

SURREY BRANCH QUIZ 2022

Score one point for each correct answer/component of answer. For question 7, 1 point for each species plus 1 for correct order. Maximum score 50.

Starters

1. In June 2021, the first fully documented and comprehensive checklist of a country's recorded butterflies was published. It contains 3,642 species and 2,085 subspecies. Name the country.
2. The use of branch logos by BC branches seems to be a decreasing practice but a look at their websites suggests some retain them. Name the butterfly which features in the logo of each of the following BC branches:
(a) Herts and Middlesex (b) Warwickshire (c) Dorset
3. Which butterfly, the subject of a recent conservation project in Surrey, was seemingly omitted from the label of a locally-produced 2021 gin in favour of a more brightly coloured species?
4. This moth, whose UK distribution during the 21st century has been confined to north-eastern Scotland, owes its name to earlier times when it was the pride of a much more southerly county. What is it called?
5. What is thought to be the oldest butterfly specimen (from historic times) in the UK (and perhaps anywhere) is in the collections of the British Library. Which species is it? In which half-century period is it thought to have been collected?
6. How would you tell a Small Skipper from an Essex Skipper in winter?

Current affairs

7. Which three butterfly species showed the greatest decline in abundance in the UK in the Big Butterfly Count 2022 (as compared with 2021)? Give in descending order of change (ie "worst" performer first).
8. Which moth species showed the greatest decline in abundance in the UK in the Big Butterfly Count 2022 (as compared with 2021)?
9. On which London boroughs within the Surrey and SW London Branch area is BC's Big City Butterflies project focused?
10. Three species which were included in the previous UK Red List of butterflies (2011) are not on the new Red List (published in June 2022) – that is, they are now classified as Least Concern (LC). Name the species.
11. Three species which were included on the 2011 UK Red List of butterflies have had their threat assessment increased to Endangered (EN) on the 2022 Red List. Name the species.

Larvae

12. How long does the larval stage of the Dingy Skipper last (assuming no second generation)?

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13. The Lace Border moth, a calcareous grassland specialist, has strongholds on the North Downs in Surrey. Name its two principal larval foodplants.

14. What unusual construction is built by the first instar larva of the White Admiral?

15. The larvae of two similar-looking and similarly-named related moth species use completely different plants as their main foodplant. One uses the same main foodplant as the White Admiral whilst the other uses the same main foodplant as the Marsh Fritillary. One species occurs in Surrey, but is quite rare, whilst the other was recorded in Surrey this season after a long apparent absence.

Name (a) the species and (b) their respective larval foodplants.

16. The three species of burnet moth present in Surrey all have scientific names which refer to a different genus of plant (Five-spot Burnet – *Zygaena trifolii*; Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet – *Z. Ionicerae*; Six-spot Burnet – *Z. filipendulae*). For how many of these does the scientific name correspond to the genus of the principal larval foodplant?

Aberrations

17. The name of a butterfly aberration, sometimes recorded in Surrey, is the same as the (first) name of the Ukrainian Cossack main protagonist of a novella by Pushkin, played by Yul Brynner in a 1962 film of the same name. What is the name of the aberration? What is the name of the novella/ film?

18. In the 1940s, A. D. A. Russwurm, the author of *Aberrations of British Butterflies*, often travelled by train to a location in Surrey where he found Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and High Brown Fritillaries. Name the location.

19. Name the species of the UK butterfly shown in the photo on page 3 (No need to name the aberration).

Arrivals and departures

20. An occasional, non-transatlantic, butterfly visitor to the UK has a connection to a well-known international airport. Name (a) the butterfly and (b) the airport.

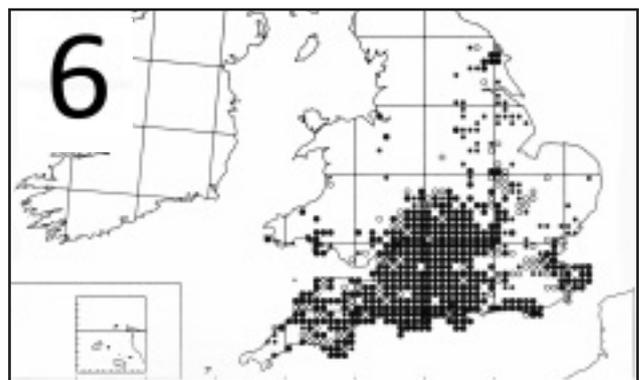
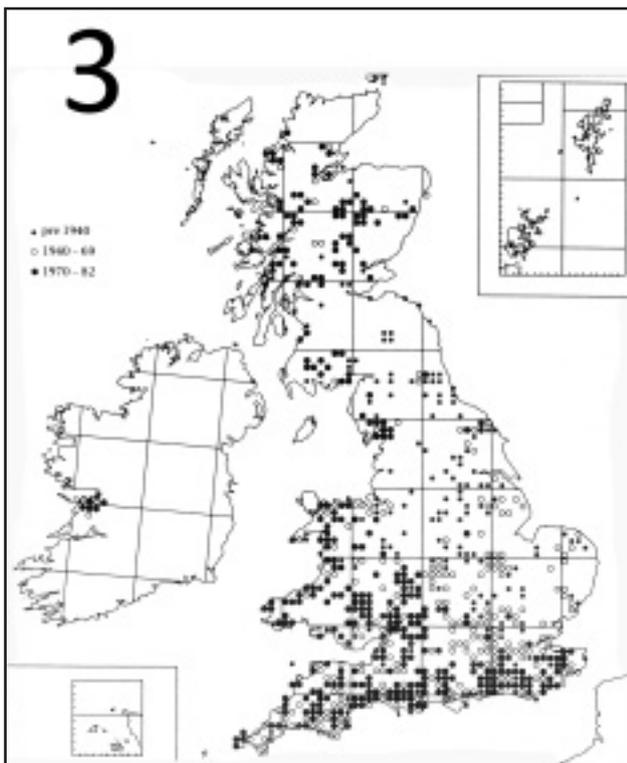
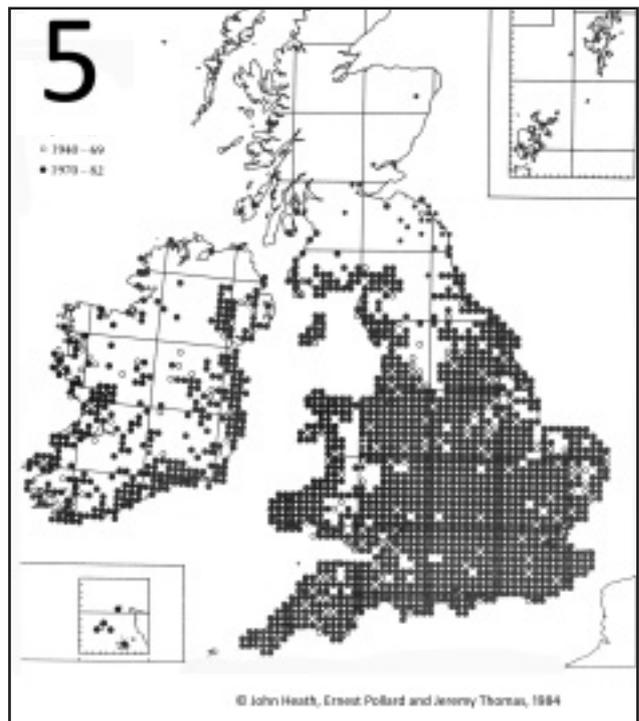
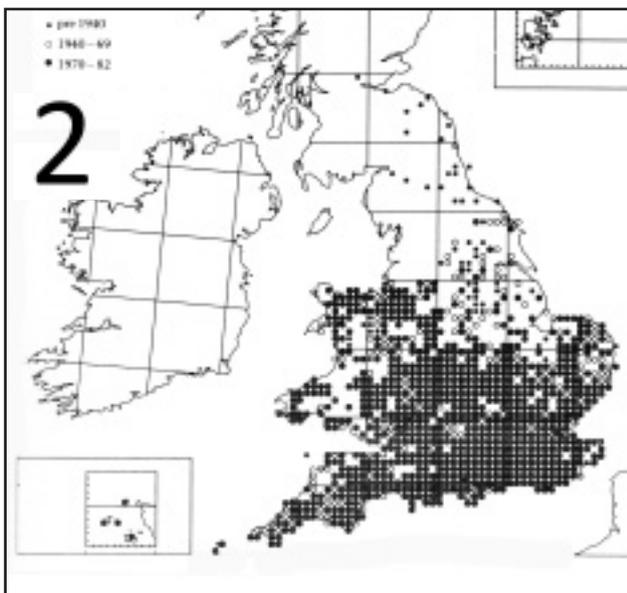
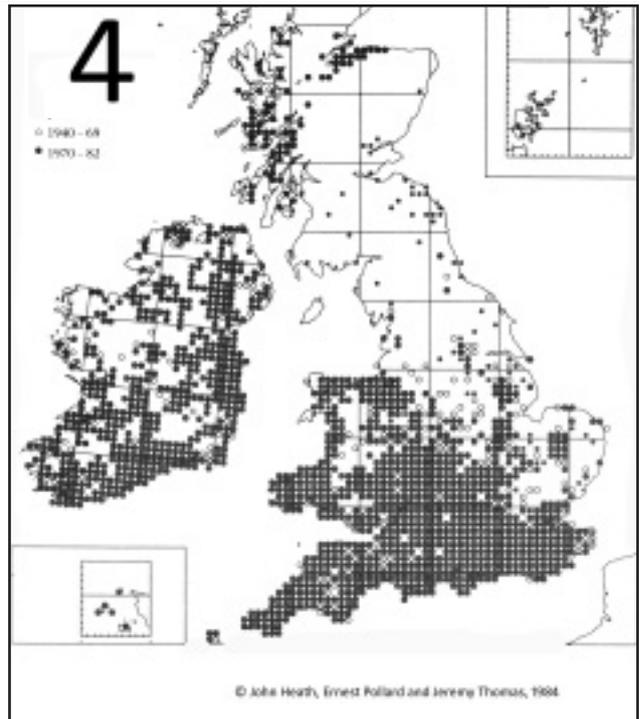
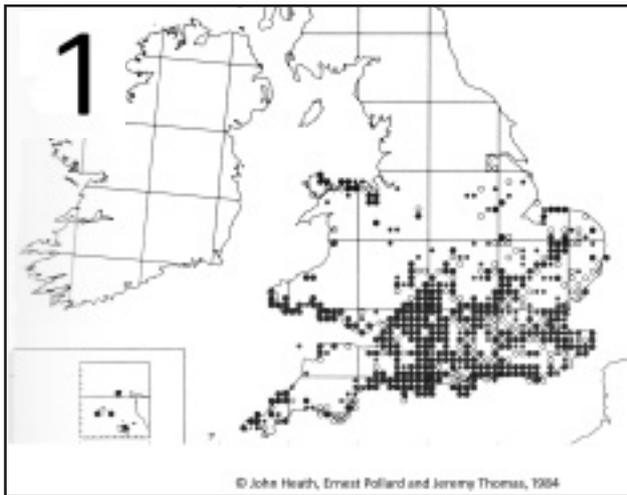
21. The Jersey Tiger is now familiar in Surrey, but before 1990 was largely restricted, as a resident species in the UK, to one county. Which county?

22. What technique was used to study and confirm the southward migration of the Painted Lady in autumn?

23. Of the butterflies which are recorded as having become extinct in the UK since 1800, only two do not have the word “Large” in their common names. Name them, and in each case give the county where (disregarding presumed releases, immigrations etc) it was last recorded.

24. The distribution maps (page 4) are taken from the *Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* (J. Heath, E. Pollard and J. Thomas, 1984) and are based on available distribution data to 1982. Give the species corresponding to each map number. (Note that the maps include squares for which the last records were pre-1940 (asterisks) and 1940-69 (circles) respectively.)





SURREY BRANCH QUIZ 2022 ANSWERS

Starters

1. Colombia.

For the role of the Natural History Museum in this list, and its work on Colombia's 200 unique butterfly species, see

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2021/june/colombia-has-the-most-butterflies-in-the-world.html> and <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/press-office/press-releases/unique-butterflies-colombia.html>.

Brazil is the country considered to have the most species, with over 4,000, but there seems as yet to be no definitive list.

See also <https://www.butterflycatalogs.com/>

2. (a) Chalkhill Blue (b) White-letter Hairstreak (c) Lulworth Skipper.

3. Small Blue. (See Surrey Skipper Spring 2022, page 26.)

4. Kentish Glory.

5. Small Tortoiseshell; 1550 – 1600 (probably around 1592).

6. Small overwinters as larva, Essex as egg.

Current affairs

7. Marbled White -71.4%; Ringlet -38.5%; Scotch Argus -36.5%.

8. Silver Y moth -39.4%.

9. Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark.

10. Dingy Skipper (genuine – improvement in abundance);

Chequered Skipper (increase in records due to more survey work);

Purple Emperor (increase in records due to more survey work).

11. Wall: previously Near Threatened (NT) – 70% distribution decline over 10 years.

Large Heath: previously Vulnerable (VU) – 57% distribution decline over 10 years).

Grayling: previously Vulnerable (VU) – 42% abundance decline and 52% distribution decline over 10 years.

See <https://butterfly-conservation.org/red-list-of-butterflies-in-great-britain> and <https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/red-list.pdf>

A spreadsheet with the detailed Red List assessment can be found at

<https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/icad.12582> under the “Supporting Information” tab.

Larvae

12. 10 – 11 months. Accept either 10 or 11.

13. Wild thyme and wild marjoram.

14. It builds a pier of frass, hairs and silk projecting from the midrib of a leaf. It also constructs an aerial latrine. Accept either.

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15. Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth – wild honeysuckle;
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth – devil's bit scabious.

Interestingly, Marsh Fritillary, which typically uses devil's bit scabious, was also recorded as using wild honeysuckle in time of past population explosions, and in captivity accepts both that and snowberry, a plant also sometimes used by Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth.

16. None. Main larval foodplants for all three are bird's-foot trefoils (*Lotus* spp.). Narrow-bordered Five-spot also has other main foodplants, including meadow vetchling and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), but despite its *trifolii* name Five-spot apparently does not. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) and meadowsweet/ dropwort (*Filipendula* spp.) not mentioned as main foodplants.

Aberrations

17. ab. *taras* (Grizzled Skipper aberration); Taras Bulba.

18. Ashted, Ashted Common or Ashted Wood all acceptable. The description of this in A. S Harmer's *Variations in British Butterflies* refers to "Ashted Wood", which was presumably an area of the common or its environs around present-day Ashted Woods Road.

19. Heath Fritillary. (The name of the aberration is ab. *cymothoë*.)

Arrivals and departures

20. (a) Queen of Spain Fritillary (b) Tenerife South - Reina Sofia.

21. Devon.

22. Vertical radar.

23. Black-veined White: Kent (Herne Bay, 1922), but also accept Hampshire (IoW) or Sussex; Mazarine Blue: Lincolnshire (colony near Epworth to c.1903) often cited as last location, but Gloucestershire (to 1865) often said to be last genuinely British records – accept either.

24. 1. Brown Argus; 2. Comma; 3. Pearl-bordered Fritillary; 4. Speckled Wood; 5. Wall; 6. Marbled White.

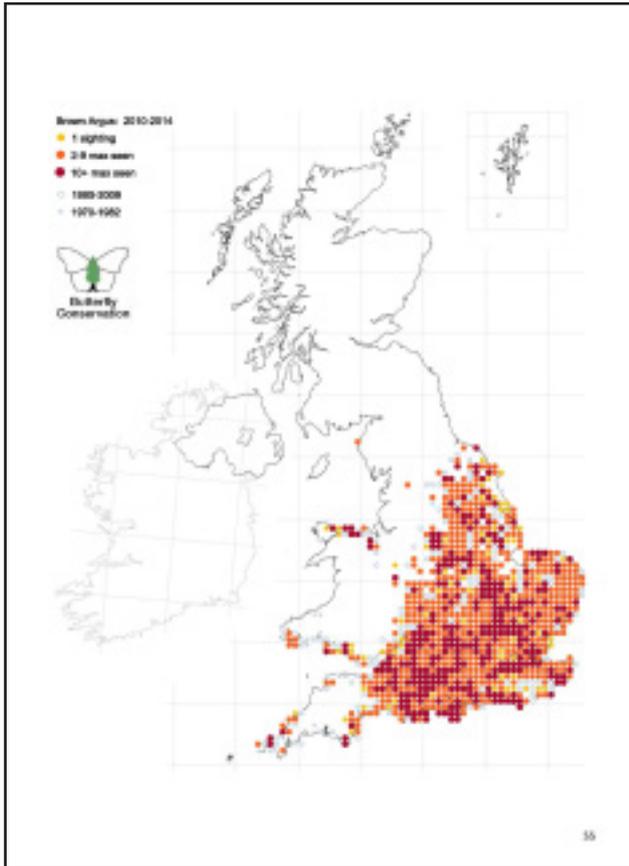
Recent distribution maps for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Wall, together with maps for other species of conservation concern, were produced in connection with the 2022 Red List and can be found at

<https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/icad.12582> under the "Supporting Information" tab.

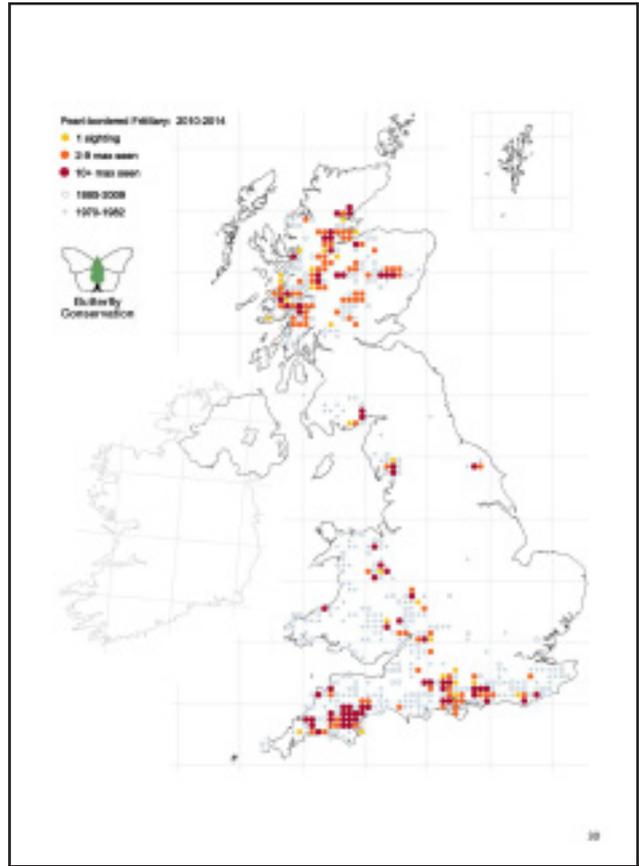
Distribution maps based on 2010 -2014 data can be found at

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/atlas-uk-butterflies-2010-2014.pdf>.

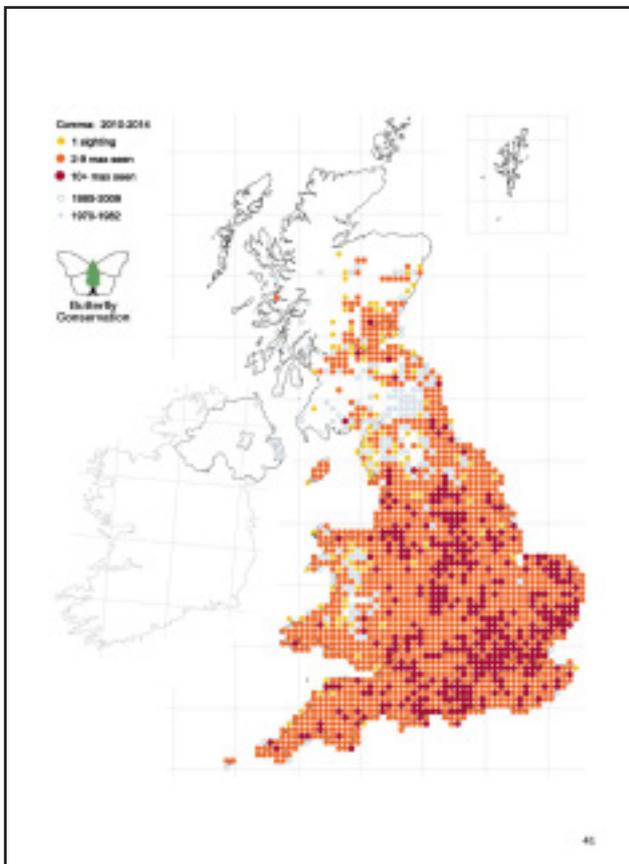
The relevant maps from this series are on pages 7-8 for comparison.



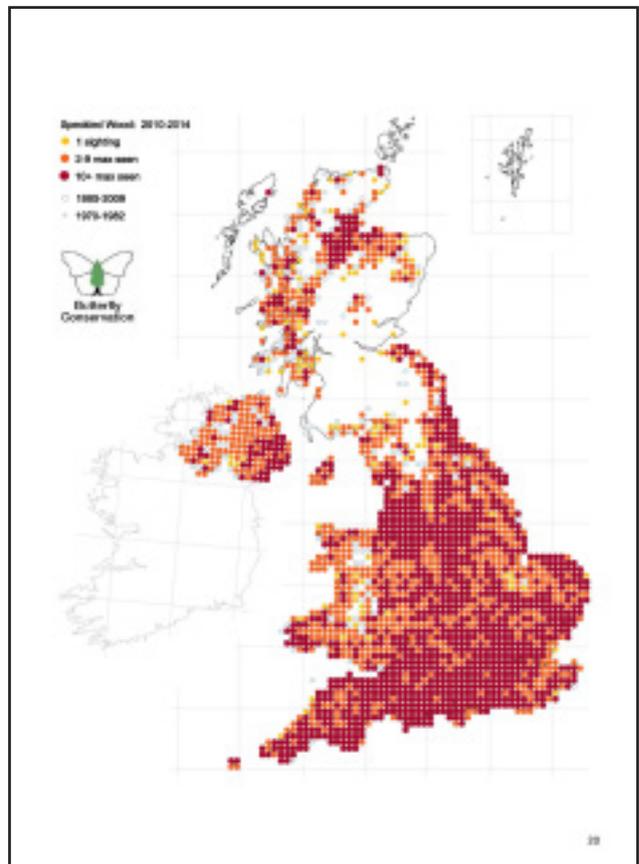
1 Brown Argus



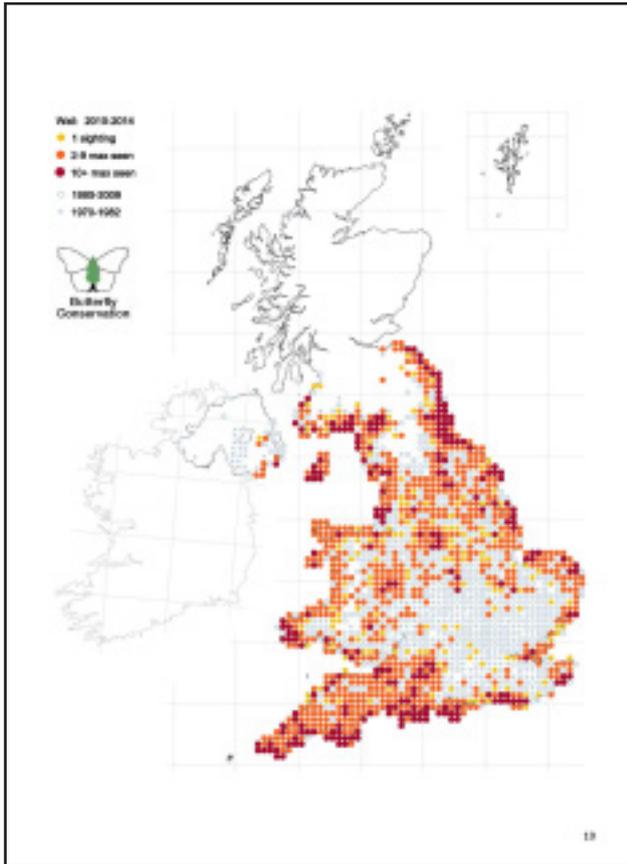
3 Pearl-bordered Fritillary



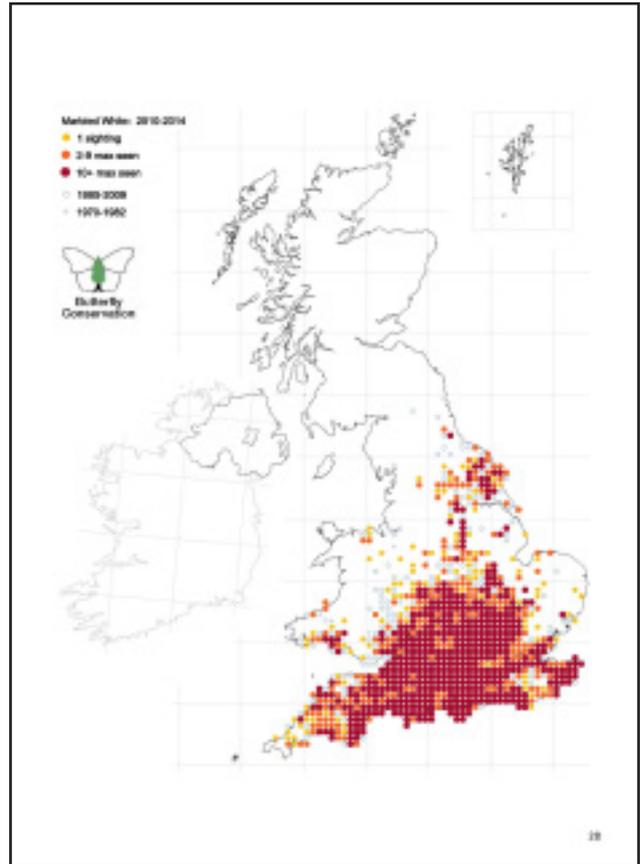
2 Comma



4 Speckled Wood



5 Wall Brown



6 Marbled White