

Habitat management for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Damp grassland, flushes and moorland habitats

Aim to maintain damp or heathy vegetation where violets (often Marsh Violets) are abundant in medium height swards and suitable nectar sources are available.

Waterlogged sites can be unsuitable especially under very acidic conditions.

Grazing

Extensive light cattle grazing is ideal, as some poaching encourages violet regeneration. Heavy grazing, especially by sheep, is detrimental. Where grazing is impractical autumn mowing and raking can be effective in maintaining suitable habitat.

Scrub Clearance

Scrub clearance can be undertaken as required, especially when acting as a barrier to colonisation. On open, exposed sites some planting of perimeter shelterbelts will increase habitat suitability. On afforested stream edges clearance of conifers and brash 5-10m back can create ideal habitat.

below Breeding habitat in damp grassland



Grassland with Bracken and/or scrub

Aim to maintain abundant violets in medium height swards, in association with Bracken or scrub edges.

Grazing

Bracken/grassland mosaics encourage an abundant supply of violets by suppressing grass growth. Aim to maintain a light Bracken cover. Extensive cattle or pony grazing is ideal, especially in winter and early spring, as the trampling helps break up the dense standing trash which suppresses violet and grass growth. Some sites may be maintained by sheep grazing, though they are not as effective at trampling Bracken.

Spraying/Cutting/Bruising

Spraying with Asulox in late summer or autumn before the Bracken begins to die back can be effective in areas where dense Bracken is already established. Small-scale autumn and winter raking and disturbance of dense Bracken litter can also be beneficial. Periodic (3-10 year rotation) Bracken cutting by swipe in late May or early June can be used on ungrazed or too lightly grazed sites. Bruising by machine or by hand in June may also reduce Bracken densities. Scrub clearance (or burning) on a 5-10 year rotation can be undertaken, but scrub should not be eliminated as it often provides shelter.

Woodland glades and clearings

Aim to ensure a supply of flower-rich, sunny, open clearings and rides, especially where soils are damp and the vegetation lush.

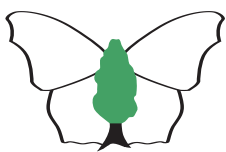
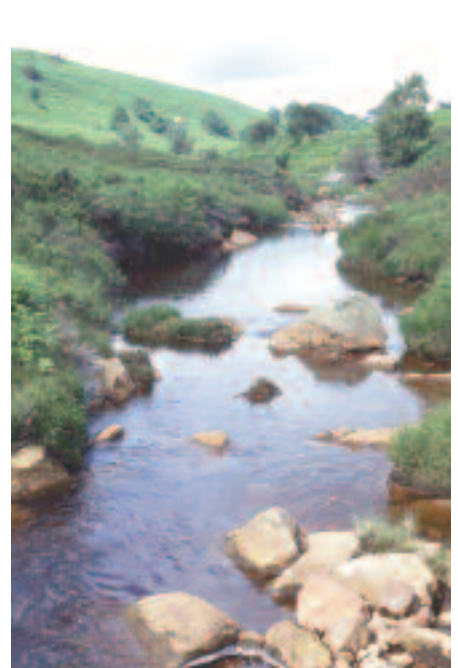
Traditional coppice management, where adjacent woodland plots are cut in succession, produces ideal conditions for the butterfly. Glade creation and ride widening can help to sustain populations.

Wood-pasture/woodland edges

Aim to ensure that foodplants are not lost through closure of woodland canopies or through scrub development. Trees and scrub should be removed when necessary.

If foodplants are threatened by development of tall, dense ground vegetation this should be controlled, initially by heavy grazing then maintained by a regime of lighter grazing.

below Damp moorland habitat



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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