



## Bracken – a conservation perspective



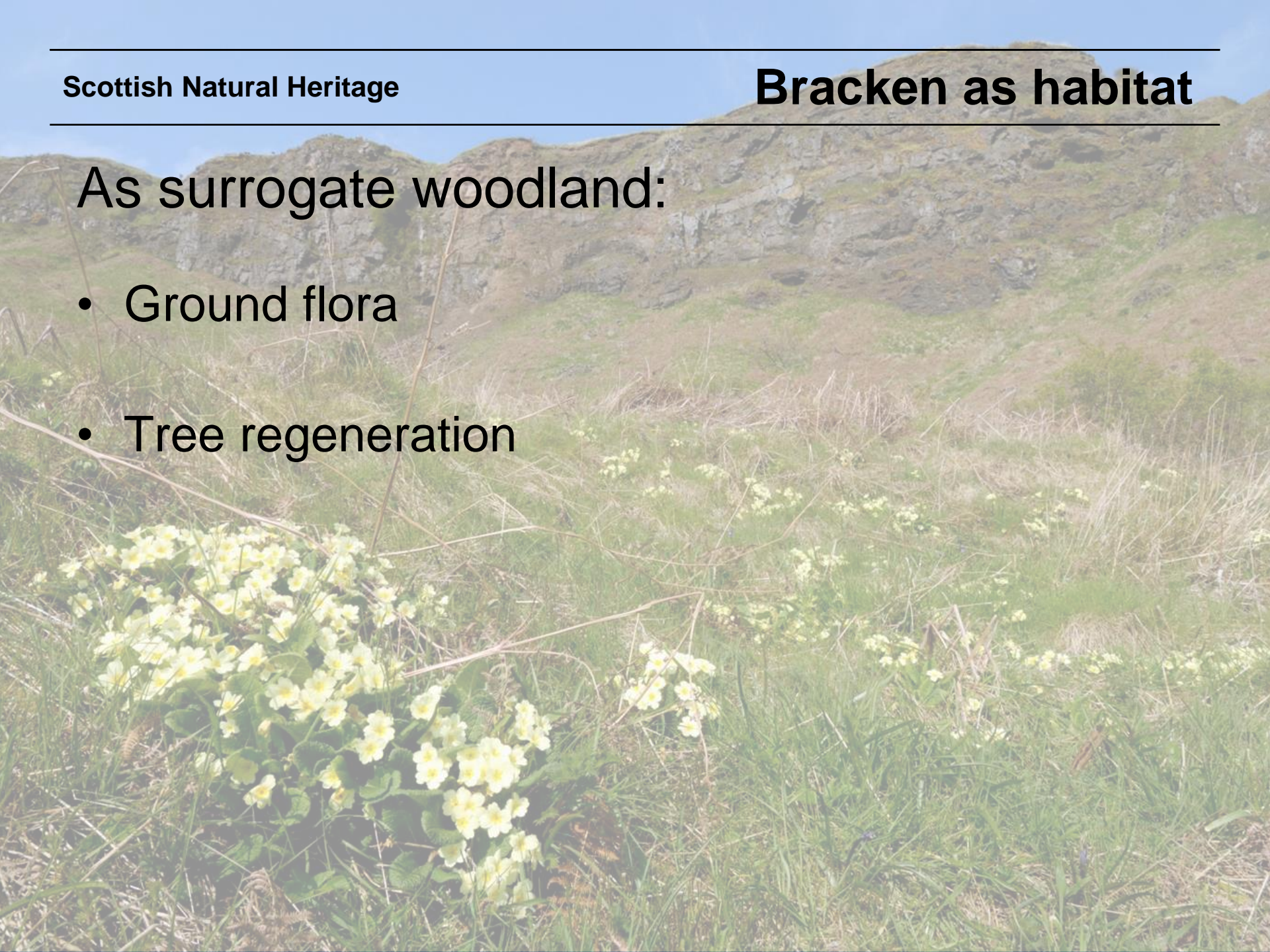
# Benefits of bracken

- **Native species**
- **Habitat**
- **(Uses – e.g. compost and biofuel)**
- **(Soil protection)**



As surrogate woodland:

- Ground flora
- Tree regeneration





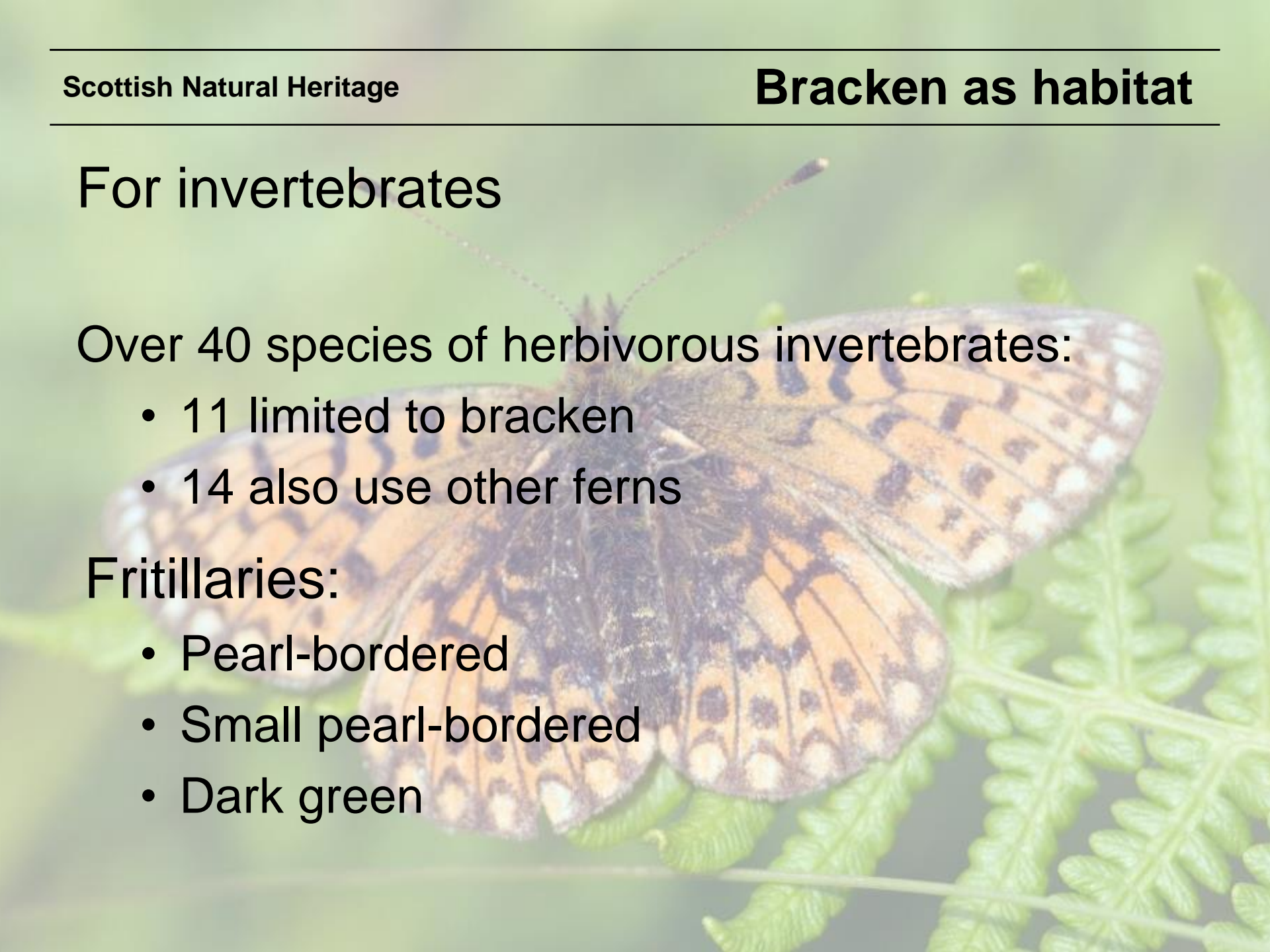
## For invertebrates

Over 40 species of herbivorous invertebrates:

- 11 limited to bracken
- 14 also use other ferns

### Fritillaries:

- Pearl-bordered
- Small pearl-bordered
- Dark green



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Scottish Natural Heritage

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For vertebrates:

- Birds – including whinchat, nightjar
- Reptiles – adder, lizards





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<https://muirofdinnetnr.wordpress.com/>



# Negative impacts of bracken

- **Habitat loss**
- **Restricts tree regeneration**
- **Restricts access**
- **Health risks – to humans and animals**



# Control

- **Spraying**
- **Pigs/ cattle**
- **Cutting**
- **Bruising**
- **Burning**



# Long-term management

- Woodland creation – canopy will suppress bracken
- Maintaining open habitat requires ongoing grazing

