

Name: **Dark green fritillary butterfly**

Argynnis aglaja

UK status: Local (Shirt, 1987). Historic decline now stabilising.

London status: Very rare and threatened (2 sites).

Protected status: None

Relevant London HAPs: Chalk grassland; Woodland

Citation:

The dark green fritillary is the most widespread fritillary in the UK, being found throughout but locally and usually in low numbers. Although the butterfly has declined substantially in parts of the country, in some areas it may now be showing signs of a recovery. In London however, it is one of our rarest butterflies, occurring on chalk downland in just two sites; at Saltbox Hill and on the West Kent Golf Course in LB Bromley (both Metropolitan SINC; the former is also SSSI). With violets *Viola spp.* as its local foodplant, this is a species of transitional habitat requiring careful management. Managing authorities; London Wildlife Trust, who own Saltbox Hill.



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Conservation priorities:

- Continue to monitor colonies in known sites
- Stabilise colonies through balanced sympathetic habitat management
- Reintroductions as appropriate to widen regional distribution

References:

[Butterfly Conservation, species data account](#)

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Plant C W (1987). *The butterflies of the London Area*. (London Natural History Society)

Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC

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