

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Boloria selene

Insects · On the wing Jun-Jul · one brood



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A medium-small orange fritillary chequered with black, whose underside hindwing carries a row of seven silver pearl-like spots along the margin and several more across the wing. It favours damp, sheltered grassland, bracken slopes and marshy ground with violets, and south-west Scotland is an important area for a species that has been lost from much of England.

BEHAVIOUR

The flight is low, quick and skipping over rough vegetation, with frequent stops to nectar on thistle, bugle and buttercup. Females lay near marsh violet and common dog-violet, and the caterpillar overwinters part-grown low in the vegetation. It needs a mix of damp ground, violets and light grazing, and disappears where land is drained or grazing stops entirely.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Brush-footed butterflies (Nymphalidae)
WINGSPAN	3.5-4.5 cm
STATUS	A conservation priority; south-west Scotland is a stronghold

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