



Butterfly Conservation Wales  
Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw Cymru

# ***Butterfly News***

The Newsletter of the South Wales Branch  
of Butterfly Conservation



Spring 2011

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### **Front Cover Image**

Emperor Moth caterpillar, taken by M.J. Ouseley – Winner of the Immature Stages Category in the Inaugural Branch Photographic competition 2010.

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## **Editorial** by Andrea Rowe

A big welcome for all our Members to this spring edition of Butterfly News. With so many major world events having recently taken place or ongoing, our natural surroundings at this time of year really can provide a haven of tranquility and peace to allow an escape - even if it is only a temporary one.

The warm weather has brought Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Orange Tips out in force in the garden. It's also definitely time to dust off your moth trap (if, like me, it has been a bit neglected over the winter months). The new Glamorgan Moth Recording Group Blog (page 5) provides a great way of keeping up to date with species you may see during the recording season.

Don't forget, if you are recording moths and butterflies you see whilst out and about or at home, please send your records to the relevant Vice-County Recorder to help build up as accurate picture of our Lepidoptera as we can (see page 11 for County Recorder details). To find County Recorders for other species groups visit [www.lrcwales.org.uk](http://www.lrcwales.org.uk), click on your relevant Local Records Centre details and follow the links.

This issue has updates on the ongoing successful Brown Hairstreak (BH) and High Brown Fritillary (HBF) projects the Branch is involved with and highlights just how valuable volunteers are to the success of the projects. Both projects have also recently featured in full colour articles in Natur Cymru (HBF) and Carmarthenshire Life (BH) – fantastic publicity! We also have a Wales view of the issue of funding for biodiversity projects in our difficult financial climate. On top of that, I am thrilled to have some wonderful images, front and back, from our Branch Photographic competition, held at the Branch AGM – it has inspired me to dig out my camera and have a go myself!

Enjoy this issue and until the next, I hope you all have a wonderful spring and summer.

### ***Welcome to new Branch Members***

The Branch Committee welcomes the following new members to the South Wales Branch. We very much hope you enjoy your membership and look forward to meeting you at our Branch events.

Mr A Rosney, Nantgarw; Mrs J Martin, Church Village; Mr R and Mrs H Fogden, Llandysul; Mr I Freshwater, Tumble; Miss N Williams, Bridgend; Mrs B Brown, Whitchurch; Mr B Jones, Pontyclun; Dr SB Murray, Pontypridd; Mr G Parr, Swansea; Mrs O Powell, Fishguard; Drs RG and N Perkins & Family, Pontypool; Ms R Parkhouse, Abergavenny; Miss HM Jones, Cardiff; Ms G Barter, Cardiff; Mr M and Mrs J Pointon, Bedwas.

## **Your new Branch Chairman – an Introduction**

by Norman Lowe

At the 2010 AGM, I was asked to take over the role of South Wales Branch Chairman from Dave Slade, who had had the job for the previous three years. For those of you who don't know me, I've been County Moth Recorder for Breconshire since 1986 and my interest in moths and butterflies goes right back to 1958.

I've been especially concerned with conservation ever since 1966, when I paid a visit to my favourite birch wood in NE England, where I always expected to find yet another species of micro-moth that I'd never seen before. To my shock and horror – I found that it had been clear-felled!

I began to take an active role in habitat management when I moved to Pembrokeshire in 1977 and joined the then West Wales Naturalist Trust and became County Recorder for micro-moths. On moving to Llangorse (just outside Brecon) in 1985 I transferred to the Brecknock Wildlife Trust and almost immediately found myself County Recorder for all the moths and for butterflies as well!

Throughout this period I was involved in managing wildlife reserves, but it soon became obvious that preserving relatively small areas of habitat, whilst important, would not be sufficient to stop the loss of some species and the decline in numbers of most of the rest. I now believe that long-term, landscape scale management is a necessity and that to achieve this we must have close dialogue with local and national government. But at the same time we need comprehensive and accurate information on the state of our moths and butterflies. That is why publications such as the Millennium Atlas of Butterflies and the Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths (see article on next page) are so important, and why it is that the efforts of voluntary recorders must continue. We also need to know about trends in populations to find out if even the common species are still declining, and the Garden Moth Scheme attempts to obtain more information on this.

So we are making progress. We have good information on the 60 or so species of butterfly and the 900 or so larger moth species. Now all we have to do to complete the picture is the rest of the moths – the 1500 or so micro-moths. Roll on the Provisional Atlas of the UK's Smaller Moths!

## The Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths – now available

This Atlas (the first of its kind for almost 30 years) is a culmination of four and a half years of the Moths Count project and the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) and contains the most up-to-date distribution maps for 868 macro-moth species.

The A4 paperback publication has over 400 pages of moth maps, showing both historical (pre 2000) and current (2000 on) records from the NMRS database. It is available now for £20.00 plus p&p (UK only). If you live outside the UK please contact 01929 400209 to place your order.

For more information, visit:

[www.butterfly-conservation.org/product/5146/moth\\_atlas.html](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/product/5146/moth_atlas.html)



### Members always welcome to help Branch Committee

The Branch Committee is always on the look-out for members to assist with existing roles and to help us expand in new directions. There are many aspects of the Branch's work to get involved with, or you could put yourself forward to sit on the Branch Committee, which manages the budget for the Branch, makes decisions on site management and decides where the Branch should focus its energies, as well as organising the AGM and Members' Day.

If you would like more information on any aspect of the Branch's work, please contact any of the Committee Members (see page 11).

### Helping the South Wales Branch go green – THANK YOU!

As mentioned in previous issues, our Branch is working towards reducing costs associated with traditional newsletter production and distribution, by increasing newsletter distribution to members via email (as a full colour PDF document). The Committee would like to thank all members who have already signed up to this initiative. If you would like to receive future newsletters and Branch updates by email only, please email the Editor ([news@southwales-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:news@southwales-butterflies.org.uk)) with your full name and BC Membership number. Your email contact details will be stored for these purposes only and will not be passed to any other parties.

## **2010: the International Year for Biodiversity? - Making the case for biodiversity funding**

by Butterfly Conservation Wales (BCW)

In the autumn, Butterfly Conservation (BC) Wales joined with other environmental groups in a campaign called 'Budget for Biodiversity' to highlight the likely impact of spending cuts on conservation work for biodiversity. We are grateful to the 12 BC members who wrote personally to their Welsh Assembly Members (AMs), expressing their deep concerns. Altogether 14 AMs received letters or e-mails or were forwarded copies by their colleagues. BC members have kindly sent us copies of the nine replies they received from their AMs so far (February 2011).

The three full responses from Jane Davidson (Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing at the time) showed her genuine commitment to promoting biodiversity. It confirmed she *"will be making the case for biodiversity funding with the Welsh and UK Ministers"*. The Minister asserted *"The economic situation will not excuse us from dealing with the important challenge of biodiversity renewal but does mean that we will need to identify new and innovative ways of achieving this goal"*. She sees the 'ecosystems' approach to policy making, as set out in the consultation document 'A Living Wales', as the way forward. Several of our correspondents were urged to take part in the consultation. What difference this will make in practice remains to be seen.

Angela Burns, the then Shadow Minister for Environment and Planning also responded very positively and said she will *"continue to lobby the Government for further action and support"*. Alun Davies (Labour AM for Mid and West Wales) said he shares writers' concerns about biodiversity and will use them in funding negotiations. Nicholas Bourne (Welsh Conservative Party Leader) said he recognised the importance of biodiversity and passed the letter to David Melding, who will be writing the next Conservative Manifesto for Wales.

However other responses were less specific or encouraging and eight letters are still awaiting a reply. The following summarises the responses received by BC members (listed in brackets):

### *1. Jane Davidson responding to Sandy Mewies (Jan Miller)*

A full and detailed reply was received, which referred to the consultation document 'A Living Wales', to formulate a National Environment Framework for Wales, about moving to a more ecosystems-based approach to inform policy making and the value of services to our economy and society provided

by ecosystems. The intention is for decisions to be made in a more integrated way, whereas at present there may sometimes be a conflict of interest in practice for example between biodiversity and climate change policies. The Minister stated she “will be making the case for biodiversity funding with the Welsh and UK Ministers”

*2. Jane Davidson responding to Sandy Mewies (Mr and Mrs Brian Roberts)*  
Details what funding for biodiversity is given to Flintshire area via CCW, the local authority, Forestry Commission Wales and via mitigation and compensation in the planning system. She thanked and praised conservation volunteers’ work and referred correspondents to named Council officers for details of funding for particular sites. No mention of how general government funding to be affected in spending review.

*3. Ieuan Wyn Jones forwarded letter to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) (Mr & Mrs Totty).*

The CCW replied that biodiversity conservation has a major role to play in supporting healthy ecosystems, which in turn are ‘of prime importance’ as Wales “seeks to integrate sustainability into all spheres of activity”. CCW described the extensive work that they do in partnership with BC in Wales but did not comment on funding.

*4. Nerys Evans (Helen Bantock)*

Passed matter to Dafydd Ellis Thomas to “lead on this issue” for Plaid Cymru for a direct response to Helen – but no response received yet.

*5. Jane Hutt, response by officer William Somerfield (Richard Smith)*

Asked if he would like his letter to be considered part of the ‘Living Wales’ consultation. No other response yet

*6. Elin Jones, response by officer William Somerfield (Joyce Jones)*

Letter was passed to Minister Jane Davidson. Understands concern about biodiversity and potential effect of spending cuts.

*7. Kirsty Williams (Norman Lowe)*

Kirsty met Norman - he explained the importance of moths, gave details of their decline and gave her a copy of the ‘State of Britain’s Moths’ report. He was asked to submit a response to the Sustainability Committee’s Inquiry in to Biodiversity, which he did.

*8. Angela Burns (Mr & Mrs Regelous)*

Shares their concerns and “will lobby for further action and support”.

9. *Alun Davies (Dave Bannister)*

Shares his concerns and will use them in funding negotiations.

10. *Nicholas Bourne (Dave Bannister)*

'Recognises and acknowledges the importance of biodiversity'. Sent copies of his letter to Angela Burns & David Melding (writing next Conservative Manifesto)

No responses have been received yet from Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Gareth Thomas, Joyce Watson, David Melling or Dafydd Ellis Thomas.

*Butterfly Conservation Wales is very grateful to all members who took the time to make your voices heard: Dave Bannister, Helen Bantock, John Good, Joyce Jones, Norman Lowe, Jan Miller, Mr and Mrs Regulous, Mr and Mrs Brian Roberts, Richard Smith and Mr and Mrs Totty.*

### **Inaugural Branch Photographic Competition 2010 - Results**

Our inaugural Branch photographic competition proved popular at last October's Members' Day, providing a nice lunchtime interlude and stimulating a great deal of discussion. The winning photographs for each category were:

#### **Category 1 - UK butterflies**

A Brown Hairstreak, taken at West Williamston by M. Field.

#### **Category 2 - UK Moths**

A Lime Hawk-moth, taken at Gowerton by C.M. Manley.

#### **Category 3 - Immature Stages**

An Emperor Moth caterpillar, taken by M.J. Ouseley.

The prize for the winner in all three categories was Jan Miller's book 'Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects'. We hope you all enjoy your prize and thank you for entering. Thanks too to all who voted on the day!

### **New Blog: Glamorgan Moth Recording Group (GMRG)**

Why not visit the GMRG's new blog at <http://gmr-gvc41moths.blogspot.com/> which provides an opportunity for those interested in moth and butterfly recording in Glamorgan to post sightings, photographs and related activities? It's a great place to see some wonderful photographs and keep up to date with what species you can see as the recording season progresses.

## Mike Sayce – Sadly Missed

by Martin Anthony, Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group

We were sorry to hear in September of the death, aged 63, of one of our members, Mike Sayce. I first got to know Mike in 1985-1990 when he was a trustee, and latterly Vice-Chairman, of the Gwent Wildlife Trust. After a short break, Mike resumed on GWT Council and was Chairman of the Conservation Committee for six years to 1998.

Having done a degree at Hatfield Polytechnic, Mike worked for many years with the Home Office Forensic Science Service, rising to senior posts at the Chepstow laboratories and subsequently on a UK-wide basis. After taking early retirement Mike became a magistrate but devoted much of his time to his beloved Shirenewton meadows. He was instrumental in forming the Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Limited in 2006, which raised money to purchase (in 2009) and manage the meadows near to his home. Only a month before his death he accompanied Roger James and me on an evening's moth trapping to add to the list of fauna for the site, and on 10th July SEWBReC had held a biodiversity blitz day at the site.

Mike had a very dry, self-deprecating sense of humour. He claimed to have the largest moth trap in the country, though it was actually his local pub the Tredegar Arms, where he had carefully trained the staff to catch and retain any moths, which flew into the pub in the evenings so that he could get them identified. Our condolences go to Mike's family and friends.



*Editor's note: This article has kindly been reproduced from the Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group Newsletter, No. 71, September 2010.*

Mike Sayce was a valued member of the South Wales Branch of Butterfly Conservation who will be greatly missed. The Branch Committee would like to offer our deepest sympathies to all of Mike's family and friends for their loss.

<b>EVENTS</b>	
<b>May</b>	
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> 10:00-16:45	<b>Butterfly Identification Training Day at Afan Forest Park:</b> Led by Richard Smith. SEWBRc event. Limited spaces - booking essential. <i>For details see <a href="http://www.sewbrec.org.uk">www.sewbrec.org.uk</a> or call 029 2064 1110</i>
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> 19:30 onwards	<b>Moth experience &amp; BH larvae search around Llangeler, Teifi valley:</b> An event to combine a BH larvae search in Cae Bach with an informal moth trapping evening. A great opportunity to see BH larvae and for novices & families to experience the fun of running moth traps and seeing moths close-up. <i>For details contact Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <a href="mailto:projects@southwales-butterflies.org.uk">projects@southwales-butterflies.org.uk</a></i>
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 onwards	<b>Walking a transect &amp; enjoying butterflies at Kenfig NNR:</b> Jeff Curtis leads a butterfly walk and demonstration of how a butterfly transect works at this well-known butterfly hotspot site. <i>For details contact Richard Smith (see above)</i>
<b>June</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wales Biodiversity Week.</b> For a listing of events in your area see: <a href="http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales_biodiversity_week-121.aspx">www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales_biodiversity_week-121.aspx</a>
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Go Wild!</b> at Pontllanfraith – free, family-friendly WBW event with lots of stalls including one by our Branch. A great family day out!
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 onwards	<b>Field event &amp; visit to Old Castle Down &amp; Alun Valley:</b> A guided tour of this huge site which supports Wales' last population of High Brown Fritillaries and much, much more. <i>For details contact Richard Smith (see above)</i>
<b>August</b>	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 12:00-14:00	<b>Annual Open day at Lavernock WT Reserve:</b> A great place to see butterflies in traditional hay meadows: WTSWW event. <i>For details contact Jeff Curtis (029 2051 3770)</i>
<b>October</b>	
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SW Branch AGM/Members' Day</b> Further details will be available nearer the date.
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> onwards	<b>Weekday Brown Hairstreak egg surveys in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion &amp; Pembrokeshire:</b> <i>For details contact Richard Smith (see above)</i>

**Key:** BH – Brown Hairstreak  
SW – South Wales

NNR – National Nature Reserve  
WBW – Wales Biodiversity Week

**Please Note:** Further details of the Branch Events listed above also appear on the Branch website, where updates may be posted throughout the year: [www.southwales-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.southwales-butterflies.org.uk)

There are various other Lepidoptera-related events happening throughout the Branch area, run by different organisations. Useful places to find out more are your local Wildlife Trust website [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org) and your Local Records Centre website [www.lrcwales.org.uk](http://www.lrcwales.org.uk).

# County Butterfly and Moth Recorders and Branch Committee

## **Breconshire VC42**

### **Moths**

Norman Lowe, 6 Tai Canol,  
Llangorse, Brecon, Powys,  
LD3 7UR  
norman@enviro-consulting.com  
01874 658453

### **Butterflies**

Andrew King, Heddfan,  
Pennorth, Brecon, Powys,  
LD3 7EX  
heddfan25@hotmail.com  
01874 658 351

## **Cardiganshire VC46**

### **Moths**

Peter Walters Davies,  
Alltgoy, Caemelyn,  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion,  
SY23 2HA  
Email: davyes1912@tiscali.co.uk  
Tel: 01970 615418

### **Butterflies**

Lin Gander, Penwalk,  
Llechryd, Cardigan,  
Ceredigion, SA43 2PS  
lingander@strandings.demon.co.uk  
01239 682405

## **Carmarthenshire VC44**

### **Moths**

Jon Baker, 14 Job's Well Road,  
Carmarthen, SA31 3HG  
Mothboy@btinternet.com

### **Butterflies**

Dave Bannister, Glanrhyd,  
Llanllawddog Road, Brechfa,  
Carmarthenshire, SA32 7QP  
daveb@bannisterd.fsnet.co.uk  
01267 202210

## **Glamorgan VC41**

### **Moths & Butterflies**

David Slade, South East Wales  
Biodiversity Records Centre, 13  
St Andrews Crescent,  
Cardiff, CF10 3DB  
david.slade@sewbrec.org.uk

## **Monmouthshire VC35**

### **Butterflies & Macro-moths**

Martin Anthoney, 23 Malvern  
Close, Risca, Newport, Gwent,  
NP11 6QY  
martin@chemlep.demon.co.uk  
01633 612272

### **Micro-moths**

Sam Bosanquet, Cnw-c-y-llwyn,  
Brechfa, Carmarthen,  
SA32 7QR  
s.bosanquet@ccw.gov.uk

## **Pembrokeshire VC45**

### **Moths & Butterflies**

Ron Elliott, 10 Flemish Court,  
Lamphey, Pembroke, Dyfed,  
SA71 5PA  
relliott333@btinternet.com  
01646 672508 (h)  
07974948048 (m)

## **Radnorshire VC43**

### **Moths**

Pete & Ginny Clarke,  
9 Dany-bryn, Glasbury on Wye,  
Hereford, HR3 5NH  
peteandginnyc@tiscali.co.uk  
01497 847877

### **Butterflies**

Peter & Joyce Gray, c/o  
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust,  
Warwick House, High Street,  
Llandrindod Wells, Powys  
LD1 6AG

## **Branch Committee Members**

### **Chairman and Membership Secretary**

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SA1 1YE  
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butterflies.org.uk

#### **Committee Member**

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11 Plas Taliesin, Penarth, CF64  
1TN  
kathy@southwales-  
butterflies.org.uk

## The big butterfly count 2010 ... Thank you!

An amazing 10,214 people took part in the 2010 national **big butterfly count**. You and your fellow butterfly counters carried out over 15,800 counts and clocked up an incredible 210,000 individual butterflies and moths. Analysis of the data is continuing but the main results of the UK's first ever **big butterfly count** are already clear. From 24th July - 1st August 2010, a staggering 8,977 of you took part across the length and breadth of the UK, from Orkney to Scilly and Fermanagh across to Norfolk, with a breathtaking 189,000 individual butterflies and moths counted! This is the biggest ever, weekly count of butterflies anywhere in the world!

And don't forget that the big butterfly count project will continue in 2011. It will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July. If you didn't get involved last year, why not join in this year and make it an even bigger **big butterfly count**?

To see the full results of the big butterfly count or to find out more about the project visit [www.bigbutterflycount.org](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org)

## Opportunity to visit Green Down, Somerset and come face-to-face with the Large Blue

Green Down Nature Reserve in Somerset is home to the biggest number of Large Blue butterflies anywhere in the world, following their remarkable reintroduction by conservationists after UK extinction in 1979. Green Down is closed throughout all of June and most of July to protect the butterflies when they are on the wing and laying eggs but an open day on 12th June provides an opportunity to see Large Blues during their flight period at the reserve.



Exclusive access via guided walks will be granted to a limited number of people. Numbers are restricted due to the sensitive nature of the site. Tickets cost £3.50 (adult) and £2 (child). Apply by sending a letter and cheque, payable to Somerset Wildlife Trust, with your name and address in capitals, numbers of adults and children wanting tickets and a SAE, to Green Down Open Day, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Tonedale Mill, Tonedale, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0AW. The deadline for applications is 6 May. Successful applicants will receive their tickets in late May and everyone else will have their cheques returned.

## Project Update: Vale of Glamorgan High Brown Fritillary (HBF) Project - Phase 2/Year 4

by Richard Smith, Project Officer

The ongoing HBF project in the Alun Valley continues thanks to dedicated volunteer effort. This financial year (up to March 2011), volunteer hours logged total 533 hours (or the equivalent of 71 days or £4,170); this can be broken down to 135 hours by the Project Officer (voluntary) (equivalent to £1,685) and other BC volunteer time of 398 hours (£2,485). In addition to BC volunteer time, the project continues to be supported by Glamorgan Heritage Coast (GHC) staff and volunteers.

Five types of management work have been carried out this year:

Type of work	Size	By whom
Chain saw + volunteers clear up	0.18ha	BC volunteers
Hand tool, then machine (power scythe)	0.30ha	BC volunteers & GHC staff
Hand tool, then machine (power scythe)	0.14ha	GHC staff & volunteers
Volunteer hand tool cleared	0.18ha	BC volunteers
GHC machine (power scythe) cleared	1.69ha	GHC staff
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.49ha</b>	

The 2.49 hectares (ha) of land managed in this financial year equates to 3.75% of the total of 66.28ha of HBF habitat sub-sites. Of the total habitat, 30ha is on gentler slopes on sheep-grazed common land and 35ha is on steeper sloping ground, across ungrazed common land (18ha) and on ungrazed land in the Alun valley (17ha). If the gentler sloping common land within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (28.90ha) can be managed more suitably for HBF by CCW Management Agreement (or Glastir), that leaves a total of 36ha of mostly steeper sloping habitat still requiring management and/or suitable grazing.

Unless suitable grazing can be introduced, based on a 3-year rotation (which is shown to be necessary without grazing), assuming current levels of funding and resourcing, then only 11% of the total habitat can be managed (or 55% if the main plateau of Old Castle Down SSSI can be brought into suitable management).

## **Project Update: Brown Hairstreak (BH) surveys & management in Carmarthenshire, 2010/11.**

by Richard Smith, Project Officer

The BH project in Carmarthenshire has seen a great deal of survey activity this year, both at new sites and known indicator sites.

Surveys have been targeted in areas that are within 5kms of recent BH records, that are below 200m altitude and where too few or no sites had yet been surveyed. These areas are: north of Whitland, north of Carmarthen, Dryslwyn to Pantglas, Llanwrda to Llandovery, and Llanllwni to Llanybydder. The surveys have provided useful information on species and habitat presence.

We achieved 1.5 days of surveying 'north of Whitland', and a half-day each in the 'Dryslwyn' and 'Llanllwni' areas, but with limited success. Most of these areas are typified by annual flailing of hedges across around 95% of fields, whether viewed on recent aerial photographs or on the ground. This makes it difficult and time consuming to pick out potentially suitable areas and obtain access, particularly as farms leave Tir Gofal (TG) and there is little administrative support available from WAG offices to help with access to those remaining in TG. However, work will continue on these areas in the next financial year, as finding even small isolated populations and encouraging suitable management can help retain local BH populations that would otherwise be lost to modern agricultural practices.

Surveys have also been targeted to extend coverage in the area of the community project, which commenced in January 2010 around Llangeler and nearby villages of Drefach-Velindre, Pentrecwrt, Pentrecagal, Waungilwen, Henllan and Trebedw. With the help of five new volunteers, recruited from this area, three of whom have helped regularly, we have aimed to carry out surveys within 15kms of the existing surveyed area every other week – where there is a high concentration of potentially suitable habitat that is also suitably managed. In Llangeler and surrounding villages, we have added 58 new fields containing 952 eggs, maintaining the average for this community project area of 16 eggs per occupied field!

To summarise:

- The total eggs counted for all new sites surveyed in the 2010/2011 season (including 10 new one km square (km sq) sites) = 1,065 eggs (of which 349 eggs were in new 1km sq);
- New 1km square BH records: SN1620 (5 eggs); SN3240 (9 eggs); SN3338 (74 eggs); SN3438 (198 eggs); SN3439 (19 eggs); SN4921 (4

eggs); SN6530 (1 egg); SN6929 (3 eggs); SN3440 (32 eggs) and SN3041 (3 eggs);

- The total area of newly surveyed sites (including unoccupied sites) = 288.88 has.

In addition to surveys at new sites, we have continued to monitor known (indicator) sites using transects - where egg counts are conducted over a fixed route. The transects are either surveyed annually (at strategic sites within the current range) or bi-annually (at other sites where > 40 eggs were recorded originally within 1sq km). 16 sites were surveyed in this way this year, compared to 11 the previous year. Of these 16, 13 showed an increase in the egg count this year. Overall, 576 eggs were found on transects this year (average 36 per transect) compared to 340 last year (31 per transect), an average increase of 16%. At the four sites that were positively managed for BHs by the project last year, the increase was much higher at 53%. Three transect routes are no longer viable, as they have consistently shown nil results over last three years - in the case of both Cilycwm and Llangadog due to changes in land management (intensive sheep plus annual flailing). New routes on more suitably managed habitat in the same vicinity will be set up from next year, in order to better reflect trends at the edge of range (rather than reflecting poor practice on individual farms). Overall, the transects-weighted index for West Wales has improved from 14 (1 egg every 14 metres) to 13 (1 egg every 13 metres) this year, based on 19 transects.

Volunteer effort has proved invaluable to this project, with volunteer days valued at £10,700 put into the project this year - the equivalent of 214 days at standard volunteer rates. This is a significant increase and is due partly to increased volunteer numbers available each week and partly to starting surveys in mid October and continuing weekly.

To build upon the survey findings, work has also taken place to manage the BH sites appropriately. Six contractor days were expended at Cwmduhen (annual task of five-year clearance rotation on 1ha of habitat), Pen-y-Graig (two days coppicing mature blackthorn, where no eggs for three years), Fisherman's Car Park fields (two days removing bramble smothering blackthorn, after egg count dropped from 55 to nine in two years) and West Wales Museum of Childhood at Llangeler (one day coppicing old blackthorn - a site offered by its owners as a management demonstration site). In addition, we agreed to fund new fences protecting habitat from stock and deer damage at Felindre Farm, Maesycreigiau and the West Wales Museum of Childhood. Finally, modest amounts have been spent on two interpretation panels at the West Wales Museum of Childhood.



Photograph 1:  
Lime Hawkmoth  
at Gowerton,  
taken by Chris  
Manley –  
Winner of the  
UK Moths  
Category.

Photograph 2:  
Brown  
Hairstreak  
taken at West  
Williamston by  
M. Field -  
Winner of the  
UK Butterflies  
Category.

