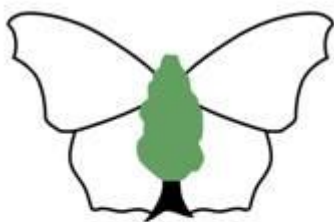
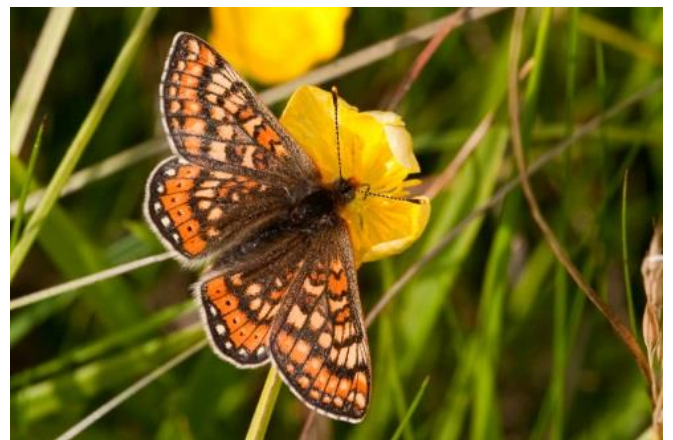
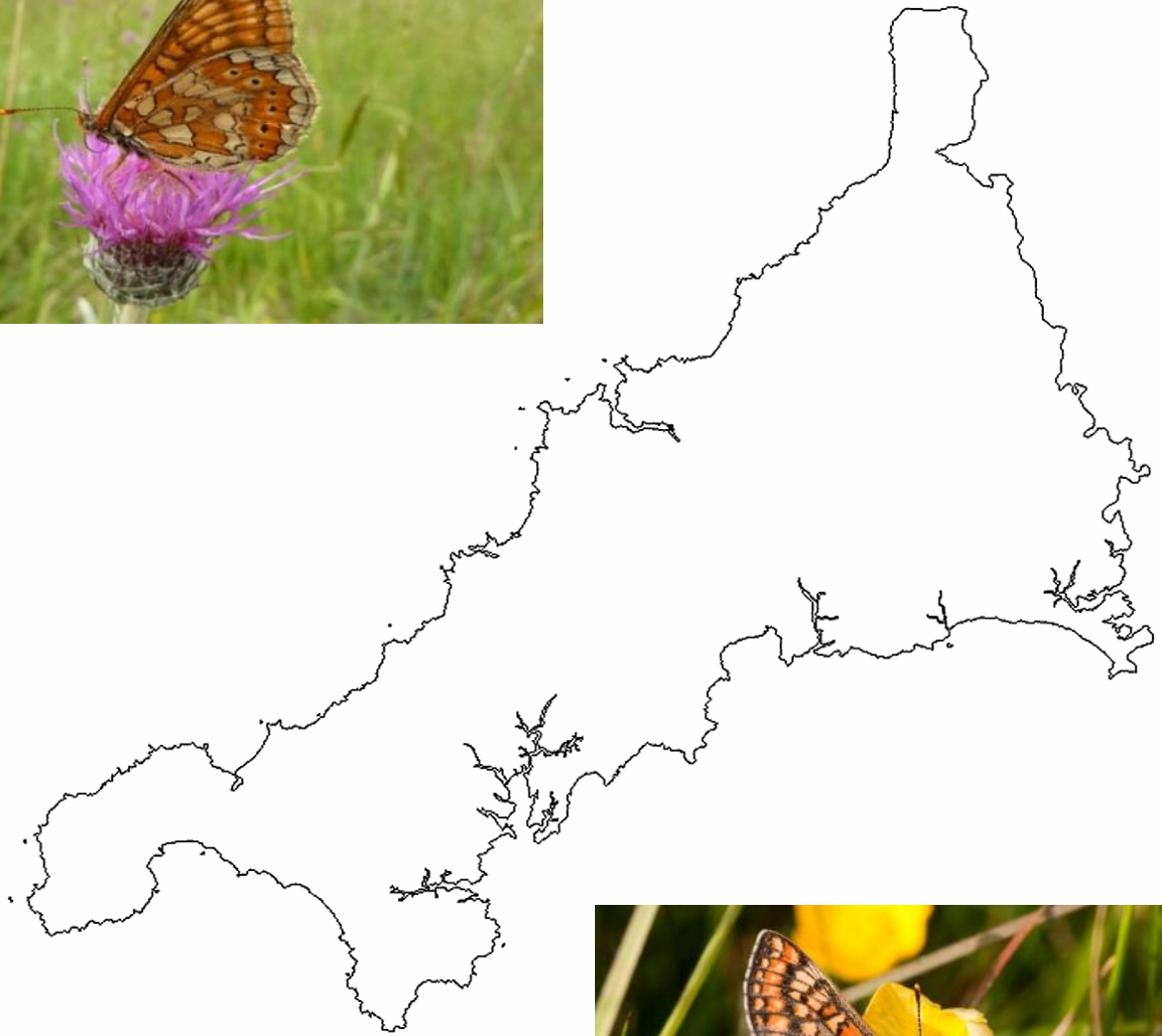


The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No.57



Butterfly
Conservation

Winter 2015



Silver-Studded Blue - by Peter Eeles



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary – by Neil Hulme

The Silver-Studded Blue and the Small Pearl–bordered Fritillary Butterflies are two of Cornwall's rarest butterflies we hope to see on our field visits in 2015.

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Chairman's Message

Hello all,

I hope that you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year break. As we start the month of February the days are lengthening, and we can all anticipate the beginning of the Butterfly season! 2014 was certainly another excellent year for butterflies, and wildlife in general. Many species continued flying into November, and some were seen at the beginning of December.

We were all saddened to hear of Steve Bassett's untimely passing in early December. There is a tribute from Adrian Spalding within this newsletter on behalf of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. We will miss him both personally and for his Lepidoptera knowledge and enthusiasm.

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held at St. Erme Community Centre on Saturday March 7th. Although an AGM may be seen as "stuffy" and time-consuming, nothing could be further from the truth with CBC's AGM!! The "formal" part normally takes less than half an hour, and of course is a legal requirement for all charities. So please do not be put off by the terminology!! The majority of our day is occupied by our quality wildlife speakers - about an hour each - and I promise you will be well entertained by their talks and photographs/slides.

Between times we will be chatting with like-minded people and making new acquaintances...oh yes, and drinking tea or coffee, eating pasties, cakes and other delights! Facilities at St.Erme are really excellent, with a spacious hall supported by a microphone and speaker system so that you will not miss a word of our speakers' commentaries, and posh toilets, great kitchen and a bar! All this in a very recently constructed building close to Truro, and for just a fiver each! Please come along and support Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and all the volunteers who are putting in so much effort to make the day successful.

Also enclosed in this Newsletter are details of our Field Trips for 2015. Some new sites, some old favourites, but all well worth visiting to see what Cornwall has to offer.

One of these fieldtrips is to my home and conservation area covering over 50 acres, and all devoted to flora and fauna. We are at Lanreath, nr. Looe, and access is easy with lots of parking. It will be a very informal gathering, with a marquee and toilet, lots of food and a guided tour of the site. This is an open invitation to all members and friends so please come along! – particularly those members who have recently joined CBC. The tour is easy going on a level site.

Sadly, our Branch Secretary finds she needs to step down following our AGM due to extra work commitments within her business. We usually have 4 or 5 meetings per year, which are held in the Wildlife Trust's office at Allet, just outside Truro. Is there anyone out there who would like to help us by filling this post? It is, as with all Committee positions, a voluntary office, but a very necessary and rewarding one. Please contact me, or our existing secretary Amanda, for more details. We also have space for a general Committee member.

And now - some really good news! In the last couple of years we have found it increasingly difficult to fulfil the many requests from other organisations and the general public to provide active volunteers for practical conservation fieldwork, and to represent us at various events. The Branch Committee also had many ideas for future projects of our own, working with partners such as Cornwall Wildlife Trust, for the benefit of butterflies and moths in Cornwall. It was frustrating that we were unable to undertake all of these requests due to insufficient "people power". In response to this situation, your Committee decided to invest funds to target the recruitment of specific volunteers, using a paid worker to co-ordinate and administer this as a separate project. Our very capable and enthusiastic Fundraising Officer, Jo Poland, was duly appointed as Training and Outreach Officer, and in no time at all had recruited some 40 volunteers who can be called upon to represent CBC at events! A big thank- you to all those volunteers. Feedback from partner conservation agencies has confirmed that they are eager to work with us and enjoy the reassurance that our volunteers have the necessary expertise in all things lepidoptera. Jo will give a short presentation on her work at the AGM.

I wish you all a spring and summer full of joy and butterflies!

Best Wishes
Philip Hambly



Marbled White - by Heath McDonald

The Marbled White is one of the beautiful butterflies we hope to see on our field visits.

STEVE BASSETT

By Adrian Spalding

It was a great shock to hear that Steve died in December last year (2014); he was only 54. He was a real butterfly enthusiast and a superb photographer, as shown by the fifteen photographs he contributed to our Cornwall Butterfly Atlas, including lovely photos of Dingy Skipper, White-letter Hairstreak, White Admiral, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary and perhaps most especially for me a superb photo of the Dark Green Fritillary. More recently, he moved on to photographing scenes, seas and sunsets, as well as butterflies, as shown on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/96548368@N04/page3/>

He was one of the first local BC members and joined the committee soon after it was formed. He organised our car sticker – a Marsh Fritillary over a map of Cornwall - which I think is the best Branch sticker in the country. He took over from Lee Slaughter as treasurer and membership secretary in 1996, lasting as treasurer until 2003, leaving us with a very healthy bank balance. He led many field trips – there is a nice comment in the 9th edition of the *Butterfly Observer* that “he was a little taken aback by a record attendance of 24 people at Luckett on 14th July 1996.” He was the first the person to confirm the presence of a new colony of Grizzled Skippers on Goss Moor. He went on a field trip there and a local resident told him that he thought that Grizzled Skippers occurred nearby. Steve was the only one to believe him so they walked for a couple of miles and Steve saw a Grizzled Skipper for about 3 seconds! It was the start of a concerted effort to keep Grizzled Skippers alive on Goss Moor. In 2000, he was the first one to record a butterfly (a Peacock), just 12 hours and 40 minutes into the new year! He was a keen participant in our great Pearl-bordered Fritillary survey of 1997-1998, when new colonies were found of this rare butterfly. He was one of the keenest searchers for new records to fill the maps of our Atlas with detail; without people like Steve there would have been no Atlas and probably no Branch.

He was a very popular man, remembered by all whom who knew him. There was standing room only at his funeral at Penmount Crematorium, Truro. He had a great sense of humour, as shown by the choice of music at the funeral - *Another One Bites The Dust* and *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* – which had us all smiling at the end. He was a small man, known by friends as Inch, but with a big personality and a great enthusiasm for butterflies and for life. He did a lot for the branch in the early years, and we should not forget those early members. He will be sorely missed by all those in the Branch who knew him.

AGM/CONFERENCE

We are delighted to invite you to:
Cornwall Butterfly Conservation
AGM/CONFERENCE

Theme: Not only butterflies, but also moths!
Saturday 7th March 2015, 10am to 4.30pm

St. Erme Community Centre
Castle Field, Trispen, Near Truro, TR4 9BH (Directions below)

10:00 Sign in (entry £5 includes pasty lunch, savouries, cakes, tea and coffee)

10:30 AGM (includes Transects and Recorder's reports)

The AGM business will include the reports from the Branch Chairman, Treasurer, County Butterfly Recorder and Transect Coordinator, and the election of Branch Committee members. Anyone wishing to stand for election should contact the Branch Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM.

11:30 **The value of volunteers: helping butterflies & moths in Cornwall!** A presentation from CBC Volunteers.

11:45 Comfort break

12:00 **"Butterflies of the Maritime Alps"**: another amazing creation from **John Chapple**, talented and passionate wildlife film-maker

13:15 Lunch

14:30 **"A life-time of Nothing!"** an illustrated talk from nationally renowned moth expert **Paul Waring**, that will intrigue, inspire and entertain!

16:00 Fund-raising Raffle

Paul Waring is the joint author, with Martin Townsend, of the classic book "Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland". Now on a second edition, this is the most comprehensive guide to the larger moths of Great Britain and Ireland, with superb artworks by Richard Lewington. It is arguably the most popular guide to this subject, used and valued by keen amateurs and experts alike.

Speaking for the first time in Cornwall, Paul will talk on many issues of interest to moth & butterfly recorders. He will include many of the subjects for which he is well known such as:

- survey and monitoring of conservation sites and rare species
- using moth-traps and other means for assessing the effects of site management in a selection of habitats.
- the importance of working with the immature stages, particularly caterpillars, to collect the ecological data we all need for addressing management issues

Paul will include good news stories and awe inspiring examples which he has personally experienced over more than thirty years, with examples of species and habitats occurring in Cornwall. He promises to take the moth-trappers in the audience one stage further and to create some caterpillar-hunters out of the daytime butterfly enthusiasts!

Directions to event: www.stermecommunitycentre.co.uk

**In search of Marsh Fritillary larval webs:
Butterfly Conservation volunteers group visit Bodmin Moor**

By Sally Foster

On Thursday 11th September Jo Poland led a fieldtrip to Bodmin Moor supported by Liz Cox, and I was delighted to act as 'tour guide' for the day.

Jo Poland was awarded a one year Training and Outreach contract by Butterfly Conservation in August 2014. Jo's targets are to recruit, train and support volunteers, to identify butterflies and their habitats and to follow this up with guided fieldwork. The contract aims to deliver 30 days of training, events and promotion, recruit 25-35 volunteers and also to increase the membership of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation by 25-35 people.

The project also aims to work in strong partnership with other organisations, such as Cornwall Wildlife Trust, where Liz Cox is already running the 'Wild Penwith Volunteer' group.

What an excellent idea!

The initial focus area of the butterfly contract is West Penwith, working closely with the 'Wild Penwith Volunteer' group and also other organisations such as Natural England and the National Trust. By pooling their resources, Jo and Liz have already recruited around 25 volunteers to help endangered butterflies. Although still in its infancy the project is proving very popular.

The aim of the fieldtrip to Bodmin Moor was to familiarise the group with Marsh Fritillary larval webs and use these skills to search West Penwith. At this time of the year the caterpillars are found clustered together in webs that the caterpillars spin around the larval food plant Devil's-bit Scabious. They are continually on the move seeking fresh leaves and spinning new webs. After their 3rd moult the caterpillars turn black and enter their 4th instar. Once autumn/winter is upon us

they hibernate in their winter web deeper in the vegetation. This winter hibernaculum is waterproof and can withstand being underwater. However, I have found webs on sphagnum moss mounds and I would presume they might prefer not to be submerged in water for too long!



Marsh Fritillary larval web - by B Noake

Marsh Fritillary caterpillars spin conspicuous webs that can be counted during the autumn to assess numbers.

The volunteers recruited were a knowledgeable bunch with many varied skills that added to the day and there was a good exchange of knowledge. Liz was very interested in the botany of the Moor and some sharp eyes spotted the Pale Butterwort and Round-leaved Sundew to name a couple.

The first site visited was land grazed by David Attwell and owned by Graham. David and Graham escorted us to this lovely marshy area and within half an hour all the group were finding larval webs on their own without any problems - job done! David and Graham explained the management regime and the

many problems farmers/landowners face when trying to manage their land to keep healthy populations of this lovely butterfly. This is very complex and many factors such as weather, parasitoids and predators are against even the most conscientious manager. The informal discussion with the group was invaluable and no amount of info from textbooks could give you this wonderful insight to the life cycle of the lovely Marsh Fritillary. David explained how he grazed in the winter with low numbers and extensively - less than 0.5 units/acre/year. The cattle are returned to the site in the summer for more grazing from Mid-June. The cattle, North Devons are able to wander in to the marsh which is set within an area of 20 acres of pasture. The key to this management is that David is continually assessing the situation and will take immediate action if he feels that over-grazing may occur. The difficulties of Red Water fever were also explained to the group. One of the many predators that attack the caterpillars was seen throughout the site. This has been identified as Spiked Shieldbug *Picromerus bidens*. Fortunately no signs of cocoons of the parasitoid, *Cotesia bignellii*, which attacks the caterpillars at all stages of their development. This is thought to cause populations to crash in years when numbers of this parasitoid are high.

At our 2nd site, we had a quick look at an adjacent marshy area on Common Land that at first looked like it lacked the key ingredient – Devil's bit Scabious. However, it was soon obvious that this area suffers from overgrazing by horses and sheep. After our visit David searched another marsh bordering Graham's marsh and subsequently found webs. This is a new area to CBC and David is following up this information with the owner.

Our last site was Pendrift Downs. Thanks to Julian who made sure we stuck to the timetable; we had very good coffee, lunch and tea breaks! Thanks to Liz the group had plenty of coffee, tea and biscuits plus everyone brought lunch with them.

The task for the afternoon was to search our 3rd site, Pendrift Downs, for webs. No luck here but not all the site was searched so a return trip is planned for early June. I remain optimistic, especially as a lot of good management has taken place. The site looked beautiful with all the late flowering plants such as the flaming orange of the Bog Asphodel. Adjacent land is farmed by organic farmer Dominic Fairman who is very biodiversity-minded. He successfully manages one area of his farm for the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary. We are certainly indebted to a wonderful bunch of farmers/landowners on Bodmin Moor who care so much for their land and the biodiversity. In fact, a key to all management is a good relationship with the landowner and providing them with enough information about the butterfly's life cycle that they become the experts on achieving the desired habitat structure etc.

I was very grateful to all the volunteers searching Pendrift as this is a huge task for one or two people and a lot more enjoyable when in a large group.

The volunteers are now using their newly found skills to search West Penwith so I wish them well. It is a large area and needs many eyes. The demise of the Marsh Fritillary throughout Europe is very worrying and because of this it is the only butterfly species afforded protection under the EU Habitats and Species Directive (Annex 11). Cornwall still has some strongholds but it is imperative that Cornwall has a cohesive management plan to halt the decline of this species. It isn't too late but I feel care of this species in Cornwall has been very slack. There are lots of people doing good work but this is as fragmented as the species. Hopefully we can get the Cornwall Fritillary Action Group up and running again - maybe looking at all Butterfly BAP species this time round?

I find this species very complex and still have a lot to learn. Every extant site appears to require a different management regime. What I have learnt is to listen very carefully to farmers/landowners which have good populations on their land and learn from the management history. It is all too easy to manage a site with

the perception that the habitat structure isn't 'right' and there is a desire to change it to fit in with 'policy' of various stewardship agreements. If it is working don't change it except in a very gentle way to protect against such things as too much scrub.

The Marsh Fritillary is a flagship species that occupies very small areas of Cornwall. Protecting it and enhancing its chances of survival will also benefit many other rare species. In addition it is a very important indicator of a healthy ecosystem. If ecosystems such as Bodmin Moor are maintained and improved flooding and drought will be reduced. The Bodmin Moor ecosystem is one of the most important in Cornwall and is the source of important rivers such as the Fowey and Camel. A lovely marsh bordering a river will protect the biodiversity value of a river by preventing excessive silt running into rivers and suffocating the important aquatic species. The biodiversity rich bogs play a major part in acting as a sponge and it is these areas that are most important for the Marsh Fritillary. Those old enough will be only too aware of the damage MAFF grants did to wetlands. Landowners were awarded grants to drain beautiful wetlands and locally I saw a lovely extensive large pond and reed beds at Gwithian drained and to this day the land has never been used for anything! Now Defra are giving out grants to provide water retaining areas.

I'm sure the Butterfly volunteers will see the damage that has been done over the years in West Penwith and maybe in the search for the Marsh Fritillary will identify areas that can be restored, linked and managed on a landscape scale.

Well done to Jo, Liz and the volunteers for all their efforts and I hope we get some positive news.



A very brief Transect Report!

By Jim Barker, Transect Co-ordinator

2014 proved to be a good year for Cornwall transects with 5 new ones walked. This helped us to a total of 22, the best ever for Cornwall.

We now have walks at each corner of the county, from Kilkhampton in the NW, Roskestal Cliff, Porthgwarra in the SW, Looe Island in the SE and Luckett in the East.

- Total butterflies counted this year: 22082.
- Number of species recorded: 33.
- The number species varied from 9 at Luckett to 26 at Upton Towans (Luckett was only walked for a few weeks over the Heath Fritillary season)
- Highest butterfly numbers were at Upton 3897 & St Martins 2679.
- No sightings this year of: Essex, Dingy & Grizzled Skippers or Purple Hairstreak on a transect.

Heath Fritillary is one of Cornwall's rarest butterflies found only at Luckett.



Heath Fritillary - by Iain H Leach

Titania!

By Jo Poland



The weather conditions on Sunday 31st August 2014 appeared to be perfect. Roger, Shaun and I travelled all the way to Preston Down, Nr Paignton to join a Devon Butterfly Conservation field trip. We were hoping to see the Brown Hairstreak *Thecla betulae* known to be an extremely elusive butterfly that is (probably) not found in Cornwall. None of us had ever seen one before, so there was high anticipation.

One was spotted early in the day but not by everyone. Around 25 of us then spent ages scouring the trees with our binoculars and finally one butterfly was spotted on a master tree and we all got cricked necks keeping it in view. Hard work and difficult in the unrelenting heat of the day but at least all three of us had achieved a tantalising glimpse!

I decided to search for the butterfly's eggs on the blackthorn hedge. A very helpful member of the Devon group had shown us how to do this when we arrived and we had two of the minute white eggs pointed out to us. This pursuit was very hard but I was determined to locate an egg on my own. After about 20 minutes of searching and getting very hot and bothered, and no longer being able to ignore the call of nature so I asked Shaun to help me find a suitably private bush. As we were heading off into the scrub, to my huge surprise and delight, a butterfly literally jumped out of the blackthorn and landed on my left breast! As I was saying "What is it? What is it?" and trying to keep still, Shaun said "It's a Brown Hairstreak!"

It was indeed a beautiful female Brown Hairstreak. It flew off me to land about two feet in front of us onto the blackthorn, posing most prettily. Shaun at this point was scrabbling with the pull on the zipped compartment of his rucksack trying to get his camera out, and the pull broke off! However, he finally got his camera out and took a great shot, which you can see above. What an immense treat for us both!

Meanwhile, up the slope, about 200 yards away, everyone else was still scouring the treeline with their bins. So, I went up the hill and told my story. Everyone was delighted for us and, very amusingly, a female member of DBC christened the butterfly that had landed on me "Titania"! We all had a good chuckle and agreed that I should write up the story for both Devon and Cornwall BC newsletters!

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2015

Welcome to Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's programme of field trips for 2015. You'll find some of our ever-favourite sites to visit, where we have a pretty good idea about what butterflies and moths we will find (though you can never be sure, and there are often some surprises). However, this year we've also included some new sites to explore – so come along and help us find out what's there – and we've organised a few trips in partnership with other local conservation organisations. We'll also be placing a big emphasis on recording on each of our field trips, so that we can build an even better picture of Lepidoptera distribution across Cornwall.

Our field trips are fun and friendly – everyone is welcome, whether or not you're a member of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation, and whatever level of experience you have. Please always come prepared for Cornwall's changeable weather and mixed terrain – waterproofs, good walking shoes or boots, sun tan cream etc., as well as water and lunch/snacks. We hope to see you there!

Saturday 25 April 10.30am - THE MONKEY SANCTUARY, Near Looe

A visit to the Millendreath to Seaton coastal footpath to search for Britain's earliest flying Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies in this unique habitat. The terrain here is steep in parts, but worth the effort. Meet promptly at the Monkey Sanctuary car park PL13 1NZ (SX285546). *Leader and contact: Paddy Saunders (01503) 262567.*

Saturday 16 May 11.00am - KILKHAMPTON COMMON, Nr. Kilkhampton

A visit to Kilkhampton Common in north-east Cornwall to explore this site new to our field trip programme. Twenty-one species of butterfly, including the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, were recorded in 2014 at this lovely nature reserve, owned and managed by Westland Countryside Stewards. WCS have been doing lots of conservation work here: find out more on their website <http://www.westlandcs.co.uk/news/4580544203>. To get to the site, turn into West Street at Kilkhampton Square in Kilkhampton, and follow the road down hill until reaching the gated entrance on the right hand side (SS 246117). Parking is limited, so car sharing is recommended. *Leader and contact: Jenny Evans Cbcwebmaster@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk.*

Sunday 24 May 11.00am - PREDANNACK, THE LIZARD, Near Mullion

We have organised this trip in partnership with the Natural England team on the Lizard, and we'll be looking for newly emerged Marsh Fritillaries, as well as hearing about the habitat management work NE have been undertaking for this protected butterfly. Meet at Predannack National Trust car park (free) (SW668162). Leader: Ray Lawman and/or Steve Townsend, Lizard NE team. *Contact: Jo Poland (01872) 540371.*

Saturday 30 May 1.00pm - CHAPEL PORTH, Near St Agnes

Join us in looking for Green Hairstreak butterflies along this beautiful cliff walk. The terrain can be steep and rough in places, but the views are spectacular. Meet at Chapel Porth National Trust beach car park (parking charge for non-NT members, and car park fills up quickly, so car sharing is advised) (SW697495). *Leaders and contacts: Shaun and Jo Poland (01872) 540371 or (07800) 548832.*

Saturday 6 June 10.30am (workshop); 1.30pm (walk) - WINDMILL FARM, THE LIZARD, Windmill Farm Nature Reserve, The Lizard

We are delighted to have organised a joint workshop and walk in partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the National Trust's Lizard Team at this wonderful nature reserve. From 10.30am to 12.30pm there will be a Beginners Butterfly Recognition Workshop, led by Jo Poland, our Training and Outreach Officer. After an hour's break for lunch, there will be a field trip around the site at 1.30pm. No booking is required for the walk; details of how to book the workshop will be announced nearer the time. Meet in Windmill Farm car park, by old mill (SW694152). *Leader and contact: Jo Poland (01872) 540371 or (07800) 548832.*

Sunday 7 June 1.00pm – 1.00pm - GREENSCOMBE WOODS, Near Lockett

Come and join us on a field trip to Cornwall's only site for the nationally rare Heath Fritillary butterfly, which is now established here after a successful reintroduction in 2006. Local expert on the species, Richard Vulliamy, will be leading the trip. Meet in Lockett Village car park (SX389737). *Leader and contact: Richard Vulliamy (01579) 370411.*

Saturday 20 June 2.00pm - ST GOTHIAN SANDS AND GODREVY AREA, Near Gwithian

Join us on this field trip in the Gwithian/Godrevy area where a wide variety of Lepidoptera can be found amongst the sand dunes. The walk will include an exploration of a new Silver-studded Blue butterfly site near Godrevy. Meet at the car park on Gwithian Green Local Nature Reserve which is about 100m past the Church coming from the direction of Hayle (SW586413). Please bring a packed lunch. *Leader and contact: Sally Foster (01736) 753259.*

Saturday 27 June 2.00pm - CORNWALL BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION OPEN DAY, Near Looe

Philip (Chairman of CBC) and Faith Hambly invite you to their farm at Lethytp, with its wonderful wildlife area with walks and lakes. There should be many mid-summer butterflies flying, and much more besides. Food, including pasties, provided, plus tombola and raffle. We ask for a £5 donation to help cover food costs. To get to Lethytp (SX175588), turn south off the A390 Liskeard to Lostwithiel road at East Taphouse, taking the B3359 to Looe and Polperro. After 3.3 miles take road to right signposted Penadlake: the event will be signposted from here. Park in field next to house (space for 100+ cars).

Contact: Philip Hambly (01503) 220385.

Sunday 5 July 11.00am - UPTON TOWANS, Near Hayle

Join us on a delightful walk through this sand dune complex situated between Gwithian and Hayle, a Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve and SSSI. Target species will be Dark Green Fritillaries and Silver-studded Blues. Meet by the gate, in front of the large chimney at the entrance to the CWT reserve (SW 579396). Please bring a packed lunch.

Leader and contact: Dick Goodere (01736) 753077.

Saturday 11 July 11.00am - PENLEE RESERVE AND PENLEE POINT, Near Rame Head

We will be led by moth expert and Cornwall Moth Recorder Leon Truscott in looking for Marbled White butterflies, as well as Small Heaths and Dark Green Fritillaries. Six-belted Clearwing and Thrift Clearwing moths can also be found here with the help of pheromone lures. Meet in Penlee Battery car park (SX436491). *Leader and contact: Leon Truscott (01752) 812023.*

Sunday 12 July 1.00pm - KELSEY HEAD, Near Holywell and Newquay

Join us to look for Dark Green Fritillaries and Silver-studded Blue butterflies, and many more species, at this beautiful SSSI and National Trust reserve along the north Cornwall coast. Meet at SW775600. Drive through Crantock village and shortly after Crantock turn left onto the road to Treago farm and continue to drive through the farm and follow the track until the National Trust car park. Parking is free for NT members, or a £2 suggested donation for others.

Leader and contact: Carly Hoskin (01637) 498462.

Saturday 18 July 10.30am - WILD FLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES OF PENHALE, Near Cubert

Join us for a closer look at the wild flowers, butterflies and moths to be found on Penhale Sands Army Training Camp, not normally open to the public. We should find orchids and many species of Lepidoptera on this unique marsh and dune area. Jointly organised with the Botanical Cornwall Group, the trip will be led by botanist Ian Bennallick, accompanied by Dave Thomas. Please bring a packed lunch. Meet by the South Gate near Treworthen Farm, Cubert (SW783567). Booking is essential. Leaders: Ian Bennallick and Dave Thomas.

Contact: Dave Thomas (01726) 861093 or davecarp86@hotmail.com.

Sunday 19 July 1.00pm - CARDINHAM WOODS, Near Bodmin

Join us for our first field trip to this popular site, managed by the Forestry Commission. We are keen to see and record what butterflies and moths we will find there, but expect many woodland species. Meet in the Cardinham Woods car park at PL30 4AL. There is a parking charge according to time parked, but the Forestry Commission have kindly agreed to charge only the minimum cost (£2).

Leader and contact: Carly Hoskin (01637) 498462.

Saturday 25 July 1.00pm - NEWLYN DOWNS, Near St Newlyn East

Join us in exploring this SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. We'll be searching for Grayling butterflies, Bog Bush-crickets and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies, and much more. Meet in the layby opposite the entrance at SW8368355209. *Leaders and contacts: Shaun and Jo Poland (01872) 540371 or (07800) 548832.*

Sunday 26 July 11.00am - WOODLAND VALLEY FARM, Near Ladock

Chris and Janet Jones have kindly invited us to their wonderful organic farm for a visit (<http://www.woodlandvalley.co.uk>). In return, we'll be finding out for them what butterflies and moths can be found there, and collecting the results as part of the 2015 Big Butterfly Count organised annually by Butterfly Conservation. There'll be a barbecue as well! Meet in the woodland Valley Farm car park, for directions, see <http://www.woodlandvalley.co.uk/contact findsu.php>. There will be a suggested donation of £5 to cover food, and please let us know if you'll be attending for catering purposes. *Leader and contact: Amanda Scott (01209) 862792 or 07747 864184.*

Sunday 2 August 1.30pm - GODOLPHIN WOODS, Near Godolphin

Join us for this interesting walk through Godolphin Woods. There will be a wide variety of Lepidoptera but the target species will be the Purple Hairstreak.

Directions: Coming from Leedstown, you turn left at Townshend, then at Godolphin Bridge the road swings to the left; some distance along this section there is a parking area on the left where a track runs down to the river. It is possible to park here, but it is better to drive down the short track and park in the larger car park at the bottom (on the right) at SW60023243.

Leaders and contact: Perry and Judi Smale 01736 448304 or 07412 262184.

Sunday 9 August 11.00am - KYNANCE COVE, Near Lizard

Join us on this wonderfully scenic coastal walk on the Lizard as we look for Clouded Yellow, Grayling and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies, and many more species. Meet in the National Trust Kynance Cove car park (SW688132).

Leader and contact: Jim Barker (01736) 794134.

Sunday 16 August 10.30am - GWENNAP HEAD AND PORTHWARRA, Near Land's End

This beautiful location boasts an abundance of butterflies, including Graylings, Dark Green Fritillaries, Clouded Yellows, Small Heaths and many more. You might also spot a Chough! Meet in the Porthgwarra car park (SW372218): charges apply. Café. *Leader and contact: Jim Barker (01736) 794134.*

Saturday 5 September 1.00pm RAME TO PENLEE, Near Kingsand

We hope to see many late-summer butterflies and day-flying moths on this beautifully scenic walk from Rame Head to Penlee Point. Meet in Rame Head car park (SX420487). *Leader and contact: Paddy Saunders (01503) 262567.*

Raise funds for your BC branch!

Atropos is a unique quarterly journal for butterfly, moth and dragonfly enthusiasts. Each high quality issue is around 80 pages with excellent articles and features by experts, fieldworkers and dedicated amateurs.

Atropos prides itself on supporting the nationwide community of recorders and enthusiasts and will donate £5 to your Butterfly Conservation Branch if you take a subscription to the magazine using the offer code below.

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ATROPOS



The dedicated journal for all butterfly, moth & dragonfly enthusiasts

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Committee and Contacts

If you would like to volunteer or just get more involved with the Branch, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Committee:

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Evenings and weekends only please.

Treasurer: Pete Tyler
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Membership Secretary:
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Field Trip Organiser:
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