



Mendip Hills
National
Landscape



Champion Species Fact Sheet

Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary
Boloria selene



mendiphills-nl.org.uk/caring/nature-recovery-plan



Why a Champion Species?

- Populations of this butterfly have seen a drastic decline nationally and locally, leading to the species becoming rare in eastern Britain and uncommon in the South West.
- S41 Threatened Species.
- Indicator of wildflower-rich, diverse habitats that provide both the larval stage and adult with feeding opportunities.

Preferred habitat

- Lightly grazed grassland and heathland with scrubby areas and flowering plants, including and their food plant, the common dog violet (on Mendip).



Best time to see

- The time to see it flying is very short, in June and much more rarely in August.



Points of interest

- As an adult, it is a highly visible species as it is a vivid orange and flies low to the ground in search of food and mates.
- Its name is derived, not from its size, but on the size of the white patches (pearls) on the hind underwing of this species. The pearl-bordered fritillary is now extinct in Somerset, so if you see a butterfly like this on Mendip it will be the small pearl.

Key threats

- Loss of habitat due to poor management, such as over or under grazing, scrub clearance, intensification of agricultural practices.
- Fragmentation of habitat as populations cannot commute over large distances.

Where to find them



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