
<b>1</b>	<b>Monitor populations annually</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Maintain existing populations and increase numbers through Defra funded projects</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Map distribution and publish in BAP Atlas</b>	<b>ongoing</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Publicise habitat requirements to landowners and advice on beneficial management</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Prepare deer management plans</b>	<b>ongoing</b>

<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>BC</b>
<b>Key Partners</b>	<b>FE, HWT, DI, FC</b>