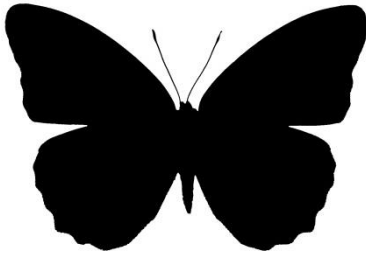


## All the Moor Butterflies

### 2017 survey results summary

This is a summary of the 2017 survey results from Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. The target species for the surveys were: High Brown Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.



**3398**

Butterflies recorded



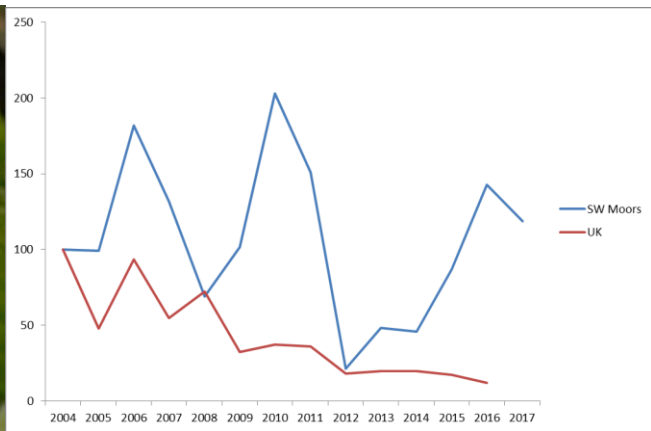
**148**

Sites surveyed



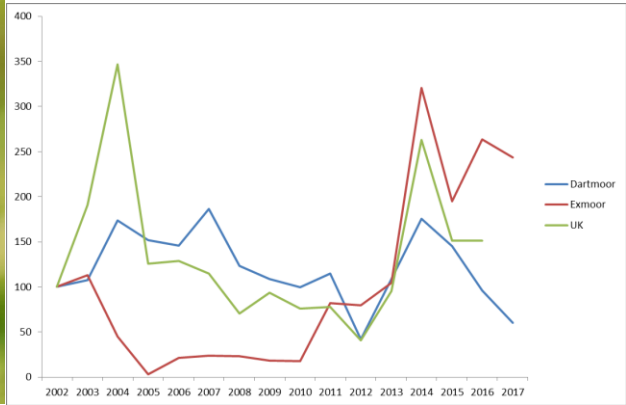
**31**

Volunteer surveyors



### Heath Fritillary - Exmoor

In 2017 14 sites were surveyed and there were a total of 11 occupied and 3 unoccupied sites. Within these 11 occupied sites there were 12 colonies. The estimated peak population sizes for the 12 recorded colonies consisted of 7 large, 1 medium and 2 small. At 2 sites only individuals were recorded, and population size could not be calculated. In terms of a 5 year trend (since 2012) of the 14 sites surveyed there are 5 sites where the colony size remains stable, whilst 7 sites are declining, and two are possibly extinct. Core sites on the Holnicote Estate and Grabbist ridge recorded good counts, however some of the peripheral sites struggled. Hawkcombe Woods and Haddon Hill both did well, rising from last year.

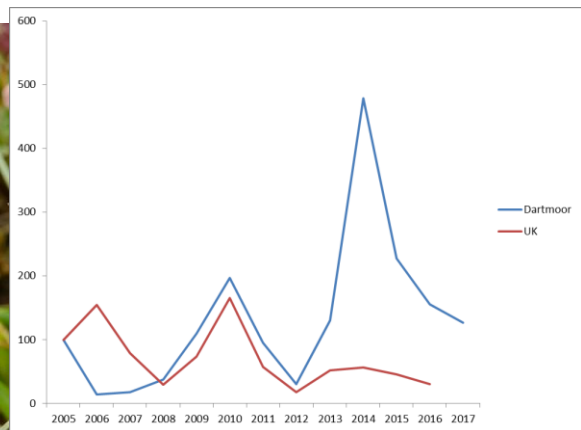


### High Brown Fritillary – Exmoor & Dartmoor

Across Exmoor and Dartmoor the High Brown Fritillary did worse than it did in 2016. However when you look at the results in greater detail, a more mixed result emerges.

On Exmoor in the Heddon Valley, the High Brown Fritillary was recorded on 7 sites. It remained stable on one, increased on two and decreased on two. The habitat conditions vary across sites, meaning that the species is doing well in some sections of the valley and struggling a little in others.

The High Brown Fritillary appeared to fare worse on Dartmoor, however this could be due to surveying difficulties. This species is one of the hardest to identify in flight, which makes accurate identifications difficult and impacts on the data. Low numbers were recorded on most Dartmoor sites (5 sites in total), although at some of the core sites the species increased or remained stable.



### Marsh Fritillary – Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor & Exmoor

Marsh Fritillary was recorded on 36 sites on Dartmoor, with many doing worse than in 2016. Two metapopulation networks (Tavy Valley & Tor Valley) saw low numbers, whilst in the other two networks (Long Lane & Postbridge West Webburn) numbers were strong at core sites but low at more peripheral sites.

Results for Bodmin Moor were more encouraging, with the species being found on 18 sites. Six new colonies were discovered and good numbers were recorded on known sites.

Sadly none were recorded on Exmoor and it is now feared extinct here.



### Pearl-bordered Fritillary – Dartmoor & Bodmin Moor

The Pearl-bordered Fritillary had a good year on Dartmoor and was recorded on 40 sites. Numbers were higher than they were in 2016 across many sites and the species seems to be remaining relatively stable on Dartmoor. Particular highlights were 119 being seen in Haldon Forest, 73 seen at Hembury and 40 at Aish Tor.

Bodmin Moor fared well too, with the Pearl-bordered Fritillary being recorded on 6 of the 7 sites surveyed. Numbers appeared to be stable and a high count of 44 at Fellover was particularly encouraging.

#### You can help us survey in 2018!



Fancy helping us count Fritillaries? We are looking for people to help with our surveys in 2018. We can provide training and support to help you get started.

Contact Simon Phelps (Conservation Officer) to find out how you can get involved:  
[sphelps@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:sphelps@butterfly-conservation.org)



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