

The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No.48



Comma, photo courtesy of Philip Hambly



**Butterfly
Conservation**

AGM Issue



*Common Lime Butterfly Papilio demoleus—
please see page 2*

An Unusual Pairing

The field trip to Upton Towans in 2010 was a great day for seeing Dark-green Fritillaries, although not so good for photographing them, as the butterflies – almost entirely males - spent their time dashing to and fro above the grasses, looking for females.

Towards the end of the trip however, when most of us were gathered near a large patch of Valerian where some of the fritillaries were nectaring, Bernard Hocking shouted from a nearby dune, “Mating pair of Dark-green Fritillaries!” This looked like a chance to finally get a picture, and my legs lost no time in heading to where Bernard stood. Before I got there, he corrected himself: “No it’s not” he said, “it’s a Dark-green Fritillary paired with a Meadow Brown!”

Sure enough, down near the base of a clump of marram grass was a male Meadow Brown paired with a female Dark-green Fritillary.



Unfortunately the female was easily spooked and flew off carrying the male with her. They landed a short distance away and these pictures were taken before they split up, the Meadow Brown flying off, leaving the female to rest a while before she, too, took to the wing.

Paul Browning

Observer No.47—Correction

A thank you to Malcolm Lee (and others), for pointing out the butterfly on the front cover was not the European Swallowtail, as stated on p21.

He believes it to be the Common Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papilio_demoleus), a very widely distributed sub-tropical/tropical species from Africa to Asia, as well as Australia and recently spread (*introduced?*) into Central America and Jamaica.



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The Annual General Meeting of the above Branch was held at Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Headquarters, Allet on Saturday 22nd January 2011.

1. Apologies from Barry Ofield, Shaun Poland and John Foster.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2010 were accepted as a correct record and there were no matters arising.
3. Three items were raised for discussion in AOB later.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a year of big changes. It is rare to have four new members of our Committee join us at the same time and it has really shaken us up – mostly in a good way! Because we have a larger Committee than usual we have been doing quite a bit of work through sub-committees as more can be achieved this way.

We have been persuaded to enter the 21st Century with the production of a mainly online magazine and a new interactive website which is shortly to be launched. Jayne Herbert has been our very successful web-mistress for many years but is shortly to relinquish her role to Shaun Poland who is taking the new type of website forward.

We were sad to lose our established magazine editor, Phil Boggis in the New Year but Paul Brewer and Gillian Thompson have valiantly taken this task on and have done an excellent job through a difficult transition period when we have also been trying to ac-

commodate members who do not have online facilities. Phil has also retired as our Moth Officer.

We have also become very involved with conservation work on the land owned by new Committee member Keith Wilson near Stithians and are very excited about the potential for a variety of butterflies to be re-established in this area, including the Marsh Fritillary (a web has already been found!), and even possibly the White-letter Hairstreak. We had a lovely day there during Save our Butterflies week and we hope this will now be an annual event. Meanwhile, a series of work days at Trelusback farm will be advertised on the website.

In recent weeks we have received news which has really taken us aback. John Worth, our County recorder has decided to give us notice of his retirement after 15 years of dedicated work. I think we will find it extremely hard to replace him and if anyone knows someone who might be prepared to take on this task, please get in touch.

We don't usually give presents to our departing members but in the case of Phil Boggis and John Worth they have devoted so much time, energy and commitment to their respective services we would like to show our appreciation by giving them a small gift each. We also want to acknowledge the dedication of our web-mistress, Jayne, in the same way. *(At this point Phil Boggis was presented with a book and in the absence of John and Jayne, their gifts will be forwarded.)*

As far as the butterflies themselves are

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concerned, we have had a mixed year. We have formed an Audit sub-committee to monitor a range of butterfly species in more detail on a yearly basis. We have half completed the review of this last year and as might be expected some species have fared better than others. There is too much to report here but it is worth mentioning a few things. The Brown Argus fared better than we dared hope after virtually none were recorded in 2009. On the whole, the Fritillaries did well. Although some sites were lost, new ones have been discovered (especially true of the Marsh Fritillary). The reintroduced Heath Fritillary seems to have survived in reasonable numbers at Greenscombe. On the negative side, there are concerns about the loss of sites for the Dingy Skipper in Camborne and serious worries about the Grizzled Skipper on Goss Moor despite all the conservation work achieved in the last few winters. In the summer months all the good work is undone as lush vegetation takes over the cleared areas and there is minimal bare ground which this butterfly requires. We also have some concern about the more common grassland species and will be monitoring their numbers over the next 10 years to see if numbers are declining. The more records we have the better!

We have had a very good year for field trips with record attendance at many of the events. For a change we had good weather for most of these trips and large numbers of butterflies were seen and recorded. We would encourage all members to sample at

least one of these trips this coming year as they are most enjoyable occasions.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee and other members who contribute their time in various ways to look after our Cornish butterflies. We need all members to be especially alert in the coming year in the light of government cuts. We should be aware of the possible consequences of selling off land, planning permission changes, the reduction of Higher-level stewardship schemes and the likelihood that local and national Government agencies will lose staff. It is probable that in common with other charities, Butterfly Conservation will be expected to take on more responsibilities as a result of this and this could pose some difficult questions for us.

ACCOUNTS

Paul Browning presented the accounts for the financial year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 and these were adopted. The opening balance on 1st April 2009 was £3,653.68 and the closing balance on 31st March 2010 was £3,951.74. Total credits were £1,401.92 and total debits were £1,103.86. Money coming in is still primarily from membership. We also had the proceeds once again of Tim Dingle's Garden Day and a trickle of royalties from the Atlas. We now have the remaining copies of the Atlas in our possession available for sale at half price.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Jim Barker, Paul Browning, Paul Brewer, Maggie Goodere, Phil Harris, Steve Hoskin, Jo Poland, Shaun Po-

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land, Lee Slaughter and Adrian Spalding were willing to serve on the Committee for another year. Phil Boggis, Chris Hylands and Keith Wilson have resigned from the Committee (although Keith is willing to continue as membership secretary), whilst Carly Hoskin is due to retire in rotation but is eligible for re-election. Philip Hambly and Jack Keeping had already expressed an interest in joining the Committee and Paddy Saunders also volunteered during the meeting. They were duly proposed and seconded. The block election of the whole Committee was proposed and carried unanimously.

There being no other proposals, the following were confirmed by the meeting as:

Chairman	Phil Harris
Treasurer	Paul Browning
Secretary	Maggie Goodere

TRANSECTS REPORT

Jim Barker then gave a most interesting presentation illustrated by graphs and charts using the statistics collected from the information gained from the various monitoring schemes which he has co-ordinated this year. There are now 19 transects with two more likely to start next year. The Wider Countryside monitoring scheme has not proved very popular within Cornwall, partly due to access problems but he had a very good suggestion which involved encouraging members to adopt one of a number of 10km squares in Cornwall, not normally covered by any recording, in order to get a fuller picture of butterflies in the county. Additional suggestions from the audience included going through CWT or other wildlife channels (particularly making use of birding or-

ganizations) if not enough squares could be covered by members. (*Details of Jim's talk can be found on p.18*)

PUBLICITY and FUNDRAISING

Jo Poland reported back on what has been happening concerning publicity and fundraising which she has taken on since joining the Committee. The new display boards which she had recently purchased got their first outing today and Jo was anxious for feedback and suggestions. She reported on the valuable advice she has received from BC's Head of Fundraising and possible future grant applications. She would also like Waitrose to adopt us as one of their charities and is looking for Saltash members to help out with approaching them as it appears to be the only Waitrose in Cornwall. There was a suggestion from the audience that perhaps CBC could combine with one of the bird organizations to have a stall at the Royal Cornwall show which Jo will follow up.

WEBSITE

Jo also appealed for volunteers to help Shaun run the new website. The first stage is up and running but the second stage, which will be a forum, is still work in progress! In the meantime the Yahoo site will continue to operate and whether it will continue to run side by side with the website will be debated at a future time.

BUTTERFLY OBSERVER

The audience was asked to give feedback about the changes that have taken place in the delivery of the newsletter. The reaction was mainly very positive, especially as those without internet facilities are being accommo-

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dated. Despite much hard work telephoning members, we still don't have everyone's email address but those who have supplied them commented on the usefulness of email reminders (advertising the AGM was a good example). A few comments from the audience included a preference for names and addresses of the Committee to return to the back page and some problems with linking to our website.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Paul Brewer thanked those members who had volunteered to search for the White-letter Hairstreak. *See page 7 for more details.* Paul particularly wanted volunteers to monitor the eastern part of Cornwall in the coming year and he made a plea to photograph any unusual sightings.
2. Paul Brewer wished to thank Tim Dingle for his work on the Bodmin Moor Fritillary Project. Tim wishes to retire from his long time role of chairing the Fritillary Action Group and Paul would like more people to get involved on the Moor. In particular, he hopes to encourage volunteers to spend a little time surveying the north part of Bodmin Moor for the Marsh Fritillary. He suggests that on a sunny day people walk some of the likely places where this species has been seen in the past to see if colonies are still in existence. If you phone him, Paul will be happy to give directions as to

where to look and help with identification if needs be. *See page 9 for more details*

3. Drawing attention to the fact that the Fritillary Action Group was not a sub-group of CBC but previously included representatives from a variety of agencies. They needed to remain involved.
4. There was concern that Natural England's priorities may not include the protection of the Fritillaries on Bodmin and the example was given of the Pearl-bordered Fritillary not even being mentioned on the notification when Bodmin was designated an SSSI. There is little happening in the way of management on Bodmin and unfortunately further funding applications from BTCV, who have been vital in recent years to the management of key sites, have been rejected. Examples of concerns included a recently widened track on a Pearl-bordered site at De-Lank Quarry which was completed without consultation.
5. The training programme for Natural England on Grassland species has been planned by Paul Browning and Adrian Spalding and it is hoped that this will be trialed in the near future.
6. Phil Harris was thanked for growing and distributing Alder Buckthorns which is encouraging the spread of Brimstones.

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7. Members were urged to sign the petition against forests being sold off as recently proposed by the government.

A short break followed when refreshments were served and the raffle drawn.

LARGE BLUE RE-INTRODUCTION

Adrian Spalding gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about the reintroduction of the Large Blue to the West Country, after its extinction in 1979. He included successes and failures and possible explanations for both (mainly to do with sward length and the presence of the

ant *M sabuleti*). Although the butterfly is doing very well in Somerset it seems to be no longer present in Cornwall. There are plans to reintroduce again when the conditions are exactly right but it is important that management continues to ensure the conditions remain optimal. Adrian will summarise his talk for a future article in the Observer.

Phil Harris closed the meeting by thanking our presenters and everyone who had attended.

Maggie Goodere
Secretary

Whiteletter Hairstreaks

I would like to thank those few Members who volunteered to seek out these elusive butterflies. They are Leon Abbott, Jim Barker, Maggie Goodere, Kim Hawkey, A G Mackonochie, Paddy Saunders, Lee Slaughter, Keith Wilson.

I have received no reports of sightings anywhere in Cornwall. There was a report of a possible sighting somewhere but no one has told me exactly where, for it to be verified or followed up during this coming year.

So I make the plea that if anyone has a sighting of any butterfly which they cannot identify for certain, please would they phone me on 07990-881052 or any Committee Member and someone will attempt to go to the site and identify that butterfly, or please photograph and inform us immediately.

Paul Brewer

Forestry Sell-off

I am delighted to report that the Government have now withdrawn their proposal to sell or lease the entire forest estate.

We are aware that there are still many threats, but also some opportunities in the discussions ahead. I will be using the statement we issued to argue for improved measures to conserve butterflies, moths and biodiversity in the ensuing debate. I have also written to both the Environment Minister and the FC Chief Executive, Brian Mahoney, expressing our concerns and keenness to engage in discussions to improve the biodiversity benefits of the FC Estate. Brian is a big fan of our joint work, so we have a good platform to build on. We are all very grateful of the role Branches play in building our relationships with FC.

Dr Martin Warren, Chief Executive,
Butterfly Conservation

CBC Annual Accounts to 31st March 2010

Receipts

Receipts from Head Office

Subscriptions	933.95
Grants	
Donations	
Other	6.53

Receipts from another branch

Direct receipts

Subscriptions	161.51
Donations	
Legacies	
Sales income	
Fundraising (raffle)	59.00
Grants	
Bank interest	2.81
Butterfly Atlas royalties	238.12

Payments

Payments to Head Office

Cost of generating funds

Charitable

Grants and donations outwards

Conservation

Other:

- recording (moth pheromones)	72.50
- publicity (radio GSK, petrol)	15.64
- management (refreshments)	13.60

Membership Costs

Branch newsletter	876.72
Other: mailing appeal	67.00
- special field trip expenses	18.40

Management and Administration 40.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS 1,401.91

TOTAL PAYMENTS 1,103.86

Balance b/fwd at start of year 3,653.69

Balance c/fwd at start of year 3,951.74

TOTALS **5,055.60**

TOTALS **5,055.60**

Paul Browning
Treasurer

Bodmin Moor Marsh Fritillary

I invite Members to volunteer a little time this coming year to help with a survey of the North part of Bodmin Moor for the Marsh Fritillary. This will also help Jim Barker in his coverage of Cornwall's squares.

What is being suggested is to walk likely places where this species has been seen in the past, to see if there are any colonies still in existence. If you have a couple or three hours free and the weather is sunny, please phone me and I will be able to explain which area needs to be walked. Initially we will try and cover areas that have had the species recorded in the past.

If you are not sure about identifying the Marsh Fritillary we can show you a good likeness at the website, but really, on the Moor, there are only a few butterflies flying and once seen a fritillary will not be forgotten. We just need the sightings map reference or a good description where seen and a follow up will be done to verify.

With regard to map references it would be extremely helpful to get 6 figures rather than a grid square reference. If anyone needs the grid or 6 figures explained please ask.

Paul Brewer

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Hello everyone! I would like to bring your attention to our new website design which I have recently taken over. Along with the new look, we have introduced a new ethos which is to bring the website into a closer bond with the activities of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. A consequence of this is that the content of the site will change on demand, to keep pace with our increasing level of activity.

I would therefore urge you to visit the website regularly, so that you don't miss out on any of our news, events or other exciting activities.

A major change has been the addition of the forums. To those of you who are unfamiliar with using a forum – it is a place where anyone can join in to share conversation, news, sightings, recording, photographs etc. You can

register and become part of this lively and informative group exchange.

I am building a collection of photos for use on the website. Could any members who may wish to contribute some of their own please contact me. I am not looking for perfect pictures but more of a representation of our members diversity.

I am still improving various aspects of the site but any suggestions for other improvements would be most welcome. I have really enjoyed creating the new site and I hope that you will enjoy using it.

Shaun Poland
Webmaster
www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Jayne Herbert was our web-mistress for many years and a tribute to her is given in the AGM Report. Ed.

Separating the Dark Green and High Brown Fritillary

The Dark Green Fritillary and High Brown Fritillary are most easily distinguished by their undersides, since only the High Brown has a row of "ocelli" just

Dark Green Fritillary is predominately green. It is much more difficult to distinguish the Dark Green Fritillary from the High Brown Fritillary based on their uppersides. However, the first

Dark Green Fritillary

Additional row
of "ocelli"



Dark Green Fritillary (left) and High Brown Fritillary (right)

inside the outer margin. In addition, as the name suggests, the High Brown Fritillary has a predominately brown hue to the underside, whereas the

row of dots from the outside edge of the forewing upperside do give a clue. The 3rd dot from the apex of the forewing is in line with the other dots in the



Dark Green Fritillary (left) and High Brown Fritillary (right)

Separating the Dark Green and High Brown Fritillary

Dark Green Fritillary, but indented toward the body in the High Brown.



High Brown Fritillary, Dunsford Wood Reserve, Devon, 8th July 2009.

Photo: © P.H. Boggis.

Some people might think that the photograph of a High Brown Fritillary (*left*) could very well have been a Dark Green Fritillary—not seeing the underside, but I think you will agree that it is indeed a High Brown, the ‘indented’ spot is quite clear.

The butterfly was seen nectaring on bramble and the photograph was taken after waiting a further two hours for it to return—camera at the ready

Article supplied by Phil Boggis and taken from UK Butterflies at:

http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/species.php?vernacular_name=High%20Brown%20Fritillary

Corrections to the Butterfly Observer

I found a couple of incorrect statements in the latest "Observer". On page 7 the article was wrong in stating that "*moths spin cocoons – and butterflies do not*". The truth is that neither moths nor butterflies have silk glands and cannot make cocoons. Most, but not all, moth caterpillars spin cocoons for pupation, but the caterpillars of many moth species never do. Most butterfly caterpillars do not make cocoons, but some do, notably the Skippers.

Another error is on page 14 which states that after a caterpillar had been "stung" it would never pupate properly. This is misleading as some parasitoid wasp eggs or larvae will remain dormant in the body of the host until after the host has pupated. It all depends on the species involved. (As *Phil Bog-*

gis points out a better form of wording would have been: "Unfortunately from that moment on, its fate was sealed, as it never pupated properly.")

There is a vast number of species of parasitic wasp, each of which affects the host species differently. (There are even some parasitoid wasps which can recognise when a butterfly caterpillar is ready to pupate. It waits until pupation has occurred and then injects its egg into the soft, newly formed host pupa before it has "hardened off". Then before the butterfly normally emerges the fully grown parasitoid larva, having absorbed most of the nutrients inside the host, thereby killing it, bites its way through to make its own cocoon below).

John Gregory

Disturbance is Key to Grey Carpet Success

In the East of England Butterfly Conservation has been working with Forestry Commission England to create bare ground plots along Forest rides in the Brecks of Norfolk and Suffolk to improve habitat for butterflies and moths. The presence of bare ground and early successional habitats is an important feature of heathlands and dry grasslands and vital for many scarce moths such as Grey Carpet and Marbled Clover and butterflies including Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper. Grey Carpet, Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper are priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The establishment of conifer plantation on previously open Breckland heathlands has removed much of the suitable habitat. In recent years management by mowing and sheep grazing combined with some very wet summers has contributed to a decline in bare ground on Breckland grass heath sites and forest rides.

With funding from SITA Trust, Butterfly Conservation has been able to create over 60 bare ground plots using a range of techniques. This project was successfully completed in December

2009 and demonstrated that it is possible to create suitable habitat for Grey Carpet on forest rides by creating bare ground. The Grey Carpet moth is restricted as a breeding species to the Breckland district in the UK, which is also the main centre of distribution of Flixweed, the larval foodplant. The foodplant and consequently the moth depend on frequent soil disturbance.



*Bare ground created at Cranwich with a bulldozer in March 2009
—photo by Sharon Hearle*

The project was able to demonstrate a range of bare ground techniques, compare costs and benefits of each treatment at 15 different sites. Over 60 plots were established, mostly in late winter/spring 2009, but some were established in the autumn of 2009. Most late winter/early autumn bare ground plots were colonised by abundant nectar plants over the spring and summer. Flixweed was confirmed on 12 plots and Grey Carpet adults were seen on four of those plots in 2009. By 2010

Disturbance is Key to Grey Carpet Success

the Flixweed had developed on four rotovated plots and there were records of Grey Carpet larvae on four of these plots at King's Forest and Cranwich.

The bare ground plots created along forest rides in the Brecks have been alive with butterflies and moths this year due to the abundance of flowers and nectar attracting key breckland species including Marbled Clover, For-ester and Dingy Skipper. The For-ester, a UK BAP priority species already extinct in other counties in the East of England, was confirmed on seven bare ground plots on forest rides.

One 150 metre long plot along the forest ride in Cranwich (Grade A priority site in the FC/BC Lepidoptera Conservation Strategy) was covered in Viper's Bugloss, a typical wildflower in the Breck, but usually restricted to small areas of disturbance created by rabbits or moles. Underneath the canopy of Viper's Bugloss other plants included Common Bird's-foot trefoil, foodplant for Dingy Skipper, and Basil Thyme, foodplant for Basil Thyme Case-bearer moth (also a UK BAP priority species).

Monitoring work and habitat creation will continue through a new three year project *Norfolk Brecks Heathland Restoration for*

Threatened Butterflies and Moths funded by Wren Biodiversity Action Fund which began in Jan 2010.

Extract taken from the 'Speckled Wood' newsletter

Sharon Hearle

**East of England Regional Officer,
Butterfly Conservation.**

Email: shearle@butterfly-conservation.org



*Cranwich Brecks 16th months later
—photo by Sharon Hearle*

Trelusback Project

When Phil Harris stumbled upon a larval web of the Marsh Fritillary in one of my neglected fields at Trelusback, I didn't know what I had let myself in for!



A few minutes at one of our Committee meetings a few weeks later has turned my plodding retirement years into something more like being back at my previous career with a sales team. I now have to attend meetings with the branch's Fundraiser and Publicity Officer Jo Poland who finds me something to do whenever I am planning to have a break.

We now have team meetings with the sub-committee of Phil Harris our Chairman, Paul Browning our Treasurer and Steve Hoskin our Conservation Officer, which usually result in more work for me and Jo. Sometimes other members of the Committee join us to make further suggestions to make my life even more demanding.

Seriously—this project has been a fantastic example of how enthusiasm and team spirit can move mountains or in our case gorse bushes. Committee members: Maggie and Dick Goodere, Jim Barker, Paul Brewer,

Jack Keeping, Shaun Poland and Carly Hoskin have joined us on our conservation days.

They have cut down and removed vast quantities of gorse, which blocked out the sun, which the Marsh Fritillaries' larvae and larval food

plants needed to thrive. In addition, members of our branch Nigel Barrett, Anne Paul, Simon and Anne Lowe have also rolled their sleeves up and helped. Jerry who is a trusted friend, Liz from Duchy College and David, Mike, Fraser and Owen who are students from Falmouth have also given up their time to help.

The support received from the above is wonderful enough but later we had two groups of students from Duchy College and six groups of students from Cornwall College Newquay who were led by their tutors Angela Webster, Mike McMahon, Jacqueline Davey and Mel Edwards. Mel distinguished herself by breaking more forks than the rest of us put together!

Trelusback Project

What have we achieved? The word 'we' is in my opinion the best thing about the whole project because it has been a team effort that has removed the gorse from about an acre of land with considerable extra benefits.

We have now met some of our charitable members who had previously paid their £28 per year without enjoying the company of other enthusiasts. Four members of the public have become members after working at the site. We have had two BBQs provided by Steve and Carly Hoskin using a BBQ kindly provided by Jerry and delicious soups from Jo. Members of our group have also spoken at a local school and a gardening club as a result of the project.

What next? The students from Newquay are to monitor the site during the next few years and will record the outcomes of our hard work. The Marsh Fritillaries will now have somewhere to live in an environment which is being altered to suit their needs and which will be carefully maintained as necessary.

We would like to expand and increase their new habitat, making it at least four times larger over the next three years. To support this dream, applications for grant funding are currently poised for imminent action!

Mr and Mrs Aurinia have asked me to thank you on their behalf! and, if you haven't yet seen their new home, please pay them a visit soon, you will be very welcome.

Keith Wilson

Jewel Among the Nettles





On 7th September I came across a number of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on the Lizard Peninsula, in various stages of development. Among them was one suspended under a nettle leaf, preparing to pupate. The next day I returned to the site and found a soft, newly formed chrysalis.

Close by, on that same day, I spotted two male Speckled Woods sitting together. I took a picture as a record of this since I had never before witnessed such a truce. When I got back home and put the picture on my computer I noticed in the bottom corner what looked like a blurred image of a Comma caterpillar hanging down ready to pupate. This prompted me to return the next day to check it out. Unfortunately I was too late to see the caterpillar, but with the help of the photo I managed to find the chrysalis. I took photographs of this as well as the chrysalis of the Small Tortoiseshell, which had by now hardened and was reflecting beautiful mother-of-pearl colours.

My apologies, the author's name is not known to me. Ed

OwnaSquare

My apologies but there simply wasn't sufficient space to include an explanation of the colour codes used on the OwnaSquare map—see page 21. Ed.

	Transects
	WCBMS
	BC walk
	Owned Square

Plant for Butterflies—4th April 2011

This year sees an exciting new initiative to help butterflies, as well as the return of the Big Butterfly Count—the biggest ever nationwide count of butterflies and day-flying moths, carried out by members of the public to assess the health of our environment.



*Small tortoiseshell on a Buddleia—
photo courtesy of Philip Hambly*

The charity Butterfly Conservation, in partnership with Marks & Spencer, is launching the national Planting for Butterflies campaign on 4th April, to encourage people to plant butterfly-friendly plants in their gardens on the run-up to the Big Butterfly Count.

The top five nectar plants Butterfly Conservation recommends are: Buddleia, Verbena bonariensis, the perennial wallflower 'Bowles Mauve', Lavender and Marjoram (Oregano). For more information about butterfly friendly gardening, visit www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk.

Do your bit for butterflies by planting these plants in April and enjoy taking part in the count from 16th–31st July 2011.

There was a fantastic response to the first ever Big Butterfly Count last year, with a staggering 187,000 individual sightings that winged their way across the internet from all over the country. Over 10,000 people carried out more than 15,000 counts during last year's event. We hope to make this year's count even bigger! The count was designed to give scientist an overall indication of the state of the nation's butterfly population, particularly in gardens and urban areas.

As well as being beautiful visitors to our gardens, butterflies are valuable indicators of the environment. The Big Butterfly

Count is helping to build a picture of the changes taking place in our towns, cities and countryside.

The survey will be run by Butterfly Conservation, in association with Marks & Spencer as part of the Plan A commitments to encourage sustainable agriculture and help to protect the environment. Celebrities including Sir David Attenborough, Alan Titchmarsh MBE and Mike Dilger have given their enthusiastic backing.

Press Release issued by Butterfly Conservation.

Butterfly Plants

Of all the plants that butterflies feed on, there is one that is so favoured that it has earned the title of 'The Butterfly Bush' – it is of course Buddleia. It is a shrub that comes in many varieties and should be available from all good garden centres. However, different species of butterfly have their own favourites when finding nectar – here are just some of the butterflies that you may find in your garden and the plants they like :

Large White	Lavender, Runner Bean, Lobelia, Aubretia, Honesty, Michaelmas Daisy, Field Scabious, Marjoram, Catmint, Phlox, Purple Loosestrife, Wallflower, Verbena, Nasturtium
Small White	Lavender, Aubretia, Marjoram, Red Valerian, Honesty, Hebe, Michaelmas Daisy, Runner Bean, Ice Plant, Forget-me-not, Bramble, Senecio, Honeysuckle
Small Tortoiseshell	Ice plant, Michaelmas Daisy, Aubretia, Lavender, Red Valerian, Field Scabious, Hebe, Marjoram, Candytuft, Lobelia, Mint, Hemp Agrimony, Common Fleabane, Wallflower, Verbena, Alyssum
Red Admiral	Ice plant, Michaelmas Daisy, Red Valerian, Ivy, Hemp Agrimony, Bramble, Field Scabious, Aster, Lavender, Privet, Marjoram, Honeysuckle, Hydrangea
Peacock	Ice plant, Michaelmas Daisy, Aubretia, Hebe, Red Valerian, Hemp Agrimony, Field Scabious, French Marigold, Dandelion, Grape Hyacinth, Wallflower, Verbena
Orange Tip	Honesty, Aubretia, Forget-me-not, Sweet Rocket
Holly Blue	Bramble, Forget-me-not, Hebe, Ivy, Marjoram, Escalonia
Brimstone	Runner Bean, Phlox, Primrose, Aubretia, Honesty, Red Valerian, Wallflower, Michaelmas Daisy, Cranesbill, Hyacinth
Green-veined White	Lavender, Aubretia, Marjoram, Honesty, Field Scabious, Forget-me-not, Sweet Rocket, Lobelia, Red Valerian, Candytuft, Dandelion
Common Blue	Marjoram, Lavender, Birds-foot-trefoil, Mint, Clover, Common Fleabane, French Marigold, Field Scabious, Ice Plant, Knapweed, Thyme, Hemp Agrimony

List compiled by **Jo Poland**, see also:
www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Transects and Squares in 2010

Let us look at the transect results in 2010—see opposite.

There are nineteen on the list including eight new ones, although four transects are still outstanding. The biggest number of species was seen at Upton Towans, the only butterflies of the regularly seen 36 Cornish species not covered were the Grizzled Skipper and the Marsh Fritillary but ... Keith Wilson at Trelusback farm had some caterpillar webs in late summer.. next year Keith? Five butterflies were present on all 15 of the transects: Small White, Peacock, Red Admiral, Common Blue and Speckled Wood; seven were present on 13 or 14, three species on 12 and two on 11. So 15 species were reasonably widespread. Fifteen were present on five or less. The other four were recorded on around half of the walks. We have been promised at least three new transects in 2011 which is wonderful. Butterfly Conservation both nationally and locally would like to thank all the walkers for their efforts. If you would like to join in then please contact Jim Barker the local transect man.

We will be holding a morning walk along the Steeple Woods transect near St Ives on 9th July, recording as we go, then putting our records onto the computer and looking at previous records and what the system can tell us about trends in butterfly populations in Cornwall. *For more details see p.31.*

How about the Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme? I really don't seem to be getting much response with this although we did have some 1km squares walked. **PLEASE** can somebody else

take it on? The idea sounds good, a random selection of one kilometre squares to be walked once in July and once in August but apart from a few squares walkers have found it difficult to find a reasonable route and in one case the farmer wasn't very happy. Richard Clegg is very happy with his square in Penwith and we hope he might write an article for us about the development of the route and what he has seen.

Finally we have a new 2011 census called OwnaSquare which absolutely EVERYBODY who lives in Cornwall can take part in, BC members or not. *More about this scheme on page 20.*

Jim Barker
Transect Co-ordinator

Place Codes—see table opposite

C	Bodmin Beacon LNR—SX0666
D	Butterfly Lane (St Ives)— SW518378
E	Cubert—SW785599
F	Dodman—SX000394
G	De Lank quarry—SX103753
H	Drakewells Mine—SX424706
I	Gaverigan—SW937535
J	Greenscombe Wood—Ridge SX395725
K	Porthgwarra—SW364224
L	Gwithian Common (Green)— SW587413
M	Luckett G'scombe Trust— SX391726
N	Steeple Woods—SW518388
O	Trelusback farm—SW7035
P	Upton Towans—SW579396
Q	Watch House Field & Penlee Battery —SX435492

Cornwall		Butterfly Transects 2010															
		Rank															Sites
<u>Name</u>			C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Small White	1=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Common Blue	1=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Red Admiral	1=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Peacock	1=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Speckled wood	1=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Large White	6=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	14
Meadow Brown	6=	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	14
Green veined White	8=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	13
Small Copper	8=	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	13
Small Tortoise-shell	8=	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		13
Comma	8=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	13
Ringlet	8=	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
Large Skipper	13=	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	12
Orange-tip	13=		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	12
Gatekeeper	13=	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		12
Painted Lady	16=	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Wall	16=	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	10
Small Skipper	18			✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Small Heath	19			✓	✓		✓			✓					✓	✓	6
Holly Blue	20=	✓								✓			✓		✓	✓	5
Dark Green Fritillary	20=			✓			✓					✓		✓		✓	5
Brimstone	22=							✓	✓				✓		✓		4
Green Hair-streak	22=					✓					✓		✓	✓			4
Silver studded Blue	22=			✓							✓	✓				✓	4
Grayling	22=									✓	✓			✓		✓	4
Brown Argus	26=			✓								✓				✓	3
Clouded Yellow	26=				✓		✓										2
Small pearl Fritillary	26=										✓					✓	2
Silver washed Fritillary	26=								✓				✓				2
Heath Fritillary	26=									✓			✓				2
Marbled white	26=									✓							2
Dingy Skipper	32=								✓								1
Purple Hair-streak	32=													✓			1
Pearl Fritillary	32=					✓											1

OwnaSquare; a spot of O and R

An undercover reporter has recorded this conversation for the magazine; somewhere in Cornwall:

"So what's all this about Oh & Aah and making Cornwall blush Jim, another night spot you've found for us?" "Two of the most exciting things that a pair of enthusiasts can get up to – butterfly enthusiasts that is. It's O for observation and R for recording by the way."

"Does Frances know about this?" "She is very good at it."

"How do I get involved?" "You can download a report form from the website or I can post you one. It has a list of the commonly seen species in Cornwall and you tick them off one by one, when you see them in your selected square."

"What sort of square?" "It's a 10 kilometre square of Cornwall as marked on the OS maps; mine is SW4040, just west of St Ives."

"Isn't that just a 1km square?" "Yes it could be but since the only lines marked are in tens I thought it might confuse people if we called it SW44."

"Do I record my home square?" "Yes please, or a square that you are prepared to visit a few times in the year; mine is next to where I live and is a good regular dog walk on the coastal footpath."

"Do I have to record every butterfly I see?" "No you don't, just the first of each species."

"So if I see a butterfly not on the list?" "Ring a committee member and make

sure that they are sat down! Some of us are not as young as we were and still get quite excited about rare species."

"A real Oh and Aah moment then? Why haven't I got a list of moths?" "Do you know how many species of moths appear in Cornwall? You don't have to record moths but day flying ones are often visible so why not record them?"

"Oi, somebody has pinched my square!" "We can have as many recorders as we like in each square, many eyeballs make for better observation."

"This isn't making me blush." "If you look at the map on the website you will see some squares marked in purple, different shades of green, light orange and some marked in rose pink – those rose squares are the ones that have been claimed. If all the squares are covered then Cornwall will blush rose. As claims come in we will update the map on the website."

"So what is the purpose of all this recording?" "As a census of Cornish species to compare with those in the Butterfly Atlas, prepared ten years ago."

"Right I've got my list thank you, now let us get off to the night spot." "Sorry I am off to check the mothtrap."

We have managed to get Jim Barker to admit to being one of the conversation-
alists but he won't reveal the identity of the other one for money or under threats. (Frances suggests tickling him!)

Jim Barker
Transect Co-ordinator

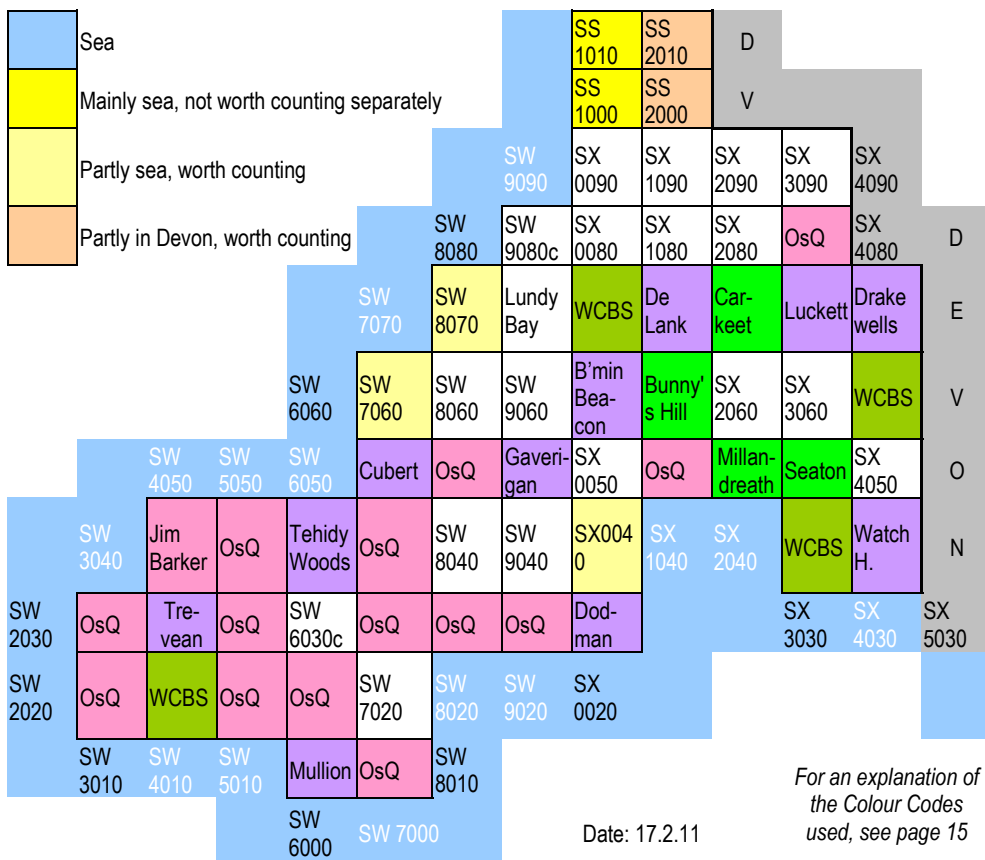
OwnaSquare—Instructions

Instructions:

- Download the report from the website or ask Jim Barker for one.
- Pick any square you live in or a square that you visit at least a few times a year
- You may pick more than one! We want to turn the whole of Cornwall rose pink
- You may share a square, many eyeballs are better than one
- Let Jim Barker know which square or squares you will be recording
- Tell us whether you mind your name going on the website map
- Tick off the species as you first see them
- Add any moths that you can identify
- If you see any unlisted butterflies ring a committee member !! Please!!

Return the form to Jim by 30th September 2011 if possible please. We will only add your name to the website with your specific permission.

We are doing this census of species, to compare their distributions with those in the Cornwall Butterfly Atlas, which was prepared soon after the millennium.



Date: 17.2.11

CBC Field Trip Reports and Moth Group Meetings

Cotehele House—24th April 2010

On a personal note, the season 'kicked off' with an interesting moth evening at Cotehele House as part of their 'Full Bloom' festivities organised by the National Trust's 'Conserving and Restoring Traditional Orchard, England Project' ably organised by Kate Merry. The weather on the 24th April was reasonably dry and had been over that past week but was set to turn cloudy and damp that evening—perfect for moths! Only a few people turned up but we had several moth traps, one placed within, and the other near to Cotehele's ample orchards. 19 species came to the mercury vapour lamps—not a great deal but that has been the trend over the past few years as moth numbers decline. The best moth of the evening was the Scorched Carpet which is reasonably well distributed over the southern half of Britain but rather local northwards. However, the moth, contrary to most trends, is increasing in some of its haunts in the northern counties such as Yorkshire and Cumbria.

After two hours of 'moth-ing' the proceedings were brought to a swift halt by the sudden outburst of heavy rain which threatened to damage the electrical ballast for the lamps and short-out the lamp-holders, despite their rain shields!

Bunny's Hill—15th May 2010

The first CBC field trip of the year I attended took place at Bunny's Hill, Near Bodmin and is fully reported in our

Spring Edition of the Butterfly Observer.

After the Bunny's Hill trip I was off to Trelissick Gardens for National Moth Night. A number of us from the Cornwall Moth Group met with members of the Cornwall Bat Group for a combined event. As you probably know bats and moths don't go well together so it was interesting to observe the reactions of our Cornish bat fraternity as they



Although the Silver Hook has often been photographed over the years in the Butterfly Observer, it is interesting to mention that this particular specimen, due to the weather, was particularly easy to photograph. In sunshine the moth never seems to sit still for long and is easily disturbed, flitting from one grass stem to another, also, due to its contrasting wing pattern, the moth often comes out 'over exposed' owing to the camera 'metering' the light levels of the darker areas of the wing as opposed to the much lighter silvery edges. This difficulty was easily overcome as this photograph proves. Photo: © P.H. Boggis.

CBC Field Trip Reports and Moth Group Meetings

watched, fascinated at the bats swooping in on our light traps in a feeding frenzy. Later in the evening the bats thankfully, seemed to have had their fill and scooted off to their roosts. Meanwhile, back at the traps, no more moth wings, minus a body, were seen floating down upon our heads like sycamore seeds twirling in the wind. Again, numbers were well down on previous years, partly due, this time to the unfavourable weather (unfavourable for moths that is). Although there was a new moon—good for ‘moth-ing’, the weather was clear and cold with temperatures down to 8°C. (46° F.)—rather cold for moths and us!

Brenay Common—Saturday 29th May 2010

Speaking personally, the entry in my note book for this event sums up this season generally—‘weather cloudy’.

However, as is my habit, looking in the newspaper for the daily weather forecast, I noticed that throughout June and especially July, the South East had reasonably warm, even hot sunny days contrasted with our damp and wet ones—a disappointment.

Firstly, I must again apologise for not making it clear that we will aim to meet outside the reserve in future—in the car park opposite

the small chapel. This is because it is difficult to negotiate the very rough bumpy track that leads to the parking area within the reserve.

Owing to the inclement weather, few species were seen but included the following moths: *Bactra lancealana*, Silver-ground Carpet, *Cydia ulicetana* (commonly known as the ‘Gorse Moth’), Silver Hook, Common Heath, Speckled Yellow, Common Wave, Clouded Silver, Lead Belle and *Microp-terix calthella*. Only 3 butterfly species were seen namely; Common Blue, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Small Heath. Although it was disappointing not to see any Marsh Fritillaries, many were seen during the sunshine of the previous week.

My thanks to all those who turned up, despite the weather, some travelling from afar. Perhaps next year will bring sunnier skies.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This fresh specimen was spotted in the inner car park during a brighter spell and was easy to photograph. Photo: © P.H. Boggis.

CBC Field Trip Reports and Moth Group Meetings

Carkeet (River Vale Farm), Bodmin Moor— Saturday 5th June 2010

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, Paul Brewer very kindly volunteered, at short notice, to lead us. We all parked along the farm track and made our way to the fields where we were expecting to see the Marsh Fritillary on this, an exceptionally well managed site for this species. The owner, however didn't bank on so many cars parked along his track. He was expecting a delivery of farm machinery and the delivery vehicle would not be able to get past our cars! We were all very good humoured about having to walk back



Small Yellow Underwing, Carkeet, 5th June 2010. Photo: © P. H. Boggis. As mentioned in the text, perhaps the Small Yellow Underwing should be more aptly named, Least Yellow Underwing as it is the smallest of the underwing moths. It has a wingspan of only 20mm and flies actively in bright sunshine. It is a pretty moth and a better sense of its beautiful hind-wing can be seen at: <http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?id=3035>



Marsh Fritillaries in cop, Carkeet, Bodmin Moor, 5th June 2010. Again a rather disappointing day as far as the weather was concerned – bright at times, cloudy at others but this enabled us to get some really good photos of this pair! Photo: © P.H. Boggis.

and move them despite Paul's understandable consternation. Thank you Paul for leading us and our host for allowing us onto this marvellous site.

Paddy Saunders and I noticed a good number of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries in the fields bordering our approach to the farm, this was a good sign for what was to come with well over 15 Marsh Fritillaries seen by me alone apart from those seen by other members of the group.

Among the species observed were: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Skipper, Green-veined White. Moths seen

CBC Field Trip Reports and Moth Group Meetings

were: *Bactra lancealana*, Lead Belle, *Micropterix calthella*, Silver Y, Rush Veneer (a migrant), *Glyphipterix thrasonella*, Cinnabar, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Brown Silver-line, and Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*, Scop.). This species should not be confused with the less aptly named Least Yellow Underwing which is larger but its name does not imply this!

Finally, Keith Wilson and Paul Brown-ing managed to weave their way through the holiday traffic to arrive rather belatedly as we were heading slowly back. It was good of them to make the effort and travel so far. Along the way, another photo shoot of the Silver Hook took place before we all climbed into our cars for the journey home with me missing my glasses—blind as a bat without them for driving. Paddy Saunders managed to retrieve them from the dusty track after being run over by several cars with only the tip of one arm broken!—Thanks Paddy for finding them; I was becoming desperate at the thought of losing them.

Report by Phil Boggis
CBC Moth Officer



Glyphipterix thrasonella. Carkeet, 5th June 2010. Photo: © P. H. Boggis. This moth is perhaps, in its season and habitat, one of the most common moths with many thousands rising, when disturbed, from the *juncus* sp. (the probable foodplant of the caterpillar). It is a moth of surprising variation, sometimes, when catching the light, a beautiful brassy colour, at others dull and uninspiring.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation

Members' Open Day

Saturday, 6th August 2011, 11am
at

Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth

See page 32 for more details

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

The following schedule was compiled by myself with the assistance of certain very helpful individuals who are willing to lead a field trip or two for this coming season. This is my 19th successive year compiling the Butterfly and Moth events and the current trend seems to be continuing of more people attending and more interest in general in Cornwall's Butterflies and Moths. They are always free to attend and all it costs is whatever petrol it takes to get to and from a particular event.

Please keep attending as there's always much of beauty to be seen on each trip. Thank you very much to those that took the trouble to volunteer or agree to help when I asked. This includes most of our hardworking committee who have contacted me to volunteer to lead an event! They also give up their spare time to do what they can for Cornwall's Butterflies and Moths. Thank you to Paul Brewer and Gillian Thompson for their efforts in publishing this field trips list in 'The Butterfly Observer'.

I have finally got a great selection of meetings throughout Cornwall covering many different and rare species of Butterflies and Moths. Please make an effort to attend at least one or more of these and feel free to spread the word to whoever may be interested in any of these trips.

If you have any comments about any of these then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lee Slaughter
Field Trip Organiser since 1993

**Friday 22nd
April 2011, 8:15
pm—Cadson-
bury, East
Cornwall.
Moth evening
arranged by
Cornwall Moth
Group to
search for
Marbled Pug
and Orange
Upperwings.**

The Orange Upperwing is perhaps our rarest moth and its status is still uncertain. It has only occurred from time to time very sporadically



Grayling—courtesy of the BC website

across southern England in the last 20 years. The moth hibernates as an adult. The Marbled Pug is a Notable B species found only in East Cornwall. Both species inhabit mature

oak woods.

Leader—Phil Boggis

Meet at SX345674. Follow the A390 to

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

Cadsonbury. Just before the bridge over the River Lynher, take the C class road on the right (coming from West Cornwall). Follow the road for about half a mile. Parking is on the left by the river. For full details phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 30th April 2011, 10:30am— Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary, Mil- lendreath, nr Looe

This is a special early visit to the Millendreath to Seaton coastal footpath to search for Britain's earliest flying Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies which will take in some brilliant scenery looking out to sea on this excellent habitat for this rare species. Yes! You can see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary in

April in Cornwall given reasonable weather! This unique habitat, some of which is an ancient landslip, provides the ideal microclimate needed for this species to be on the wing up to 3 weeks earlier than elsewhere in Cornwall so don't miss this opportunity to see this for yourselves. Walking boots are a must due to steep terrain and bring food and drink too! Access is through strictly private land at Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary which will be closed so all attending should be ready to be guided through to the cliff path by the leader at 10:30am from the Monkey Sanctuary car park. Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Green-Veined White, Small Copper,

Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possible Dingy Skipper will hopefully be seen today.

Leader—Paddy Saunders

Meet at map ref—SX285546 in Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary Car Park. For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

Saturday 14th May 2011, 2:00pm— Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin

Moor

Bunny's Hill is an easily accessible site and is one of the best places in Cornwall to see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly at close quarters. Please do bring your camera as photography is comparatively easy at this locality. Brim-



Male Orange Tip on a cuckoo flower

stones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possible Dingy Skipper. There is plenty of easy parking available.

Leader—Lee Slaughter

Meet at map ref—SX117675 at fork in road, with further parking 50 yards up track. For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Saturday 21st May 2011, 2:00pm— Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Bre- ward

This site still holds one of Cornwall's finest colonies of the nationally threatened Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly which can be seen over a wide area of well managed bracken covered hillside.

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in places. Orange Tip and Brimstone should also still be on the wing.

Leader—Lee Slaughter

Meet at SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge. For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Sunday 22nd May 2011, 11:00am— The Dodman Headland

We are most grateful to Paul Brewer for offering to guide us around this fascinating headland on the south coast of Cornwall. We will be hoping for good numbers of Wall Browns which are becoming scarce even here in Cornwall although 25 were seen here on a single day in May 2010. Small Copper, Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Green-Veined White and Orange Tip should be seen today. We will also keep a keen lookout for Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries which have been recorded from The Dodman historically. This area of coast could also produce a few surprises and it will be interesting what discoveries could be made by eagle-eyed members. Walking boots, waterproof (if weather changeable), sun cream, packed lunch and drink all essential.

Leader—Paul Brewer

Meet at SW999405, in National Trust car park near Penare Farm. For details and directions phone Paul Brewer on 07990 881052.

Saturday 28th May 2011, 1:00pm— Rinsey Head to Trewavas Head West of Helston

Rinsey Head to Trewavas Head return walk on the coastal path to look for Green Hairstreaks, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries, Small Heath, Wall Browns and other spring flying species. Walking boots, drink and sun cream essential.

Leader—Paul Browning

Meet at 1:00pm at SW592271 in N.T. car park at Rinsey Head. Phone Paul in morning if you are unsure about weather and/or travelling long distance. For details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Saturday 4th June 2011, 1:00pm— Brenay Common, nr. Lanlivery

Our annual visit to probably Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colony. Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak and always a few interesting moths too! Photography is almost always easy here so do bring your camera and walking boots.

Leader—Phil Boggis

Meet at SX053611, small roadside car park near Gunwen Chapel or Brenay Common main car park (up bumpy CWT reserve track through gate). For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 5th June 2011, 11:00am— Chapel Porth, nr. St Agnes

A new locality for our fieldtrips. During the 1970's and 80's the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary could be seen flying in good numbers over the hillsides between Chapel Porth and St Agnes but the butterfly has not been seen in recently by anyone who's searched for it.

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

We hope to rediscover it here today and hope that it had just been overlooked in recent years. Good numbers of Green Hairstreaks should also be noted too as this used to be a good locality for it. Walking boots, drink and sun cream essential.

Leader—Phil Harris

Meet at SW697495, in N.T. beach car park. For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Saturday 18th June 2011, 2:00pm—Perran Sands and Penhale Sands, nr. Perranporth

A Mid-summer ramble over Britain's highest sand dunes complex to see large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-Studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skippers, Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger Moth and Humming Bird Hawk-Moth. This event always turns up unexpected surprises in moths or butterflies. Please bring a drink, a sun hat, sun protection and good walking boots.

Leaders—Lee Slaughter and Phil Boggis

Meet at SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose. For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505 or Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 19th June 2011, 11:00am—Greenscoombe Woods, Luccombe. Organised jointly with mid-Tamar Cornwall Wildlife Trust group.

One of Britain's rarest butterflies, the Heath Fritillary, still exists in Cornwall in the specially managed habitat, at its original main Cornish colony at Green-

scoombe Woods, Luccombe after it became extinct there after 2002. After its re-introduction to parts of the woodlands in the summer of 2006 it has become re-established and re-colonised its former habitat which has been much improved by clearance and management work. We are grateful to local recorder and expert on this species, Richard Vulliamy who will lead us around showing us the best areas to observe them. The butterfly is breeding well now at Greenscoombe Woods and it is always a joy for enthusiasts from Cornwall and often much further afield to visit these woods to marvel at the many Heath Fritillary butterflies that would be seen throughout June every year. Bring a drink and your camera.

Leader—Richard Vulliamy

Meet at SX389737 in Luccombe Village car park. For details and directions phone Richard on 01579 370411.

Friday 24th June 2011, 9:30pm—Pontsmill, nr. Penpillick Hill, St. Blazey, Par. Mid-summer Moths at Pontsmill.

Organised by the Friends of Luxulyan Valley. All CMG and Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members are welcome at this meeting.

A moth evening of recording together with The Friends of Luxulyan Valley and Cornwall Moth Group. This event will begin at dusk and you should bring Wellies and a torch. Plenty of parking is available in the main Pontsmill car park. Past moth events here have recorded over 125 different species of moth for one night's recording! It will finish at Midnight or later but you can leave before if you want.

Leader—Phil Boggis

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

Meet at SX073561 in the car park at the end of the single track road. For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 25th June 2011, 11:00am—Poldice, St Day

A new locality for our fieldtrips. Today we will be searching Heathland on old mining landscape at St Day for newly emerged Silver-Studded Blues of the 'heathland' type. These are special for Cornwall as most counties have lost their colonies of this species. Grayling and other summer species such as Large Skipper and Ringlet should be seen too. Walking boots, drink and sun cream essential.

Leader—Phil Harris

Meet at SW737426, in lay-by at Poldice. For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Friday 1st July 2011, 9:30pm—Watergate, West Looe Valley, Looe Join Cornwall Moth Group for a Mid-summer Mothing for the Scarce Merveille Du Jour Moth.

The sedentary Scarce Merveille De Jour moth has almost certainly continuously bred in the West Looe Valley since shortly after the last Ice Age! It is proposed to re-visit a site a few miles up the West Looe valley from Kilminorth woods at Watergate where there is a distinct possibility that the moth may still be lurking. There are some mature oaks near to the water's edge on the footpath leading south. The moth light will be on from dusk until late but meet at 9:30pm. Bring a torch.

Leader—Phil Boggis

Meet at SX234545. Plenty of parking up the lane from the West Looe River's grassy floodplain. For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 2nd July 2011, 11:00am—Upton Towans, nr. Hayle

A delightful walk through the extensive coastal dunes between Gwithian and Hayle at Upton Towans. We expect to see an abundance of newly emerged Dark Green Fritillaries and the last of the season's Silver-Studded Blues as well as the more common summer flying species of butterflies and moths.

The 2nd brood of Small Heaths should now be in evidence and we would like everyone to look out for the Brown Argus and Grayling which recently have all but disappeared from this area. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, and good walking boots or rainwear if weather is unsettled.

Leaders—Dick and Maggie Goodere

Meet at SW579398 at entrance by gate to CWT area. For full details and directions phone Dick or Maggie Goodere on 01736 753077.

Friday 8th July 2011, 9:30pm for 10:00pm—Trelissick Gardens, nr. Feock, south of Truro. Organised by Cornwall Moth Group.

Our host, the Head Gardener at Trelissick, has warmly welcomed us to the gardens over a number of years and another visit has been arranged. A large colony of the Nationally Scarce A moth, the Four-spotted Footman resides there and some are of the opinion it may be one of the largest colonies in the West Country. Bring a torch.

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

Leader—Phil Boggis

Meet at SW837396 at Trelissick Gardens lower car park at (by the walled gardens). For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 9th July 2011, 10:00am— Steeple Woods, St Ives

A morning walk on this transect accompanied by some volunteers from the Steeple Woodland Trust to explain the project on this site. We will do a butterfly count and then proceed to St John's Church Hall to enter our results on Transect Walker also looking at results and trends from other transects. This morning walk will be ideal for anyone thinking of setting up their own transect. Hot drinks will be available at the hall.

Leader—Jim Barker

Meet by the stile in Steeple Lane, there is a lay-by here. To get to Steeple Lane follow the main road to St Ives (turn right through Lelant, DO NOT follow the holiday route). Having driven through Carbis Bay turn left at The Cornish Arms and immediately left again and follow Steeple Lane (narrow road) for approximately half a mile until you come to a right hand bend on a steep hill. The stile is on the left as you round the bend. St John's Church is at Upper Stennack, St Ives; the entrance lane is just to the west of the Fire Station. The hall and car park is behind the church. Grid References: SW516388 for the Woods and SW504398 for the church hall. For full directions and information phone Jim Barker Tel: 01736 794134.

Saturday 9th July 2011, 1:00pm— Delabole Quarry, Delabole, Nr. Camelford

This is an excellent site for our field-trips and we are grateful to Malcolm Lee for leading this for our group. Previous visits made here by several Cornwall branch members have produced many sightings of Marbled Whites and Graylings which are not often seen on our field meetings. Graylings are not often found inland in Cornwall and the discovery of good numbers at this location is good news for the species in our county where it is now mainly restricted to parts of the coast. Good walking boots essential.

Leader—Malcolm Lee

Meet at SX074836 in Delabole Quarry Car Park by visitor centre. For details and directions phone Malcolm Lee on 01208 880106.

Saturday 16th July 2011, 2:00pm— Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Breward

This site has a good colony of Purple Hairstreaks on its low growing Oak trees and there will hopefully be a good chance to photograph this 'hard to photo' species. Silver Washed Fritillary will be on the wing and Dark Green Fritillary and other summer flying species should be spotted. Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in place as well as long trousers due to tall bracken on the slopes.

Leader—Phil Harris

Meet at SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge. For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

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Sunday 17th July 2011, 1:00pm— Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bod- min (C.W.T.Reserve)

We look forward to seeing many beautiful Silver-Washed Fritillary butterflies in this well managed woodland (at least 35 were seen on our 2010 trip!) together with the bright summer form '*hutchinsoni*' of the Comma butterfly with plenty of Ringlets, Gatekeepers, new brood Brimstones and Summer brood Holly Blues. There is always various day flying moths to be seen in this wood so there may be new discoveries awaiting us.

Leader—Dave Conway

Meet at map ref – SX128653 by saw-mill. For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Saturday 30th July 2011, 12:00 noon– 1:30 pm—'Tropic Days Butterfly House' at entrance to Porfell Animal Land, Lanreath

This is a 'free to enter' establishment that hatches and displays tropical butterflies. Donations appreciated. This is an optional visit. Map reference: SX173594.

Hosted by Jerry Smale.

After visiting Tropic Days proceed to Lethytp (which is just 5 minutes drive away).

**Saturday 30th July 2.00pm on—
'Lethytp', Penadlake, Lanreath**
Philip and Faith Hambly invite all Members and friends to view their Wildlife area where there will be a covered area to eat lunch. Hot drinks and toilet will be available. At 2:00pm there will be a welcome from Philip (a CBC Committee Member) who will inform visitors

about the Wildlife area with its walks and lakes. It is to be hoped that Purple Hairstreak Butterflies will be flying plus many other species. Hopefully CBC will also have displays on show and literature for sale etc. We are attempting to arrange an 'up close' facility for photographing the Hairstreaks. If the weather is poor on the Saturday the visit will be duplicated on the next day, Sunday 31st July at the same times. For more information see article in last Observer.

Hosted by Philip and Faith Hambly

To get to Porfell (SX175588) turn south just before or just after Middle Tap-house on the A390 Liskeard – Lost-withiel road. Look out for the brown sign to Animal Land and follow this. For full details phone Philip Hambly on 01503 220385.

Saturday 6th August 2011, 11:00am—Trelusback Farm, Pen- halvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Members 'Open Day'.

A great locality, which contains wild-flower meadows, woodland, wetland and a lake. If the weather permits, visitors can expect to see a wide variety of butterflies, moths, birds and, dragonflies. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation is very indebted to Keith Wilson, our host, for hosting this event, who also keeps rare breed poultry at the farm. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members. If you can, bring a guest or two and introduce them to the delights and wonders of butterfly and wildlife conservation! Our branch members have assisted with conservation work and habitat restoration work this

Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2011

winter to return some of the land to suitable breeding habitat for a range of species and to attract nectaring species too!

A barn will be available for chatting, eating, coffee etc. A BBQ will hopefully be running as well if the weather is good and a projector which will be used if the weather is not so kind on the day together with an illustrated talk by Paul Browning if we are confined indoors because of rain. Please bring a packed lunch plus a cake or something sweet to share with other members and our guests. New members will be made very welcome – please introduce yourself to Keith Wilson, Jo Poland or one of the other committee members. Members of the Cornwall Smallholders Group will also be present by invitation of host, Keith Wilson.

Leader—Keith Wilson

Meet at 11:00am at Trelusback Farm (shown on the OS map as 'Trelusback' at map reference SW712384), which is about half a mile 'from the western end of Stithian's lake and about halfway between Stithians and Redruth. Those with satnav will be able to use the post-code (TR16 6TQ) to get to a red 'phone box at the end of the driveway to Keith's house. Proceed down this lane and the barn we are using is about 200 yards past the sandschool and bungalow. For more detailed directions please phone Keith on 01209 860298 or if no reply 07972 376982 or phone Jo Poland on 01872 540371.

Sunday 7th August 2011, 11:00am—Gwennap Head and Porthgwarra

This locality is situated within 4 miles of Lands End, the most South-Westerly point on the English mainland and

should produce an abundance of butterflies. We should see Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice*'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. This is a new transect for 2010 and the land is being partly managed by the RSPB for the Chough. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in Porthgwarra car park where there is a cafe and toilets. Pay and display car park in operation.

Leader—Jim Barker

Meet at SW372218 in main Porthgwarra car Park. For full details and directions phone Jim Barker on 01736 794134.

Saturday 13th August 2011, 11:00am—Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard

Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for Lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice*'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park (car park fee payable to N.T.) and meet near the toilet block at the Southern end of the car park.

Leader—Phil Boggis

Meet at SW688132 in main Kynance Cove Car Park. For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

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Brimstone Butterflies

Brimstone butterflies (*Gonopteryx rhamni*) are strong flyers and frequently come into gardens to take nectar from a wide range of flowers on sunny days, as early as February and March.

They occur in most of England, but have a more patchy distribution in Wales and Ireland and are rare in Scotland where their larval food plants are less widely available. Brimstones overwinter as adults, sheltering under leaves on evergreen plants such as ivy and holly. The wings are held erect above the body; their angular margins help disguise the butterflies' appearance among foliage.

Food plants for the caterpillars are native shrubs purging buckthorn (*Rhamnus carthartica*) and alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*): the former grown mainly on chalky soils and the latter on wet acid soils. Female butterflies lay eggs under young leaves in May and June. These hatch after about 10 days into pale green caterpillars, which feed for about a month until they are 32-34mm long and seek a sheltered place to pupate. The pupa

or chrysalis, pale green and angular and resembling a small leaf, is attached to leaves or stems by a silk girdle. Inside, larvae undergo metamorphosis and adult butterflies emerge about two weeks later, in July-August.



An adult female brimstone, the male butterflies are yellow. © RHS

Brimstone butterfly facts:

- 1) The sexes of this species differ in wing colour: males are pale yellow, the colour of sulphur (or brimstone); females are pale whitish green.
- 2) Both sexes have a wing span of 42-50mm and both have a small orange spot near the centre of the fore- and hind-wings.
- 3) Adults can live many months and, because

they overwinter, it is possible to see them year-round.

4) Brimstone butterflies have a long proboscis and feed on nectar from a wide range of flowers.

5) The caterpillars shed their outer skins on four occasions as they develop and increase in size.

Andrew Halstead
RHS Principal Entomologist

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New Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths

A world-leading research project carried out by thousands of volunteers from all over the UK has shed new light on conservation issues.

The newly-published *Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths* contains up-to-date maps showing the distributions of 868 moth species, many of which have never been published before.

The maps are based on a staggering 11.3 million moth records and is the culmination of four years work by the National Moth Recording Scheme, led by Butterfly Conservation. The Atlas is available from BC at a cost of £20.

Initial findings from the huge data set include a pattern of considerable decline among some common moth species.

These species include the Lappet moth, an amazing species that looks like a leaf and has a 'snout' that resembles a leaf stalk. This creature used to be common across central and southern England but has retreated to a few strongholds. Another once widespread moth, the Stout Dart, now appears to be on the brink of extinction.

Scarcer moths have also suffered serious declines, including the Wood Tiger, Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, GoldSwift, Dew Moth, Light Feathered Rustic and Silvery Arches.



Lappet Moth

Interestingly, the new maps also show that some of Britain's moth populations are heading northwards, almost certainly as a result of climate change. Types of moth previously confined to southern parts of Britain are now being found in the north or even in Scotland. Examples include the beautiful Lime Hawk-moth & striking Red Underwing.

At the same time new moths are arriving in Britain from mainland Europe. Since the turn of the century 28 new species have been seen in the UK for the first time. These include the Beautiful Marbled, Patton's Tiger and Minsmere Crimson Underwing. Some recent arrivals have successfully colonised southern parts of Britain, such as Clancy's Rustic, Small Ranunculus and Oak Rustic.

BC Press Release

Cornwall Branch Website: www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Yahoo! Groups:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornwall-butterfly-conservation>

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