

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY *Argynnis aglaja* (ABH 59.019)

Our largest fritillary, it is widespread across the region, but absent from Shetland and Lewis. It is nevertheless quite localised in its occurrence and is absent from agricultural lowland areas in the east. Occasional wanderers appear quite far from the breeding areas.

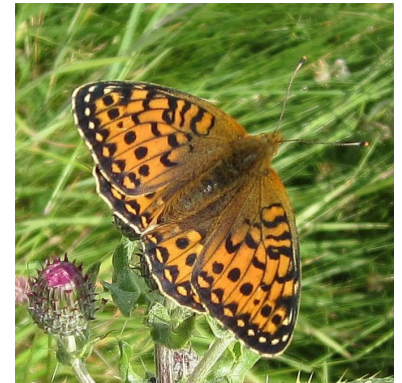
Distribution trend. Though fluctuating in numbers year-to-year, distribution appears stable over the long term.

Habitat. A wide range of grassland and moorland habitats in the west: on the east it is more strictly confined to either coastal areas or upland glens.

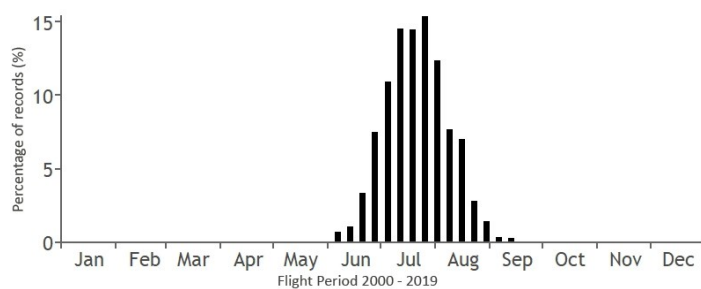
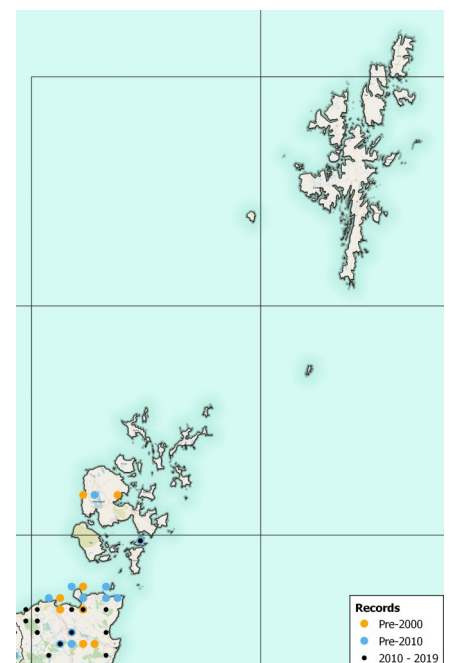
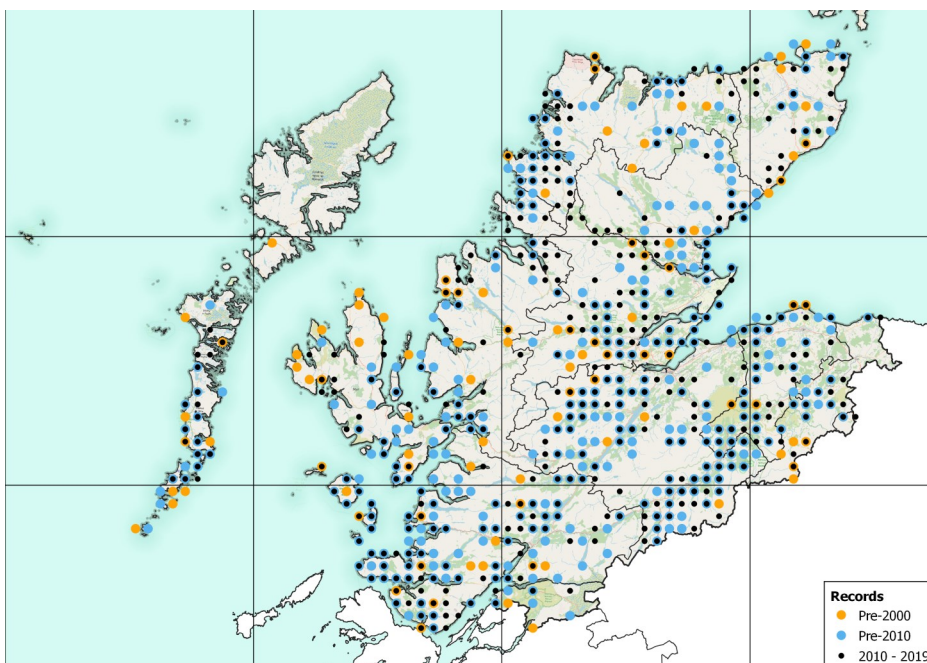
Flight period. Early June to mid September.

Larval food plants. Violets *Viola riviniana* and *V. palustris*.

Appearance and behaviour. A strong flier which can be difficult to approach, unless settled to feed on a flower head. Its name is a misnomer as the prevailing wing-colour is a rich tawny orange, the green shading being restricted to the underside of the hindwings. (See photo, bottom left) Our populations include some very distinctively-marked dark individuals, particularly striking in female specimens, which are distinguished as the form *scotica*. This comprises quite a high proportion of the population in some western and island sites. In a dry summer it can be seen on Buddleia in gardens.



Nigel Richards



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	1298
2000 - 2009	2068
2010 - 2019	1964



Bob Turner



Peter Eeles



Nigel Richards