

Devon Branch



Undercliffs field event PETE HURST

Programme of Events April - October 2018



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Field Trip Safety Points

There are important responsibilities laid upon us to do what we can to ensure your safety while on fieldtrips and work parties conducted under the auspices of Butterfly Conservation. Here are a few guidelines we would like you to consider and act upon before joining our events.

- Wear footwear appropriate to the conditions and terrain.
- Wear clothing suitable for the environment taking into account potentially adverse weather conditions and countryside hazards, e.g. sunburn, wet weather, ticks, adders, rocky slopes, rabbit holes, thorns etc.
- Children must be adequately supervised by an adult.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead.
- Carefully listen to any instructions given by the fieldtrip leader.
- Inform the leader if you are going to leave the trip early.
- Please observe the countryside code at all times.

Site specific hazards will be outlined by the fieldtrip leader at the beginning of the fieldtrip. Contact numbers are given for each event. Usually, there is no need to phone before attending. If the weather casts doubt, or any other queries, then ring the contact.

Moth trapping events take place in the dark and there are a few things that you will need to bring so that you have a safe and comfortable evening.

- a torch (don't forget to check the batteries are not running low)
- warm clothing (even if it is a hot day, it can get chilly after dark)
- suitable footwear (please ask if you are unsure what is suitable for a particular event)
- something to drink and perhaps a snack to eat
- insect repellent (mosquitoes can be a pest sometimes)
- dark glasses (you may wish to bring these as the light from the moth traps is very bright)

Please try to arrive at the advertised time, take care of your own personal safety and listen to the short introductory briefing by the event organiser, about any hazards in the area such as electric cables, slippery paths etc. Children are most welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian if under 16. If you have any queries before the event please contact the leader.

Devon Branch BC Programme of Events February to October 2018

Compiled by Paul Butter, Events Officer

Yarner Wood Fritillary Workshop: Thursday April 26th

Meet at the Woodland Classroom at Yarner Woods NNR at 10.30 to 15.00 for an identification workshop focussing on Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. Aspects of the ecology, id and survey techniques will be covered. The morning session will be indoors with the afternoon in the field. Light refreshments are provided but a packed lunch, warm clothing and good footwear will be advised for the afternoon in particular. Led by the All the Moors Butterflies team. Booking essential by contacting Megan Lowe at mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org or Tel. 07827 460 767.

Great Torrington Commons. North Devon: Sunday May 6th

Meet at 13.00 in the Commons car-park at SS 485 193 which is on the right just as you leave the built-up area towards Bideford on the A386. This site has been managed with both Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries in mind and there is a good chance of seeing both species. Join Jenny Evans for this walk which does include some steep slopes so good footwear essential. Leader Jenny Evans:- jennifer.evans@lineone.net or tel. 01837 871 163.

Chudleigh Knighton and Teigngrace Meadow nr. Bovey Tracey: Sunday May 6th 11.00 – 15.00 hrs.

This is the first of a few events this year which will be more in the way of a “foray” looking at more than one site for target species. Bring lunch. Suitable footwear (boots, stout shoes) recommended. An energetic day checking scattered pockets of habitat for Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Expect to walk 3-4 miles if staying for the full event. 2 areas cleared by Devon BC winter work parties will be included. Other spring species should be encountered including Brimstone with hopefully Dingy Skipper and possibly Green Hairstreak along with some early dayflying moths. Meet 11.00 at Dunley Cross (SX 837 776) near Chudleigh Knighton. This is midway between Chudleigh Knighton and Bovey Tracey on the B3344 and is a crossroads for Hennock, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh Knighton and Kingsteignton. Park in one of several laybys around this junction on the Kingsteignton and Chudleigh Knighton sides.

At approx. 13.00 we will reconvene for lunch on the Teigngrace Road (5 mins by car) parking in one of the laybys at the rear of Stover Country Park at roughly SX 836 757. Take care as some of the laybys are very uneven. We will set off at 13.30 from the beginning of the lane to Brocks Farm at SX 839 755 and walk 1/3 mile to access DWT's Teigngrace Meadow reserve.

If there is time at the end we may pop into Stover Park for a quick look, energy permitting!

Leader Pete Hurst tel. 01626 854 182.

Padley Common, Nattadon Common, Stiniel and Weeke Down: Saturday May 12th

Meet at 11.00 at Padley where there is a car-parking area at SX 700 867 on the minor road heading south out of Chagford which crosses a cattle grid and climbs uphill to a sharp left-hand bend where the car park area is on the right. This is another "foray" which will explore the areas to record Pearl-bordered Fritillary. From Padley we will share vehicles to move on to Stiniel where there is space for a few cars by the river bridge at SX 701 849. This is a lovely site of seemingly similar bracken covered slopes, but the PBFs only occur in one small area of it. A good spot for packed lunch before moving on at 13.30 hrs. to Nattadon Common where there is a large, rough, parking area at SX 708 868 from where there is a fair walk on steep terrain to the main PBF site. We will then move on to Weeke Down where there is an ancient stone cross of interest and a good site for Cuckoos but only a small car parking area. We aim to finish here around 15.30 hrs. Leader Paul Butter tel. 01297 442 290

Braunton Burrows NNR North Devon: Saturday May 26th

Meet at the car-park (there is a charge) on Sandy Lane at 11.30, grid ref. SS463 351.

This will be an excursion into the expanses of Braunton Burrows with its unique assembly of flora and insects. It will also be a search for the rare Small Blue, for which there are no recent records from the Burrows but may well still occur. Leader Jenny Evans: jennifer.evans@lineone.net or tel. 01837 871 163.

Lydford BC Reserve: Sunday May 27th

Meet at 11.00 in the National Trust waterfall car-park (no charge) at SX 501 831 for another chance to visit this wonderful reserve for Heath Fritillary, Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. The fruits of

years of management have so far secured the survival of the Heath Fritillary in Devon. As ever numbers of visitors are restricted and you will need to bring your Butterfly Conservation membership card with you. To reserve your place you will need to contact the Leader, Colin Sargent at colin@colinsargent.co.uk

Bolshayne Farm Colyton: Wednesday May 30th Moth Event

Event runs 10.00 - to 12.00 noon at Bolshayne Farm Colyton EX24 6RX for a Moth Magic event looking at the moths caught the previous night. The farm is run with nature in mind and should produce a good selection of late spring moths. Organised as part of Legacy to Landscape project with East Devon AONB. Leader Paul Butter Tel 01297 442 290 or 07807 680 455.

Warleigh Point :Friday 1st June 2018 Moth Event

Moth trapping. Meet 9:00pm. Leader: Barry Henwood 01626 364080.

SX450608 / PL5 2SL (<http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/reserves/warleigh-point>).

If the weather looks unsettled please contact the leader by 6:30pm to check the event is still happening. This is a joint meeting with Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon Moth Group, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, Butterfly Conservation and Devonshire Association.

Meeth Quarry DWT Reserve: Sunday June 3rd

Meet at 13.00 at the main DWT car-park at the end of the lane off the A386 at Meeth village marked by a DWT signboard at SS 540 085. This should coincide with first brood Wood Whites at their peak with Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper. This large reserve has a lot to explore and a good butterfly list as well as day-flying moths and dragonflies. Sun protection advised and plenty to drink. Leader Kevin New: kevin.new32@gmail.com or 01837 811 030.

Ashclyst Forest: Sunday June 10th

Meet at the large Forest Gate car park at SX 999 995 at 13.00 for an afternoon exploration of this large area of woodland best known at this time of year for the beautiful White Admiral, lots of Silver-washed Fritillaries and Scarlet Tiger moths. On the managed butterfly walk there may still be a few Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries too. Leader Paul Butter Tel.01297 442 290 or 07807 680 455.

Norman Lockyer Observatory : Friday June 15th / Sat June 16th Moth Event

Meet at 21.30 hrs on 15th or 10.00hrs on 16th at Grid ref SY 139 883. A moth recording event at the remarkable Observatory with an inspection of the catch on the Saturday morning at 10.00. The observatory is on high ground in an area of minimal light pollution and surrounded by mixed woodland about 1km from the coast so should produce an interesting suite of species. Joint with Norman Lockyer Observatory and Devon Moth group. Leader Paul Butter Tel. 01297 442290

Aish Tor nr. Poundsgate: Sunday June 17th

Meet at 13.30 in the car parking area at SX 707 714. From the B3357 at the top of Newbridge Hill turn west onto the very minor road and the car parking area is immediately on the right. This is one of the best sites for High Brown Fritillary as well as Dark Green Fritillary and if the conditions are favourable good photo opportunities should present themselves. Leader John Barkham Tel. 01364 653 903 or at bark.person@gmail.com

Heddon Valley nr. Lynton: Monday June 18th 13.00 - 15.00 hrs. Guided Butterfly and Nature Stroll

Learn about the wildlife and butterflies of Heddon Valley on this guided walk with a National Trust ranger. £4 per person. Car parking is free for NT members, charges apply for non-members (£3 all day). Booking is essential via 01598 763 402.

Ideford Common near Teignmouth: Sunday June 24th

Meet 11.00 at the small car park, grid ref. SX 903 791. Leave the A380 at the Ashcombe Cross junction and take the B3192 Teignmouth road. Take the first right (400 yards from the roundabout) down an unsigned lane. Just as this lane turns sharp left you will see the Ideford Common car park in front of you. An exploratory field event around this heathland where Silver-studded Blue has been recorded in the past. Leader Jenny Evans jennifer.evans@lineone.net or tel. 01837 871 163.

Heddon Valley near Lynton, North Devon : Tuesday July 3rd

Meet outside the National Trust office/shop by Hunters' Inn at SS 655 481 for 12.00 hrs. Finish time 14.00 hrs. Beautiful Butterflies Walk at Heddon Valley. Join Butterfly Conservation and the National

Trust on a guided walk to see and learn more about the Heddons special butterflies. We hope to see a host of Fritillaries including the High Brown, as well as more common woodland and meadow butterfly species. Donations are welcome. Car parking is free for NT members, but charges apply for non-members (£3 all day). Booking is essential, please book with the National Trust via 01598 763 402.

Bircham Valley LNR: Wednesday July 4th

Meet at 12.00 at the Jack Rabbit pub just off the A386 near Derriford, post code PL6 8BD for pre-walk refreshments and chat or 13.00 to start the walk. Expected finish time 15.00/16.00 hrs. Following last years' very successful visit to this Local Nature Reserve, David is keen to show off the reserve again. The site has a good range of meadow species such as Marbled White as well as lots of Silver-washed Fritillaries, and is an easy walk for all ages. Lots of other insect and floral life as well. Leader David Gregory: contact him on davegregory2000@yahoo.com

Great Torrington Commons: Saturday July 7th

A moth night with the exciting target species the Scarce Merveille du Jour, one of our rarest and beautiful moths. Meet at the car park at The Old Bowling green at the top of Station Hill at grid ref SS 485 193 at 21.00 hrs. to give time to place the traps. Leader Rob Wolton 01837 810 416.

Trendlebere Down and Bovey Valley Woodlands: Sunday July 8th 11.00 – 15.00 hrs.

A demanding walk of 4-5 miles with some long steep sections. Good walking footwear recommended. Meet 11.00 hrs. in the car-park at the top of Trendlebere Down Grid ref. SX 773 796. This is on the road going from Bovey Tracey to Manaton and on the left as the road levels out just after a sharp left hand bend overlooking Trendlebere Down. With heath and moorland species such as Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath and possibly Grayling along with the Small Purple-barred moth to start this "foray," we will descend into the Bovey Valley woodlands complex where possible species would include Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary and an outside chance of White-letter Hairstreak. Bring a packed lunch, drinks, & sun-cream/hat if needed. We will aim to return to car park no later than 15.00 hrs. Leader Pete Hurst tel. 01626 854 182.

Bolshayne Farm Colyton: Saturday August 4th

Meet 14.00 hrs. (finish time 16.00 hrs.) at Bolshayne Farm EX 24 6RX

for a butterfly walk around this farm run with nature in mind where we will be part of the Big Butterfly Count. A joint event with the Legacy to Landscape project and East Devon AONB. Leader Paul Butter Tel 01297 442 290 or 07807 680 455.

Jurassic Coast Undercliffs: Sunday August 5th

Meet at Whitlands Grid ref. SY 306 910 by kind permission of the owner at 10.30 hrs. for an extensive walk through the NNR focussing on Humble Glades which have been managed by Natural England to maintain an open area of grassland within the surrounding woodland. From the A3052 from Seaton turn first right after Charton Cross down the access road signed Whitlands.

Wood White may be encountered as one was seen last year plus Chalk Carpet, Small Purple-barred moth, Dark Green Fritillary and Dingy Skipper. Great flora too. A joint event with Axminster Vale & District Conservation Society. Booking essential as numbers are limited, the terrain is quite arduous and stout footwear advised as well as sun protection, drink and packed lunch. Leaders Martin Drake:- martindrake2@gmail.com and Paul Butter paulnbutter@hotmail.com

Date for your Diary:

Devon BC Members' Day and AGM: Saturday October 27th Crediton



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