

Habitat management for the Chalk Carpet

The overall aim on occupied sites is to maintain a mosaic of varied vegetation structure, with a continuity of areas of short turf with patches of bare ground.

- ◆ Many sites are on steep slopes or landslips that are maintained in a suitable condition by natural erosion. However, some scrub clearance may be needed to ensure they do not become overgrown. Some periodic soil disturbance may also be beneficial to maintain a continual supply of bare patches.
- ◆ Sites on flatter or more gentle slopes will benefit from periodic grazing, especially if this creates patches of bare ground. Suitable regimes are poorly known but the foodplants may be encouraged by periodic winter grazing, perhaps preferably by cattle, possibly followed by 1-2 years without grazing.

How to survey/monitor

Adults are readily disturbed from the ground by day and may also be seen flying naturally during the day. After dark, the adults will also come to light-traps. Further survey work to assess the current status of this species is particularly needed in central and northern England, where it has been infrequently recorded in recent years.



left Broken soils on chalk grassland create a suitably warm microclimate
below Quarries can contain ideal habitat



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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Registered Office: Manor Yard East Lulworth Wareham Dorset BH20 5QP.

Registered in England No. 2206468 - Registered Charity No. 254937

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Food and Rural Affairs

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