

# 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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