

Habitat management for the Dark Bordered Beauty

The species occurs in two main habitat types. Where the foodplant is Aspen, a continuous supply of young suckers in open situations should be ensured. Where the foodplant is Creeping Willow the main aim should be to maintain an open vegetation structure.

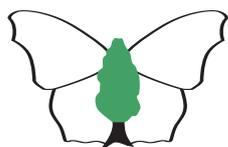
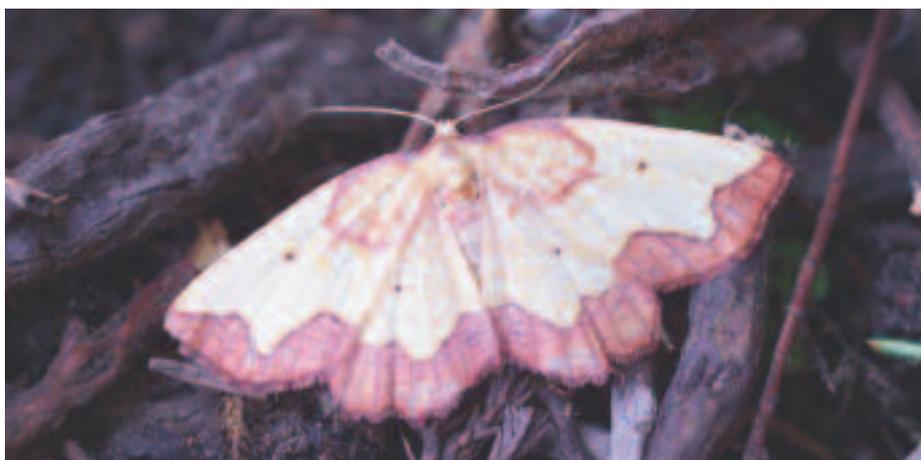
- ◆ Where Creeping Willow is the foodplant, aim to maintain an open vegetation structure. Small-scale rotational cutting may be required to create/maintain open conditions. It is thought that light grazing, and the removal of encroaching scrub, may also maintain suitable habitat but this requires further investigation.
- ◆ Where Aspen is the foodplant, small-scale rotational cutting or coppicing may be needed to provide a continuity of young aspen suckers in open sunny glades. Alternatively this can be maintained by light, seasonal stock grazing (preferably in autumn/winter), using the stock to coppice the suckers, control neighbouring vegetation and limit scrub encroachment.
- ◆ This species remains in the egg stage for most of the year, so large-scale clearance of the woody vegetation should not take place in parts of the site where the species is known to occur. Small-scale rotational clearance or, where appropriate, grazing the site and controlling encroaching scrub will limit the removal of eggs from the population.

Please contact Butterfly Conservation if the species is suspected to be present on a site.

How to survey/monitor

Adult males will come sparingly to light-traps, and males and females can be readily disturbed from vegetation during the day. Care must be taken to confirm the identity of the species, as there are other similar species, e.g. Bordered Beauty *Epione repandaria* and Yellow Shell *Camptogramma bilineata*. The species can also be surveyed in the larval stage, though care must be taken to avoid confusion with the similar larva of the Bordered Beauty.

above Ideal open woodland habitat (Scotland)
middle Ideal heathland habitat (England)
below Adult female Dark Bordered Beauty (male overleaf)



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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