



High Brown Fritillary, Dartmoor 1978

Photographs from South Devon

VC3 - SOUTH DEVON
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Careful monitoring of butterfly numbers in the UK over the past century tells us about their gradual decline which has been most dramatic since the Second World War largely owing to the loss of their habitats, widespread use of pesticides and the impact of climate change.

Take the High Brown Fritillary for example. Their numbers have declined by 65% in population and 87% in distribution across the UK. Becoming our rarest butterfly, rather than being a claim to fame is actually a cry for help!

Seeing our least common specialist species today like the HBF relies heavily on the work of **Butterfly Conservation** which I remember starting out as the British Butterfly Conservation Society in 1968.

The charity's aim to '*enhance the landscape for butterflies and moths*' is in all our interest. Their work is highlighted in their campaigns and the thirty five reserves it operates around Great Britain with the help of thousands of dedicated volunteers.