

## 9 Butterflies

### *Argynnis adippe* high brown fritillary

Regionally extinct

**Current status** WCA 5; vulnerable RDB (GB).

Widespread across much of Europe. Formerly widespread and locally abundant across much of England and Wales. It has declined very rapidly in the last 50 years and is now extinct over 94% of its former range. Last recorded from this region in North Lincolnshire, 1948.

### *Arícia artaxerxes* northern brown argus

**Current status** WCA 5 (with respect to sale only); Nationally notable.

The northern brown argus is represented in Britain by two sub-species which may be endemic. Closely related, possibly conspecific species occur across the Palaearctic. The taxonomic status of the *Arícia* is the subject of current research. It is found across north Wales, north England – where there has been a decline in range, and Scotland. They occur on well drained, usually base rich, sites on thin soils that are usually south facing and up to 350m altitude. Primarily found on limestone grassland, it is also associated with coastal valleys and quarries, limestone pavements and outcrops. The larvae feed on common rock rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus*.

Associated with lowland calcareous grassland.

**Threats** Inappropriate grazing management.

### *Boloria euphrosyne* pearl bordered fritillary

**Current status** WCA 5 (with respect to sale only); Nationally notable.

Formerly widespread and locally abundant, has declined rapidly over the last 50 years and become extinct over large parts of its former range. Still present in the region. Butterfly breeds in woodland clearings or unimproved grassland with scattered scrub or abundant bracken.

**Threats** Loss of open clearings and canopy gaps within modern high forest systems; cessation of grazing on unimproved grassland and abandonment of traditional bracken and gorse management.