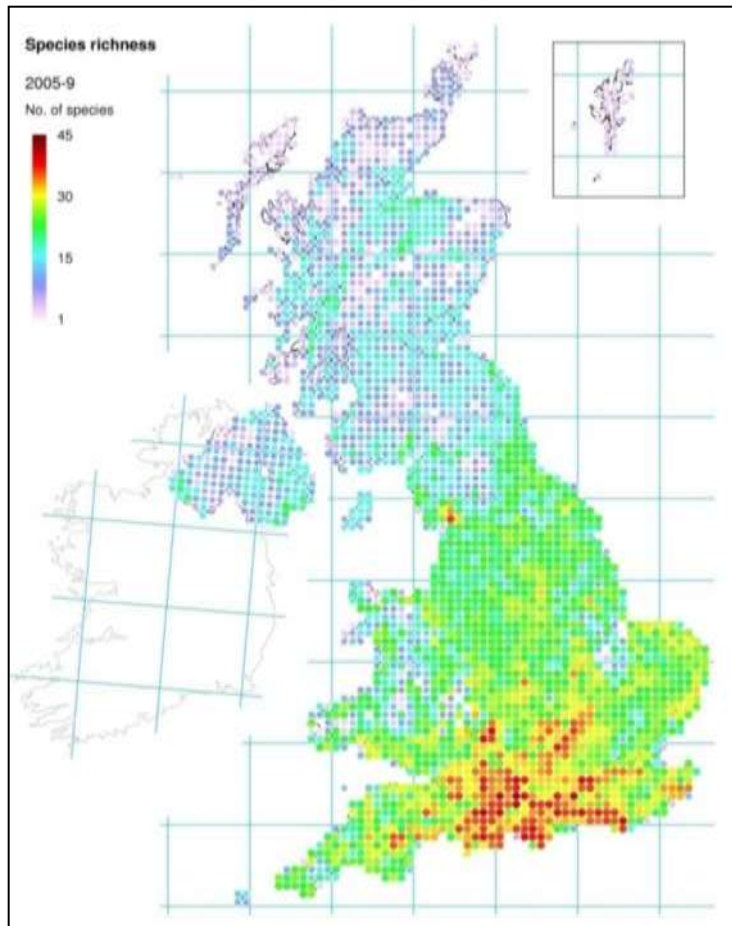




The State of the UK's Butterflies

**Richard Fox, Tom Brereton, Jim Asher, Marc Botham,
Ian Middlebrook, David Roy & Martin Warren**



Distribution recording
*Butterflies for the New
Millennium* project

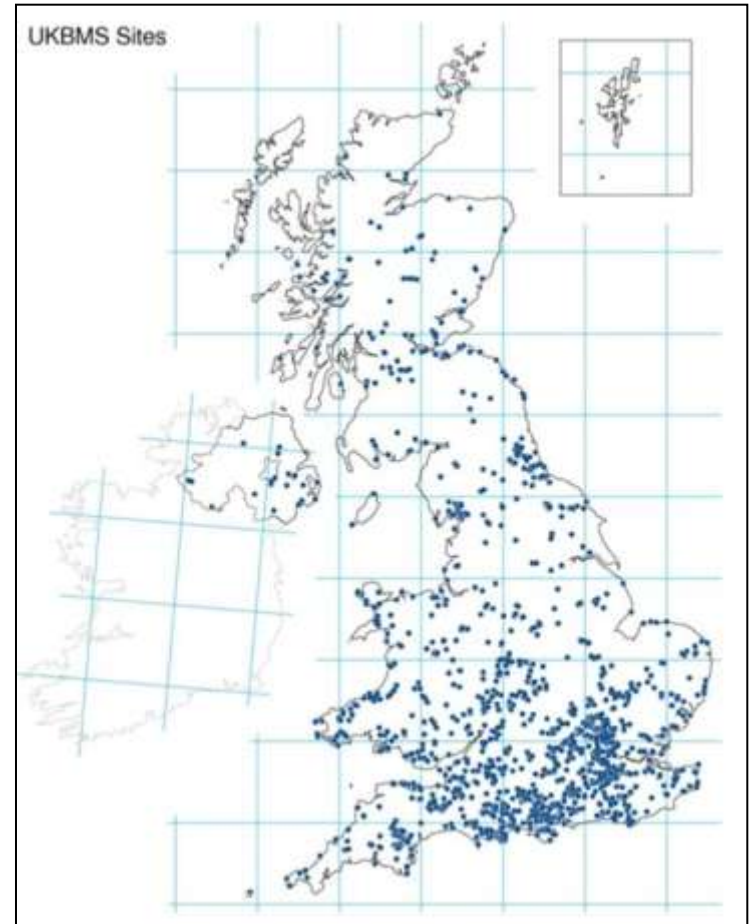
⇒ 10-year distribution
trends for each of 59
breeding species

~ 4.1 million records

Population monitoring *UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme*

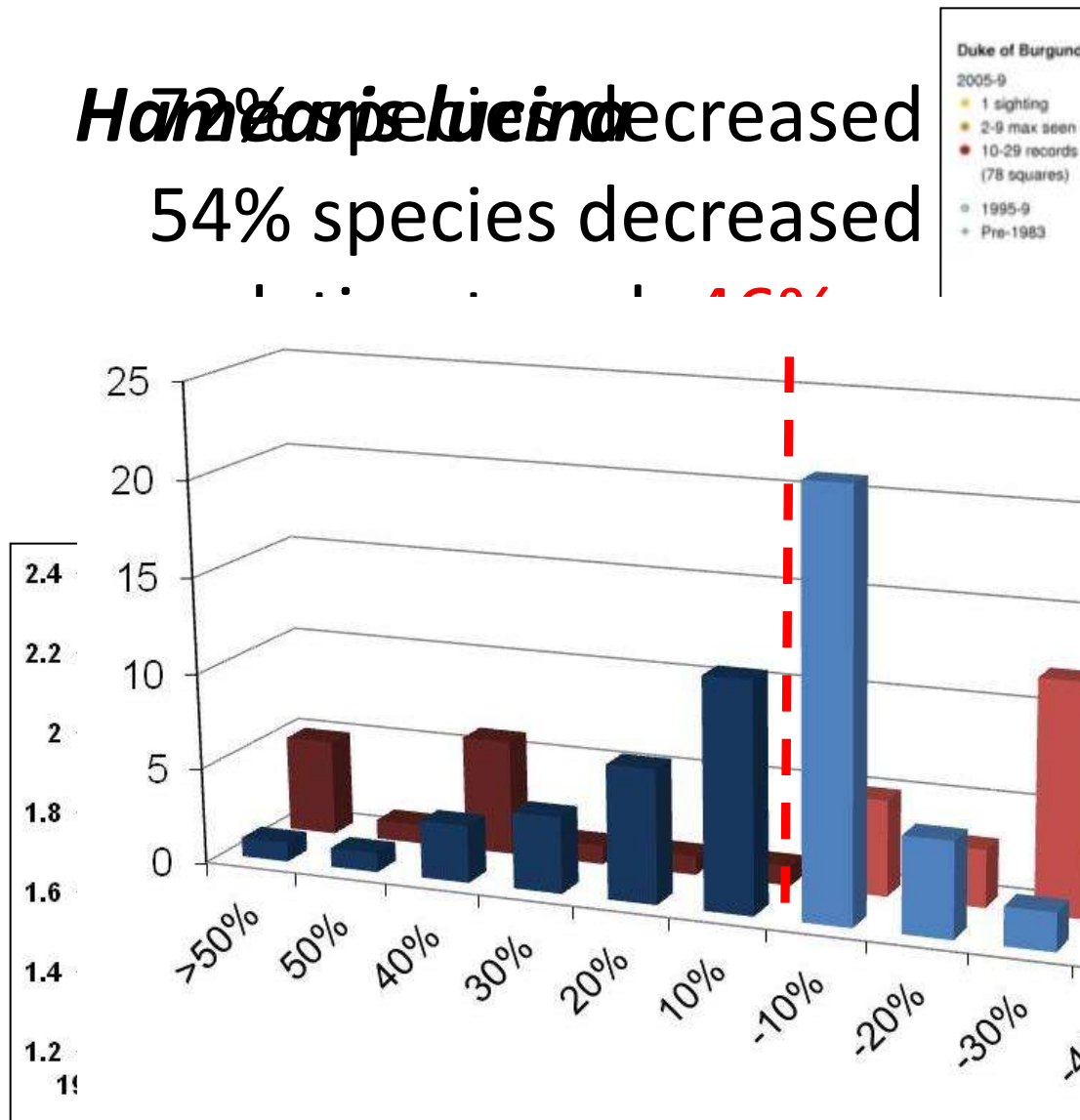
⇒ Annual population trends & 10-year trends for 53 species

⇒ Composite trends and indicators



Results 1: declines

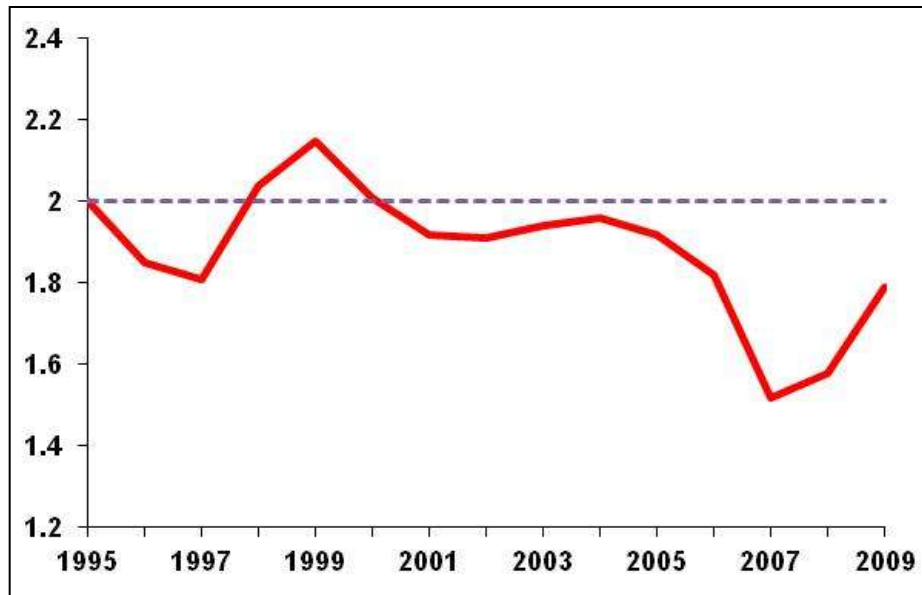
Hamaxys melina decreased
54% species decreased



Results 1: declines

Lasiommata megera

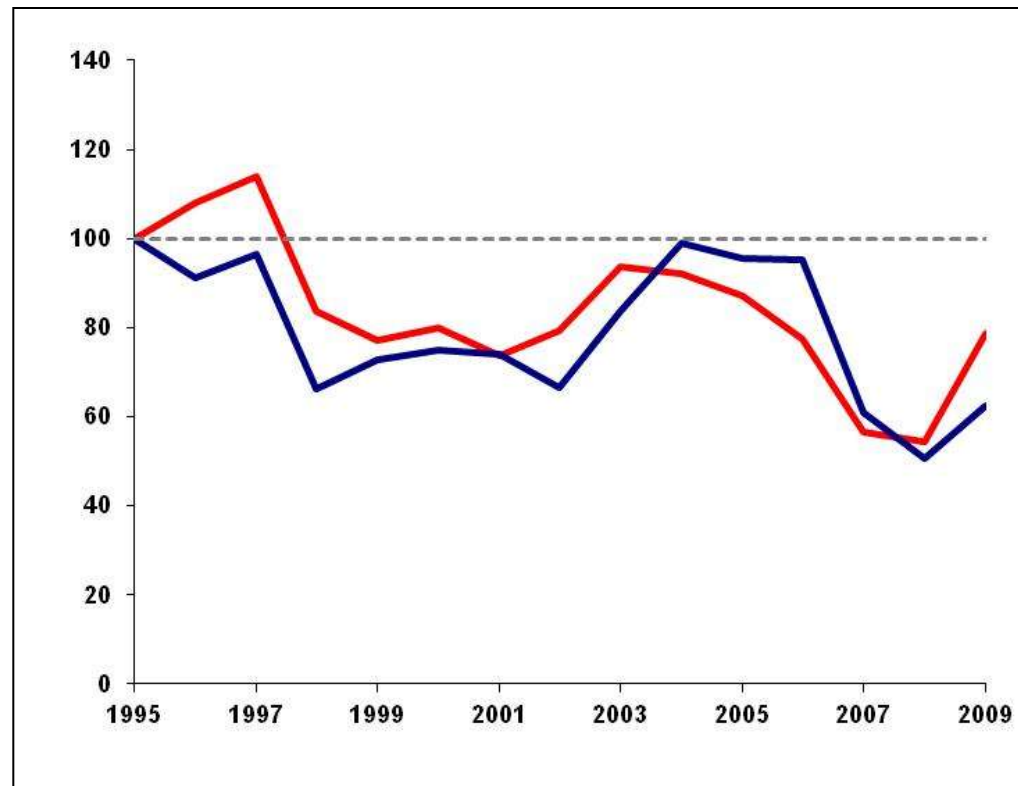
population trend **-37%**
distribution trend **-21%**



Results 1: declines

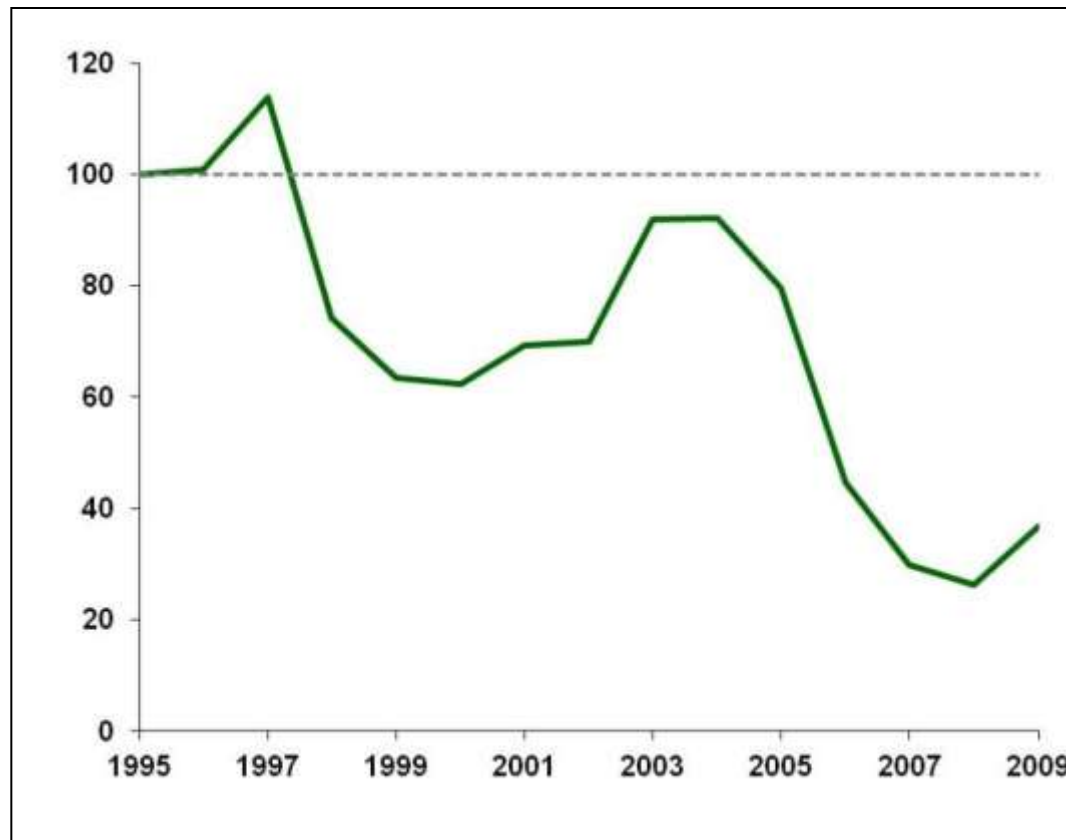
Habitat specialists abundance trend **-18%**

Wider Countryside species abundance trend **-24%**



Results 1: declines

Woodland sites in England abundance trend **-51%**



Results 2: stabilization

Melitaea athalia



EN

Results 2: stabilization



Plek Euphydryas aurinia

Dist Distribution: -9%

Pop Population: +71%



Eryr Cupido minimus

Dist Distribution: -4%

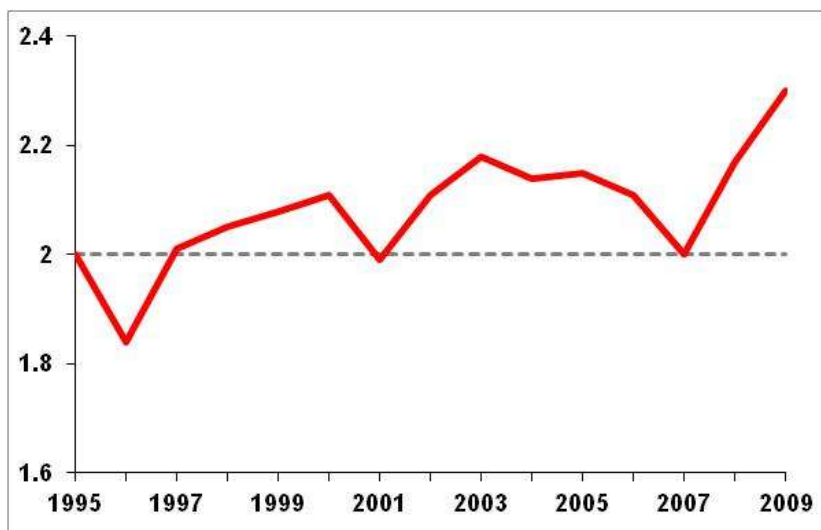
Pop Population: +31%



Results 3: increases

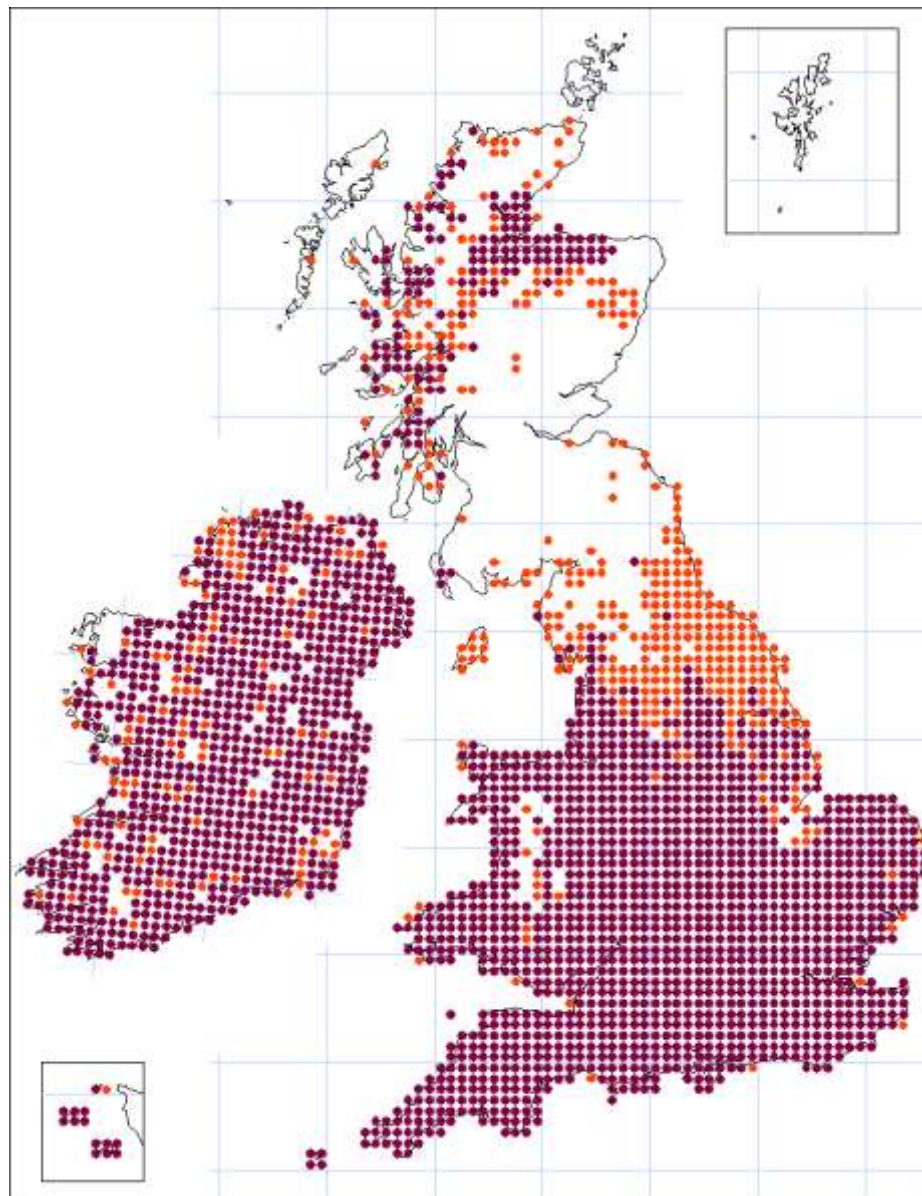
Pararge aegeria

population trend 42%
distribution trend 20%



● 1995-1999

● New squares 2005-2009



Results 3: increases

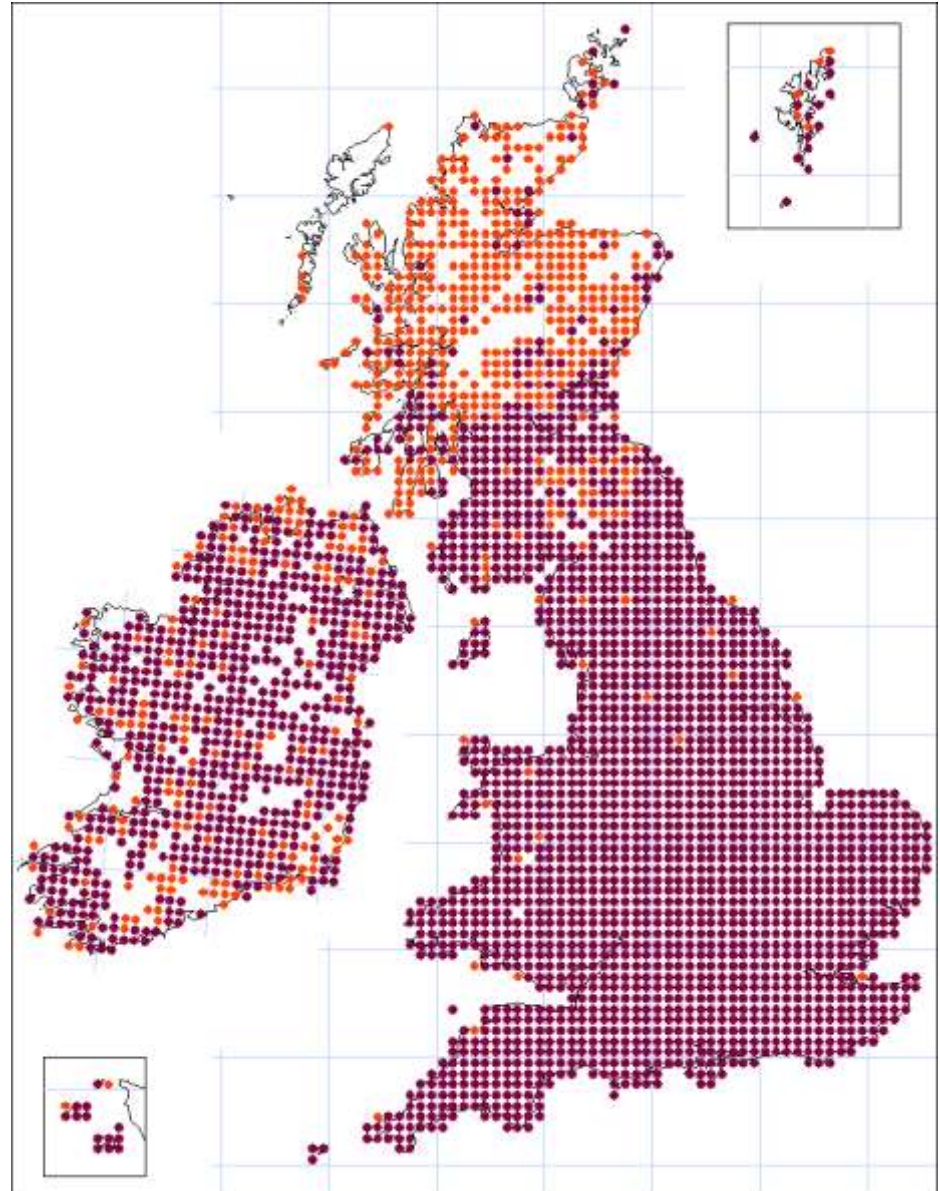
Aglais io

population trend -24%

distribution trend 17%



- 1995-1999
- New squares 2005-2009



Results 3: increases

Polyommatus bellargus

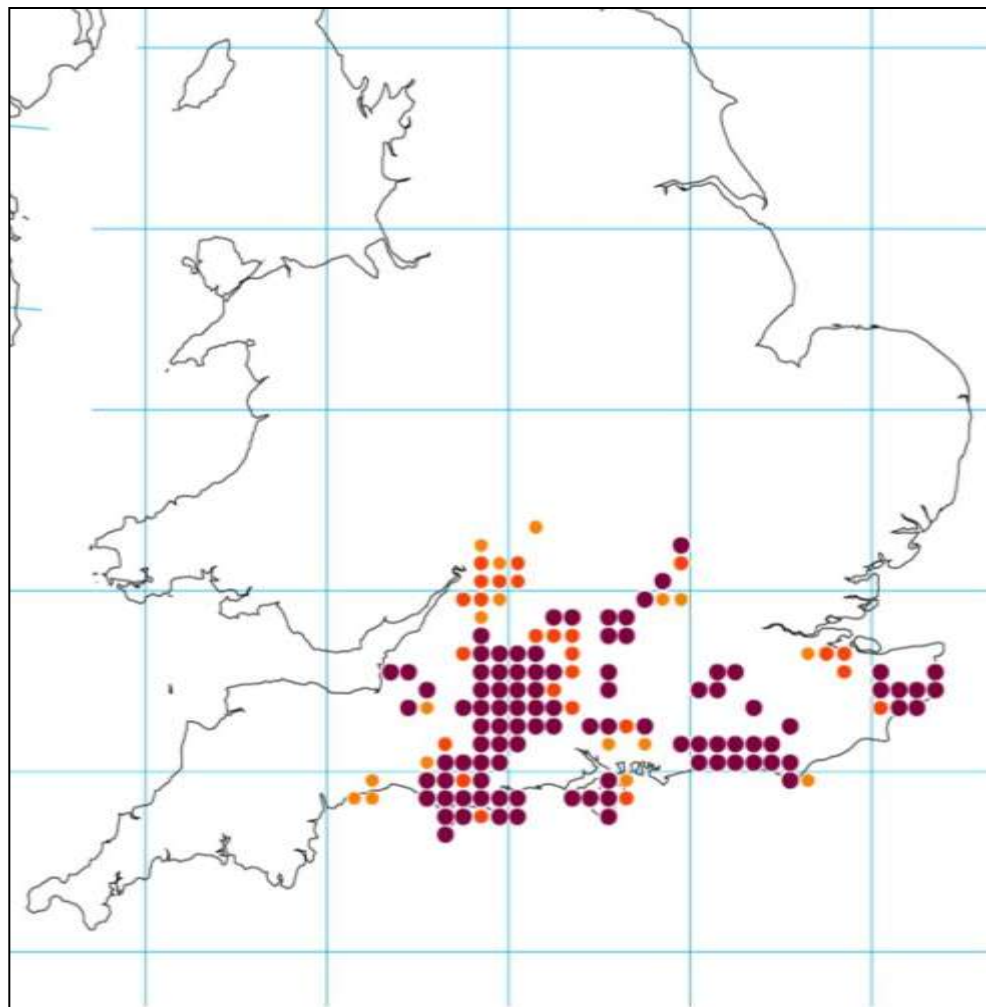
population trend **33%**

distribution trend **30%**



● 1995-1999

● New squares 2005-2009



Conclusions 1

- Species continue to decline in spite of targets
 - decline of wider countryside species
- But...
- improvement for some specialists



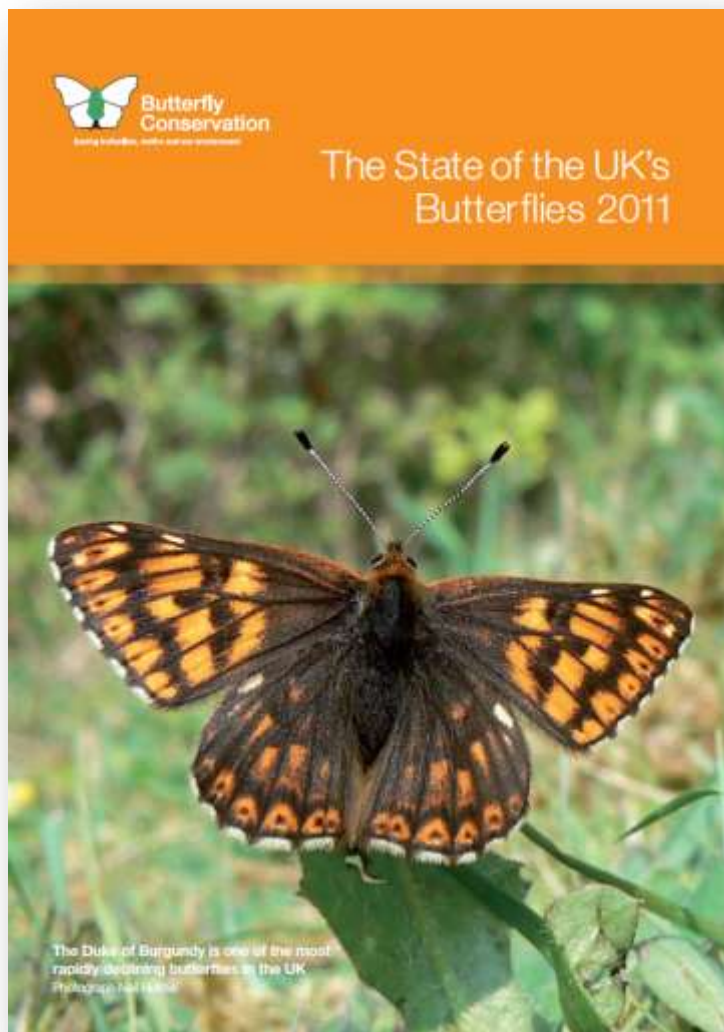
Conclusions 2

- Retain species-focus of policy & landscape-scale conservation projects
- Increase targeted grants for farmland and woods with high nature value
- Reform 'entry level' schemes to improve biodiversity
- Continue surveillance and monitoring

Acknowledgements

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M. C. B. Walton, & David Roy

The Redwing Trust



www.butterfly-conservation.org