

Report under The Conservation of Habitats and
Species Regulations 2017 (as amended),
Regulation 9A

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1065 - Marsh fritillary butterfly

(Euphydryas aurinia)

England



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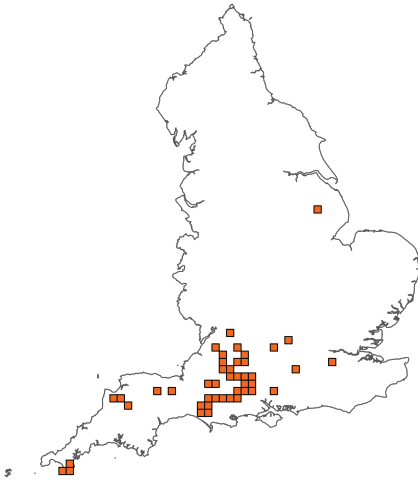
Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the England Report under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Natural England, which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

Assessment Summary: Marsh fritillary butterfly

Distribution Map



Range Map

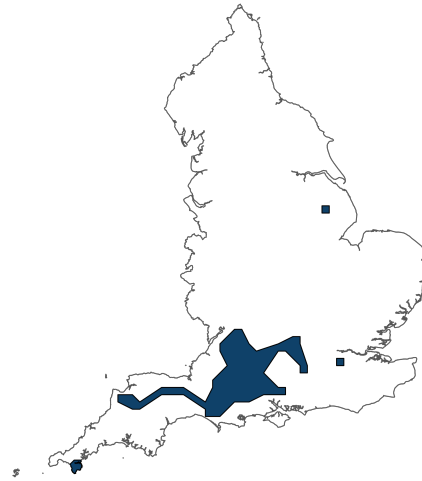


Figure 1: England distribution and range map for S1065 - Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1065 - Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Unknown (XX)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)	Unknown (XX)
Population (see section 6)	Unknown (XX)
Habitat for the species (see section 7)	Unknown (XX)
Future prospects (see section 10)	Unknown (XX)

List of Sections

National Level	5
1. General information	5
2. Maps	5
3. Information related to Annex V Species	5
Biogeographical Level	7
4. Biogeographical and marine regions	7
5. Range	7
6. Population	8
7. Habitat for the species	11
8. Main pressures	12
9. Conservation measures	12
10. Future prospects	14
11. Conclusions	14
12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species	15
13. Complementary information	16
14. References	17
Biogeographical and marine regions	17
Main pressures	17
15. Explanatory Notes	18

National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	England
1.2 Species code	S1065
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Marsh fritillary butterfly
Annex(es)	II

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2019-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

2.5 Additional information

We have only used data that were available under licence and we are aware that this does not provide a complete representation of the true distribution/range.

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property

b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation

c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens

d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas

f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens

g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species

Other measures

Other measures description

3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

No additional information

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²) 9,593.93

5.2 Short-term trend; Period 2013-2024

5.3 Short-term trend; Direction Uncertain

5.4 Short-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

5.5 Short-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

5.6 Long-term trend; Period

5.7 Long-term trend; Direction

5.8 Long-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used

5.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

a) Area (km²)

b) Pre-defined increment Current range is between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR

c) Unknown No

d) Method used Expert opinion

e) Quality of information

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

5.12 Additional information

Information to ascertain whether there has been a change is not available. We also believe that the mapped information is not complete as we did not have licenced access to the full data set.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period 2019-2024

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit number of map 1x1 km grid cells

b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	73
6.3 Type of estimate	Minimum
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	
6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	
a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate used
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
6.8 Short-term trend; Direction	Uncertain
6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	Yes
e) Type of estimate	
f) Rate of decrease	
6.10 Short-term trend; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
6.11 Long-term trend; Period	

**6.12 Long-term trend;
Direction**

**6.13 Long-term trend;
Magnitude**

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

d) Rate of decrease

**6.14 Long-term trend; Method
used**

6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

ai) Population size

aii) Unit

b) Pre-defined increment Current population is between 26% and 50%
smaller than the FRP

c) Unknown No

d) Method used Expert opinion

e) Quality of information

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

**c) Improved knowledge or
more accurate data**

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

6.17 Additional information

Information to ascertain whether there has been a change is not available.

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation No deviation from normal

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient?	Yes
b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient?	Unknown
c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?	Unknown

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

7.3 Short-term trend; Period

7.4 Short-term trend; Direction Unknown

7.5 Short-term trend; Method used Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

7.6 Long-term trend; Period

7.7 Long-term trend; Direction

7.8 Long-term trend; Method used

7.9 Additional information

No additional information

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PA01: Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA05: Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA06: Mowing or cutting of grasslands	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA07: Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA21: Active abstraction of water for agriculture	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

No additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed?

Yes

b) Indicate the status of measures

Measures identified and taken

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

Expand the current range of the species (related to 'Range')

9.3 Location of the measures taken Both inside and outside National Site Network

9.4 Response to measures Short-term results (within the current reporting period, 2019–2024)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
MA01: Prevent conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats, and habitats of species into agricultural land	Medium (M)
MA05: Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Medium (M)
MA09: Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers as well as chemicals in agricultural for plant and animal production	Medium (M)
MA13: Manage agricultural drainage and water abstraction (incl. the restoration of drained or hydrologically altered habitats)	Medium (M)
MF04: Reduce/eliminate pollution to surface or ground waters from commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities, and from industrial activities and structures	Medium (M)
MH02: Adapt/maintain military activities	Medium (M)
MM01: Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes that occur without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium (M)

9.6 Additional information

Marsh Fritillary will always require conservation action in the form of habitat management of damp grasslands to maintain positive conditions for the larval foodplants (Devil’s-bit Scabious) and the vegetational structure of fairly tussocky grassland for the larvae to successfully overwinter. This differs from traditional management of grasslands for conservation and so management is usually tailored specifically for Marsh Fritillary.

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
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bi) Population	Unknown
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ci) Habitat for the species	Unknown
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10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Unknown
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bii) Population	Unknown
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cii) Habitat for the species	Unknown
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10.2 Additional information

Marsh Fritillary occurs in several landscape types in different parts of England. Some areas e.g. Cumbria are having targeted management to increase Marsh Fritillary populations while other areas suffer from neglect of management and occasionally drainage or destruction of habitat for agriculture. This means that locally trends in range, population and habitat for the species may vary considerably. Overall it is likely that all these factors weigh each other out and the result is an overall stable range, population and habitat. This is neither good nor bad and so for future prospects Unknown has been chosen from the drop down menus.

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range	Unknown (XX)
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11.2 Population	Unknown (XX)
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11.3 Habitat for the species	Unknown (XX)
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11.4 Future prospects	Unknown (XX)
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11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unknown (XX)
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11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Unknown
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11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.8 Additional information

No additional information

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

a) Unit	number of map 1x1 km grid cells
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	74
12.2 Type of estimate	Best estimate
12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction	Unknown
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction

Stable

12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used

Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

12.8 Additional information

No additional information

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

NBN Atlas - https://records.nbnatlas.org/occurrences/search?q=lsid:NHMSYS0000516340&fq=occurrence_status:present&nbn_loading=true

tab_mapView

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Butterfly Conservation, 2022, Atlas of UK Butterflies 2015-2019, page 42.

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
5.3: Short-term trend; Direction	Full information to inform an assessment of trend in range for Marsh Fritillary was not available. This is partly because of the difficulty of disaggregating the previous UK-scale range data, compounded by the limitations of the data available to map distribution and range in England for the 2025 reporting round. Data up to 2014 shows continued losses in many areas of England, but it is known that conservation efforts in Cumbria have successfully enabled several populations to re-establish. So populations and sites are fluctuating. It was not possible to source data on these reintroduced populations from NBN for the current reporting round.
5.10: Favourable Reference Range (FRR)	A rough disaggregation of the UK FRR suggested for the 2013 and 2019 reporting rounds (60,833 km ²) supports the use of an operator of this order at England scale. Further, it was determined from the 2015-2019 Butterfly Atlas that for the distribution to reach what it was prior to 1995 Marsh Fritillary would have to increase by up to 50%.
2.4: Distribution map; Method used	For the 2026 Regulation 9A reporting round the distribution datasets reported for all features have been created using existing Natural England source data and additional datasets made available to Natural England for Regulation 9a reporting under Open Government (OGL) or Creative Commons (CC-BY) license. The reinterpretation of source data is a methodological change which has resulted in changes to mapped distribution and hence range for some features. In a few cases the available data is known to not reflect the full distribution of a feature. Where apparent change is an artefact of the mapping approach, rather than real change in distribution it will be highlighted, and associated changes in range explained, in the assessment text.
6.2: Population size	The figure of 73 as the minimum for the population size (number of 1x1 grid cells) is the number of cells where this species was recorded in routine transects. It is known that

	the actual figure will be higher, but if we do not have access to information on what a maximum or an estimated figure would be.
5.11: Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Section a is a Yes or No answer. We have put No, but the real answer is 'Unknown' as we do not have the data to show whether there has been a change or not.
6.16: Change and reason for change in population size	Section a is a Yes or No answer. We have put No, but the real answer is 'Unknown' as we do not have the data to show whether there has been a change or not.