

## Pearl-Bordered Fritillary

### DESCRIPTION

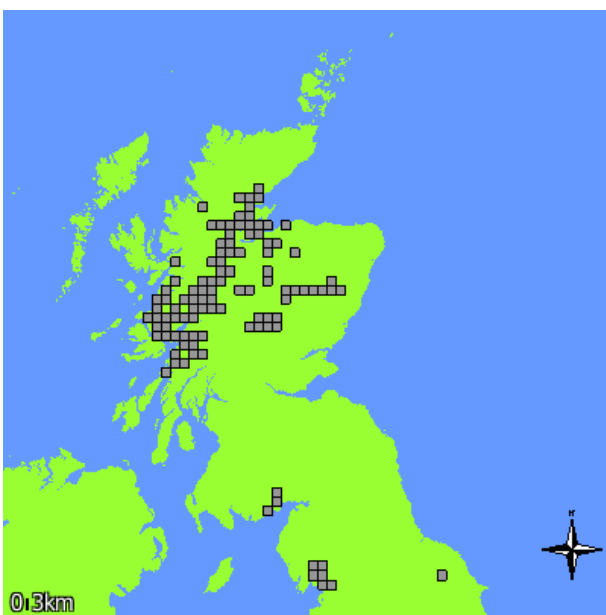
Of the four species of fritillary that occur in Scotland, this is the first to emerge, and can be seen in early May in sunny places with plenty of violets, which is also the caterpillar food plant, as well as woodland clearings or south-facing hillsides with open bracken stands. It flies close to the ground, nectaring frequently on Bugle and Dandelion. The undersides of its hind wings possess beautiful silver 'pearls'.

Once widespread, the butterfly has declined rapidly in the UK. However parts of Scotland still have good colonies, especially where there are large woodlands with open, sunny clearings that are maintained by deer or cattle or by active woodland management.

Its UK strongholds are now in **north Argyll, Highland Perthshire, Lochaber, the Cairngorms, the Black Isle and the Great Glen**. There is also a large but isolated colony at **Mabie Forest in Dumfries & Galloway**.

The Pearl-Bordered Fritillary is a UK BAP Priority Species and is on the Scottish Biodiversity List.

### DISTRIBUTION MAP



### FURTHER READING

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/679-1384/pearl-bordered-fritillary.html>



### THREATS

Declining due to loss of unimproved grassland, overgrazing, and loss of sunny woodland clearings.

### ACTION REQUIRED

1. Sign up as a Butterfly Conservation volunteer to help survey and monitor this stunning insect at <http://butterfly-conservation.org/91/volunteer.html>
2. Support policies that protect High Nature Value farmland.
3. Encourage active management of native woodlands.

### MSP SPECIES CHAMPION



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