

6 The distribution of the large blue butterfly, *Phengaris arion*, extends across Europe and Asia. It is assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on the Red List™ as 'Near Threatened' globally and 'Endangered' in Europe.

In Europe, *P. arion* became extinct in the Netherlands in 1964 and in the United Kingdom in 1979.

Fig. 6.1 lists the conservation status categories in the IUCN Red List™.



Fig. 6.1

Fig. 6.2 shows *P. arion*.



Fig. 6.2

(a) (i) Explain how IUCN Red List™ assessments help to conserve biodiversity.

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(ii) With reference to Fig. 6.1 and the IUCN assessments for *P. arion*, suggest how the abundance of the butterfly differs across its distribution.

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(b) *P. arion* has been successfully re-introduced in the United Kingdom at 12 sites. These sites were restored to flower-rich grassland.

The conservation management actions designed for *P. arion* also resulted in the re-establishment or increase of other species at the restored sites. These included 12 species of flowering plant, 8 other butterfly species and 4 species of other insects.

(i) Use the information given to suggest why *P. arion* went extinct in the United Kingdom in 1979.

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(ii) Outline the advantages of restoring habitats for endangered species.

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