

# Devon Branch



## Programme of Events February - October 2019



**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 2019

Compiled by Paul Butter, Events Officer

## **Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> February Lydford Old Railway Reserve 10.30 am – 2.30 pm**

Continuing the essential winter clearance work for the Heath Fritillary and other butterflies. Main work will be raking up following the brushcutter but also some coppicing of trees and scrub. Rakes and pitchforks will be available but you are welcome to bring your own tools if you wish – small saws and loppers will also be useful for the coppicing work. It is a half-mile mostly level walk to get to the site. Meet in the National Trust's Waterfall car park [SX 500 832] which lies a mile southwest of the main Lydford Gorge entrance. Event contact: Pete Hurst 01626 854 182.

## **Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Little Breach reserve, near Culmstock 10.30 am – 2.30 pm**

Meet at the end of the lane leading to Purchas Farm (ST 108 154). Leave the M5 at junction 27 and take the A38 towards Wellington. After about 3 miles, just after passing over the M5, turn right onto the B3391 signposted Culmstock / Hemyock. After 1.1 miles turn left, signposted Woodgate / Beacon. Continue for 0.7 mile, going straight across 2 sets of crossroads and passing a 'no through road' sign and park where you can at the end of the lane. From here it is about 0.5 mile to the site (ST 115 155). Bring lunch. Main work will be raking up after the brushcutter. Some hayrakes will be available but you are welcome to bring a garden rake. Small saws and loppers will also be useful tools to bring.

Event contact; John Bell: 01884 508 517.

## **Tues. 30th April: Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Survey Workshop. Woodland Classroom, Yarner Wood NNR, Dartmoor 10.30 am - 3pm**

An identification workshop focusing on these two very similar fritillary species. Following the workshop there will be the opportunity to take part in the annual monitoring of these species across Dartmoor. Please book with Megan Lowe: [mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org) or 07827 460 767.

## **Sun. 5th May: Great Torrington Commons, North Devon 1.00 pm**

Meet 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](mailto:jennifer.evans@lineone.net) or tel. 01837 871 163.

**Thurs. 16th May: Guided walk at Hembury Woods and Hillfort near Buckfastleigh 10.30 am - 3.00 pm**

Joint event with BC, Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project and the National Trust. Hembury is a species-rich site and so we hope to see and learn about a wide range of flora and fauna including Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Book with Megan Lowe: [mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org) or 07827 460 767.

**Thurs. 23rd May: Fritillary Survey Workshop, Dartmoor (exact location TBC) 10.30 am - 3pm**

A workshop focused on the identification and survey techniques for Marsh Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered, and Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth. This workshop is suitable for anyone interested in helping take part in the annual monitoring of these species. To reserve a place contact Megan Lowe: [mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org) or 07827 460 767.

**Sat. 25th May: Cookworthy Woods near Holsworthy 1.00 pm.**

Meet in the parking area at the Gatherly moor entrance grid ref. SS 436 042, located on the A3072 Highhampton - Holsworthy road, on the left if approaching from Highhampton. A walk through part of the Forestry Commission woodlands. Target species will be Wood White, plus a search for possible population (s) of Grizzled Skipper and any other woodland species. Leader Jenny Evans: [jennifer.evans@lineone.net](mailto:jennifer.evans@lineone.net) or 01837 871 163.

**Sun. 9th June : Dunsdon Devon Wildlife Trust reserve, near Tamar lakes, and possibly Vole House Farm North Devon 1.30 pm**

Meet in the reserve car park [SS 302 080]. Heading west from Holsworthy on the A3072 towards Bude, after about 2.5 miles take a right turn signposted Pancrasweek. Continue north past Pancrasweek church for about 1 mile and turn right at T-junction. Go through Lana following the road round a sharp left bend. The entrance to the reserve is on the left, just before Gains Cross. Wellington boots advisable. Target species Marsh Fritillary. Leader Jenny Evans: [jennifer.evans@lineone.net](mailto:jennifer.evans@lineone.net) or 01837 871 163.

**Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> June: Jurassic Coast Undercliffs East Devon 10.30 am**

Meet at Whitlands, grid ref. SY 306 910 by kind permission of the owner for an extensive walk through the NNR starting with a look at moths caught the night before then 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, Dark Green Fritillary and Dingy Skipper. Great flora too. A joint event with Axe 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](mailto:martindrake2@gmail.com) and Paul Butter [paulnbutter@hotmail.com](mailto:paulnbutter@hotmail.com)

**Fri. 14th June: New England Wood near Lee Mill Moth event 9.00 pm**  
Meet at SX 597 543 (nearest postcode PL7 5BA). From the A38 at the Lee Mill junction, following signs to Yealmpton. After approximately a mile at the sharp right-hand bend, take the minor road straight ahead (New England Hill). At the bottom of the hill, turn into the parking area at New England Quarry, through the gate on the left. The entrance to the reserve is about a 1 minute walk further along the road, on the left, just after the bridge. 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. Leader Barry Henwood Tel.01626 364 080.

**Fri. 21st June 2019: Dart Valley near Holne, Devon Wildlife Trust Reserve Moth event 9.00 pm**  
Meet at Newbridge car park SX 711 708, nearest post code TQ13 7NT. There will be a walk before it gets dark then moth trapping from soon after 10pm. If the weather looks unsettled please contact the leader by 6:30pm to check the event is still happening. A joint meeting with Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon Moth Group, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, Butterfly Conservation and Devonshire Association. Leader: Barry Henwood 01626 364 080.

**Sat. 22nd June: Tiverton Hospital Wildlife Garden 11 am – 12 midday approx. and Cove Down Farm, near Bampton 2.00 pm onwards**  
Meet in the car park of Tiverton Hospital (EX16 6NT), grid ref. SS 951 133. Assemble by the Rotary Club's garden at the north-eastern end of the grounds. Parking permits will be available for this event. The garden has been planted with a range of native herbs and shrubs that attract butterflies and bees. This little green mini-haven is good for wildlife and it is very popular with patients who are able to look out onto it from some wards, or to sit in the garden. The tour will be led by Rotarian Gavin Haig FRCS, who was a surgeon at the hospital and whose idea it was to establish the garden. Travel up the A396 to Cove and turn right in Cove village, or at the next right-hand turn. The latter is just before the nursery and plant centre. The nursery is well worth a visit if you have time between leaving Tiverton Hospital and meeting at Cove Farm (EX16 7RU) at 2.00 pm (grid ref: SS 961 200). Peter Beale will have OS maps that will show the route to Cove Down Farm and can let members have them at the end of the Tiverton Hospital visit. Cove Down is a large south facing slope of rough grassland, but there is a steep track leading up to the top of the field. The field is attractive to grassland butterflies and the owners' aim is to enhance its value for a range of wildlife. The track then leads onto grassland fields owned and

managed by the League Against Cruel Sports. These fields also support a range of wildlife, including red deer. The Cove Down tour will be led by Yolanda Cruwys and Paul Tillsley (The League's Education Officer and Warden for the Cove Down Reserve)

Please let Peter Beale know, if you plan to attend one or both of these events. Tel. 01626 333 106 or [beale@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:beale@eclipse.co.uk)

**Sun. 30th June: Ashclyst Forest nr. Exeter 10.30 am – 2.30 pm approx.**

From Broadclyst proceed north along B3176 and take a right turn just BEYOND the left turn to Killerton House (B3185) and follow the lane straight on, past two left turns, and the Forest Gate car park is on your left. This route is less narrow and avoids blind junctions on the more direct route from Broadclyst. Grid ref. for the Forest Gate car park is SX 999 995. We will explore 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. A joint meeting with National Trust. Our guide will be NT volunteer Malcolm Jarvis. Event contact Pete Hurst tel. 01626 854 182.

**Sat. 6th July: Plymbridge Woods Moth event Plymouth 9.00 pm**

Meet at Plymbridge Woods National Trust car park at SX 523 586 on the Plympton side of the river. From A38 Marsh Mills roundabout take B3416 into Plympton, follow to roundabout and turn left into Glen Road and then left again at next roundabout onto Plymbridge Road. Follow to end of road. Plenty of room for Devon Moth Group members to bring their own equipment to a varied habitat of ancient woodland and riverside meadow. This is an open public meeting held jointly with the National Trust and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. Leaders: Dave Gibbon (01752 666 231 and 07904 129 309) and Chris Acraman.

**Sun. 7th July: Kerswell Down, Kingskerwell 1.00 pm**

Meet in the car park at Maddacombe, Kingskerwell, grid ref SX 873 676. There is a short steepish path from the car-park which can be slippery when wet. Otherwise it is fairly straightforward through the meadows. A variety of butterfly species can be expected including White Admiral, Brown Argus and Silver-washed Fritillary. We may extend the walk to adjacent Whilborough Common if time and weather allow. Leader David Poole, tel. 01803 873 880.

**Sat. 13th July: Aish Tor nr. Poundgate 1.00 pm**

Meet 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 on the bramble flowers. Leader John Barkham tel. 01364 653 903 or [bark.person@gmail.com](mailto:bark.person@gmail.com)

**Sat. 20th July: Dawlish Warren NNR Moth event 9 pm**

Meet at grid reference SX 9808 7877 or use postcode EX7 0NF. After you go through the small tunnel under the railway line turn left into the public car park and drive to the very far end right hand side and meet at the wooden gate. The reserve is a mixture of grassland and sand dunes and is owned and managed by Teignbridge District Council. Leader: Kim Leaver (07889 978 223).

**Fri. 26<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 27th July: Norman Lockyer Observatory, Sidmouth Moth event**

Meet at 9.30 pm on Friday 25th or 10.00 am on Saturday 26th at Grid ref SY 139 883. Best approached off the A3052 having crossed the river Sid in Sidford and turning right past the pub. As you go towards Sidmouth town on this road there is a brown sign to the Observatory on the left just before the road crosses the river once more. The Observatory is at the top of the hill on the left. A moth recording event at the remarkable Observatory with an inspection of the catch on the Saturday morning at 10.00 am. 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. Toilet facilities are available and it is possible to camp overnight in the grounds. Leader Paul Butter Tel. 01297 442 290.

**Sun. 28th July: Alners' Gorse BC Reserve, Dorset 11 am**

Meet at grid ref ST 736 100. From the A30 at Sherborne take the A352 south, then the A3030 through Bishops Caundle on to the junction of B3143 to King's Stag where you turn left at the crossroads towards Hazelbury Bryan. There is verge-side parking on the left-hand side of the road and a small car park inside the gate to the reserve which can get slippery in wet weather. Come for a day at this very interesting reserve which hosts four Hairstreaks and is one of the best places to photograph Purple and Brown Hairstreaks and possibly White-letter Hairstreak. Bring drink, a picnic and sun protection. After lunch there is an opportunity to go on to Rooksmoor. Joint event with Dorset Branch. Leaders Paul Butter, Nigel Spring and Martin Warren. Tel 07807 680 455 for Paul or 07981 776 767 for Nigel.

**Sun. 4th August: Welcombe Mouth near Hartland, North Devon 11.30 am**

Meet at the car park right by the shore (down a fairly rough track), grid ref SS 213 180. The final approaches to Welcombe Mouth are signposted. This will be mainly a cliff path walk, (suitable footwear required), following part of a BC transect route. The primary target species are Wall and possibly Grayling. There should also be interesting cliff and coastal flora and excellent views. Bring lunch. Leader Jenny Evans: [jennifer.evans@lineone.net](mailto:jennifer.evans@lineone.net) or 01837 871 163.

**Sat. 24th August Plymbridge Woods, near Plymouth Moth event 8.30 pm**

Meet at Plymbridge Woods National Trust car park at SX 523 586 on the Plympton side of the river. From A38 Marsh Mills roundabout take B3416 into Plympton, follow to roundabout and turn left into Glen Road and then left again at next roundabout onto Plymbridge Road. Follow to end of road. Plenty of room for Devon Moth Group members to bring their own equipment to a varied habitat of ancient woodland and riverside meadow. This is an open public meeting held jointly with the National Trust, Devon Moth Group and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. Leaders: Dave Gibbon (01752 666 231 and 07904 129 309) and Chris Acraman.

**Sat. 7th September: East Budleigh Common Moth event 7.00 pm**

Meet at grid reference SY 0383 8446. From Exeter M5 Junction 30 take the A376, after about half a mile take the A3052 towards Sidmouth. After approximately five and a half miles, turn right just after the Halfway Inn onto the B3180 towards Exmouth. Follow this road for about five miles and turn left at the small crossroads which has two brown signs, one pointing left saying Reservoir and the one below pointing right saying Farm Shop. Follow this road through the woodland until it opens up onto the heath. The heathland is owned and managed by Devon Clinton Estates and hopefully some of the late summer heath specialist moths will turn up including The Anomalous. Leader: Kim Leaver (07889 978 223). Joint meeting with Devon Moth Group.

**Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> October: Devon BC Members' Day and AGM, Boniface Centre, CREDITON**

A date for your diary – the programme for the day will be announced later in the year.



Butterfly Conservation  
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