

Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Montgomeryshire 2019 SUMMARY



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Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Middletown Hill, 23rd April 2019 © MWT/Tamasine Stretton

The rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly (PBF) had the second best spring on record in Montgomeryshire in 2019 and the best since 2013. Two of the eight remaining sites are now considered to be in 'Favourable Condition'; i.e. they have good quality habitat and good numbers of PBFs. This is great news and a testament to the hard work of many, but there is more which needs to be done. Three of the 'Unfavourable' sites are thought to be improving, giving us room for improvement, whilst the other three are declining.

The PBF needs enough good quality, well-connected habitat to thrive. Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust will continue to fight hard to ensure that the PBF has a future in the area and pursue opportunities for further strengthening the population.

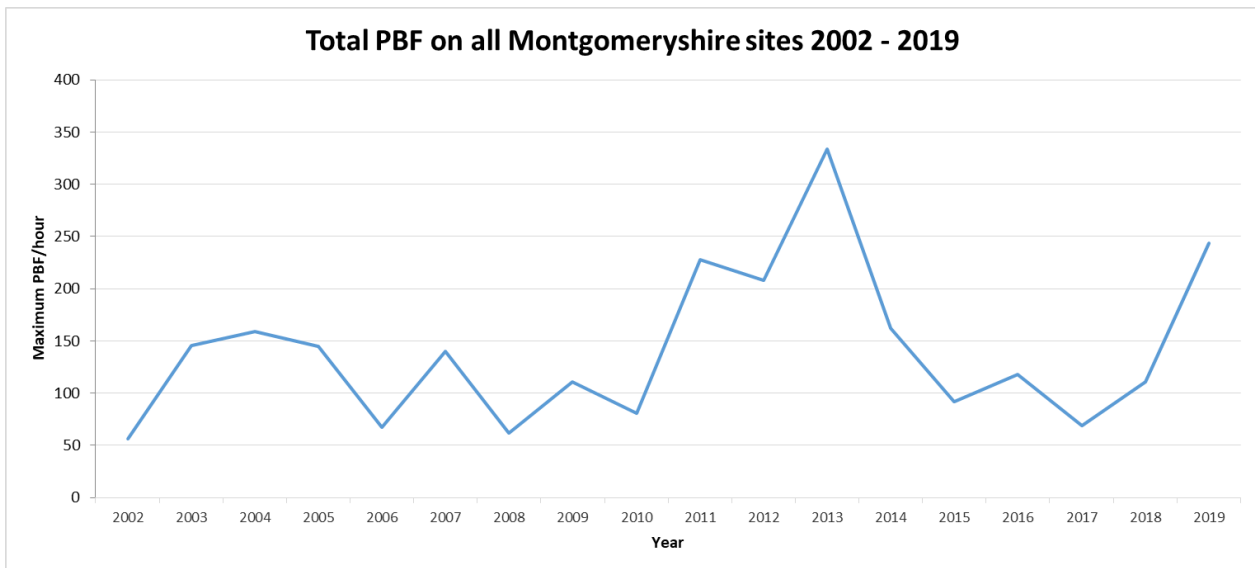
More information on our work for the PBF can be found on our website:
<http://www.montwt.co.uk/projects/precious-pearls>

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www.montwt.co.uk

Adult PBFs

The first PBF of the 2019 season in Montgomeryshire was seen on 18th April, a week after the first UK sighting, on 11th April in Cornwall. Despite unsettled, changeable spring weather, the PBFs had their best flight season since 2013. Five of the eight sites passed the threshold required on adult PBF numbers. The graph below summarises the peak counts (in PBF/hour) for all Montgomeryshire sites between 2002 and 2019.



Habitat

Over winters 2018/19 and 2019/20, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and our partners have undertaken over 14 hectares of practical habitat management for the benefit of the PBF. This work has been undertaken by our hardworking, dedicated volunteers, as well as contractors, MWT & Natural Resources Wales (NRW) staff, made possible by funding from NRW and the PBF: A New Hope appeal.

This management has had a positive effect on the PBF sites. The habitat on three of the eight sites is now considered to be in good condition, to support the PBFs. Of those sites which fail to reach the threshold, three are considered to be improving.



Volunteers bracken raking at Y Golfa, 13th February 2019