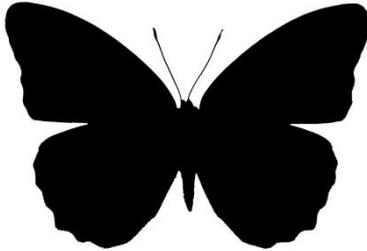


## All the Moor Butterflies

### 2018 survey results summary

This is a summary of the 2018 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.



**4543**

Butterflies recorded



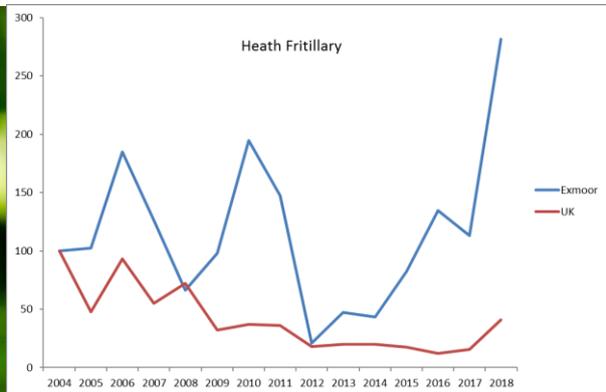
**156**

Sites surveyed



**49**

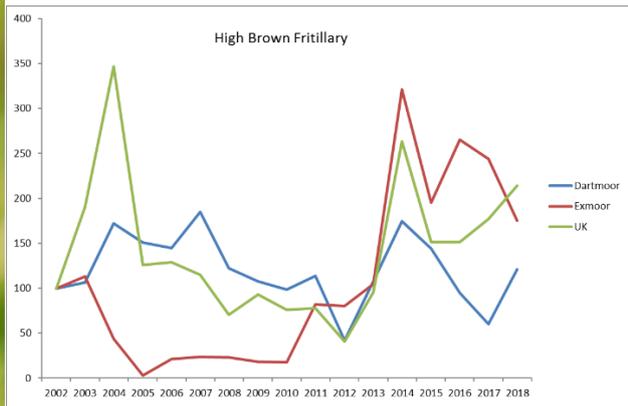
Volunteer surveyors



### Heath Fritillary – Exmoor

***An excellent year, numbers were the highest they've ever been in the past 8 years.***

The Heath Fritillary had a fantastic year in 2018, with numbers at their highest since 2010. The species did well on core sites and spread out to sites where it has not been recorded for a number of years. In 2018 19 sites were surveyed and there were a total of 18 occupied and 1 unoccupied sites. Within these 18 occupied sites there were 18 colonies. The estimated peak population sizes for the 18 recorded colonies consisted of 9 large, 3 medium and 2 small. At 4 sites only individuals were recorded and population size could not be calculated. In terms of a 5 year trend (since 2013), of the 18 colonies there are 6 sites where the colony size is increasing, 5 sites where the colony size remains stable and 2 sites are declining. There were 5 new/re-colonisations this year.

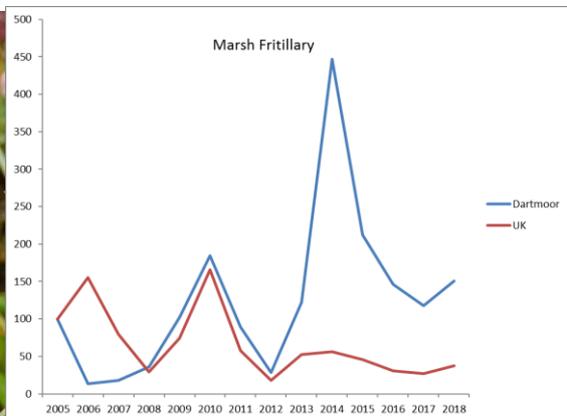


### High Brown Fritillary – Exmoor & Dartmoor

***A mixed year; numbers increased on Dartmoor but it struggled on Exmoor.***

On Exmoor in the Heddon Valley, the High Brown Fritillary was recorded on 7 sites. It remained stable on three, increased on one and decreased on three. Whilst it is positive to see the species increasing and remaining stable on half the sites, the declines over the past 2 to 3 years on three of the sites is a slight cause for concern. Numbers here fell below the UK trendline for the first time in 8 years.

The High Brown Fritillary had a good year on Dartmoor. It was recorded on 12 sites. At its core metapopulation network in the Dart Valley, it increased at 4 sites, remained stable at 2 and declined at 1. Its Dartmoor trendline rose sharply, reaching its highest point since 2015.

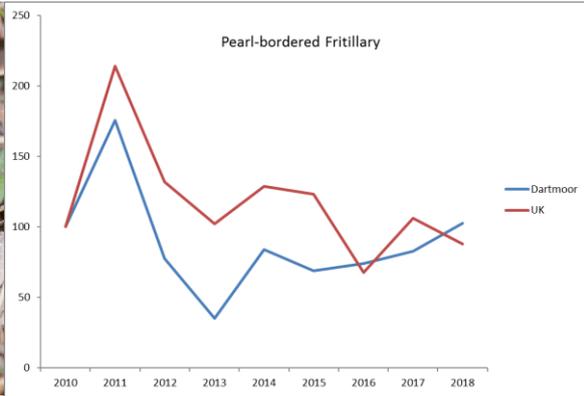


### Marsh Fritillary – Dartmoor & Bodmin Moor

***Numbers finally began to rise on Dartmoor, whilst on Bodmin Moor further new colonies were discovered.***

Marsh Fritillary was recorded on 30 sites on Dartmoor. Numbers rose on the majority of sites, which was welcome news after 3 years of declines. The trendline matches the natural boom/bust population cycle that this species exhibits.

Building on the success of the 2017 surveys, a further 11 new sites were discovered on Bodmin in 2018. This meant the Marsh Fritillary was recorded on 30 sites on Bodmin Moor in 2018.



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

***Another great year on Dartmoor, whilst numbers remained stable on Bodmin Moor.***

The Pearl-bordered Fritillary had an excellent year on Dartmoor and was recorded on 39 sites. Numbers have been increasing year on year since 2015 and the Dartmoor trendline rose above the UK trendline for the first time since 2016. Particular highlights were 139 being seen at Lustleigh Cleave and 71 at Aish Tor.

Numbers across the 7 sites on Bodmin Moor appeared to remain stable when compared to the 2017 counts. There were slight rises on a couple of sites where habitat management work has been carried out, which was encouraging to see.

**You can help us survey in 2019!**



Fancy helping us count Fritillaries? We are looking for people to help with our surveys in 2019. 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)

**Thanks to our funders:**



**Devon & Cornwall  
Branches**