

# Devon Branch



Field event at Riverford Farm DAVE HOLLOWAY

## Programme of Events February - October 2020



**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 2020**

Compiled by Paul Butter, Events Officer

## **Saturday 1st February 2020: Haldon Forest nr. Exeter 10.30 am - 2.30 pm**

Meet in the car park of Haldon Forest Park (entrance at SX 884 849) on the Haldon Racecourse to Dunchideock road, about 1 mile from A38 and the race-course. Attendees will be able to park here free for this task but must arrive promptly to receive a parking permit. We will then drive to the work site in as few cars as we can. We will be managing the early Fritillaries breeding area by mainly removing or coppicing tree growth. There will also be some Gorse scrub clearing work. Bring cutting tools - some tools will also be available. Forestry Commission staff should be in attendance. Contact for this event: Jenny Plackett: 07918 073 654.

## **Saturday 8th February 2020: Lydford 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 brush-cutter but also some coppicing of trees and scrub. Rakes and pitch-forks 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: Colin Sargent: 01822 810 433.

## **Sunday 23rd February 2020: Heathfield Reserve near Bovey Tracey 10.30 am - 2.30 pm**

Meet on Dragoon Close (road sign missing) on Heathfield Industrial Estate, postcode TQ12 6TU. From the A38 take the A382 towards Bovey Tracey. After about 400 yards turn right at the traffic lights into Battle Road. After about another 300 yards turn left into Cavalier Road. Drive along a straight section of this road for about 800 yards and Dragoon Close is on the left just as the road starts to bend to the right. We shall be raking, clearing and coppicing at Teignbridge's Heathfield reserve to maintain the open and warm heathland there. The work has benefited Silver-studded Blue in the past. Some cutting

tools and rakes will be available or bring your own.  
Event contact: Pete Hurst 01626 854 182.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Dartmoor Fritillary Survey Meeting  
10.30am - 3pm booking required**

Location: Woodland Centre, East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve (Yarner Wood), TQ13 9LJ.

Details: Open to all interested in or involved with fritillary butterfly surveys on Dartmoor. The day will feature a series of talks and workshops, and will be a chance to meet fellow surveyors and learn about further opportunities to get involved in the coming season. New volunteers very welcome. Booking essential - please contact Megan to book: [mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org) tel. 07827 460 767.

**Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> Norman Lockyer Observatory near Sidmouth  
Moth Trapping**

Meet at 20.00 hrs on Friday or 10.00hrs on Saturday 9th 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. There is an option to camp overnight and toilets are available on site. Joint with Norman Lockyer Observatory and Devon Moth Group. Leader Paul Butler Tel. 01297 442 290

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Chudleigh Knighton Heath 10.30 am – 1.30 pm**

Meet at Dunley Cross [SX 837 775] which is between Chudleigh Knighton and Bovey Tracey and is a crossroads for them and also Hennock and Kingsteignton. Several lay-bys are available to park in around the crossroads. We will be searching for and counting Pearl-bordered Fritillaries in half a dozen or so glades around the Heath including clearings made by BC members in the previous winters. Easy level going for about 3 miles though could be wet ground in places. Other spring butterflies should be on the wing. Option to bring a packed lunch to have at the end of the walk. Contact: Pete Hurst 01626 854 182.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Goat Island/ Undercliffs NNR 1pm**

Meet at Stepps Lane grid ref. SY 266 903 at junction of the unmade

track known as Barn Close Lane where there is off-road parking for 6-7 cars. Stepps Lane is accessed from the B3172 in Axmouth being the **second** left hand turn in the village, if coming from the A3052 in the north then taking the right hand fork. We will walk on to join the SW Coast Path to Goat Island where we will explore the fine unimproved chalk grassland with fine sea views before moving inland to chasm view, site of the 1839 landslip. Some sheltered glades have been created which are very good for butterflies including Wood White. It is quite an extensive walk and sun protection, sturdy footwear, and refreshments are advised. We will head back at approx 3.30-4pm to get back to the vehicles by 4.30 - 5pm. Leaders Paul Butter 01297 442 290 and Martin Drake 01460 220 650 and is a joint event with the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society.

**Sunday 31st May 2020: Marsh Fritillary Guided Walk  
11am - 1pm booking required**

Location: Langaford Farm, nr Lettaford, TQ13 8RH.

Details: A guided walk around the farm's beautiful wet meadows. There is a chance we could see Marsh Fritillary, Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk moth and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary here, as well as many other fauna and flora. Weather depending we hope to set a moth trap the night before with moths to view from 10am. Suggested donation: £5 to The Langaford Farm Charitable Trust (to include tea/coffee and cake). To book please see: - [langafordtrust.org](http://langafordtrust.org)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Lydford Old Railway Reserve 11.00 a.m.  
booking required**

Meet at the National Trust waterfall car park which is about 1 mile SW of the main Lydford Gorge entrance at SS 501831. This is the best chance to see Heath Fritillary with Small Pearl-bordered and possibly Pearl-bordered Fritillaries all on the wing. Due to the sensitive nature of the site numbers will be limited and those wishing to attend must contact the reserve warden Colin Sargent beforehand. You will need to bring your Butterfly Conservation membership card with you. If the event is oversubscribed an additional day might be arranged with Colin. Leader; Colin Sargent on [colin@colinsargent.co.uk](mailto:colin@colinsargent.co.uk)

### **Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> Braunton Burrows 1pm.**

A two stage event starting at Saunton Golf Clubhouse car park, grid ref. SS 458 376 at 1.00pm. From the A361 in Braunton take the B 3231 to Saunton for 3km or so and approach the Golf links where there is a car park on the left (free). We will then search the dunes in this area for Small Blue amongst Kidney Vetch. Afterwards we will proceed to Sandy Lane where there is another car park (£2 charge) at grid ref. SS 463 351 from where we will access the middle part of the Burrows. Jointly led by Andrew Hunter and John Breeds. Contact John at:-  
john\_breeds@hotmail.com

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Wembury Point near Plymouth, coast walk 10.30 am – 2.30 pm booking required**

Join National Trust Rangers and Butterfly Conservation for a guided walk around Wembury Point. We will hopefully see a range of coastal butterflies and will note their nectar and larval food plants. We shall also be looking to id any moths we see. The walk will be around farmland with steps, uneven surfaces and some slippery slopes. Bring lunch, sturdy footwear and binoculars if you have them. Suitable for families but not for dogs as we will traverse areas with ponies. Meet 10.30 am in Wembury Point car park, grid ref SX 504 487 or nearest postcode PL9 0BA. Car park is free to National Trust members – non-members can make a suggested donation of £2. Directions: From the A379 turn off at the Elburton roundabout onto Springfield Road and signposted to Wembury. At the traffic lights follow signs to Wembury and turn left onto Wembury Road. Turn right onto Staddiscombe Road just before the Co-op. Turn left at the T-junction and follow the road for circa 3 miles to reach Wembury Point car park. No charge for event but numbers will be limited and **booking is required** by phoning Ranger Jessica Tatton-Brown: 01752 345 585 who will lead accompanied by Pete Hurst (01626 854 182).

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020: Ashclyst Forest near Broadclyst 1.00 pm**  
**Directions:** Travelling north from Exeter take the B3181 through Pinhoe and Broadclyst and take a right turn (signed to Ashclyst Forest) just **beyond** the left turn to Killerton House. Follow this lane for a mile going past two left turns and the Forest Gate car park is on your left. We will explore this large area of woodland well known as a good site for White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary. The dayflying Scarlet Tiger moth should also be present with a selection of

other summer butterflies. Leader: Paul Butter 01297 442 290.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Kerswell Down, Kingskerswell. 1pm.**

Meet at the free car park at Maddacombe Road, Kingskerwell, grid ref SX 873 676 at 1pm for an afternoon walk around this very interesting site. There is a short, fairly steep path up from the car park which can be slippery when wet so stout footwear is advised. The walk will hopefully provide sightings of White Admiral as well as Brown Argus and Silver-washed Fritillary. Interesting flora and other insects should also be encountered. Leader David Poole: 01803 873 880.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 Meeth Quarry near Hatherleigh DWT Reserve 1.00 p.m.**

Meet at the main DWT car park (free) at the end of the lane which runs off the A386 at Meeth village marked by a signboard at SS 540 085. This event is for second brood Wood Whites and possibly Dingy Skipper. Silver-washed Fritillaries should also be about, and the site has been noted for the var. valezina form. A large reserve with a lot to see, especially Odonata and day-flying moths. Bring water and sun protection. Leader; Kevin New:-  
kevin.new32@gmail.com

**Friday 7th August 2020 Andrew's Wood, Loddiswell Moth trapping 8.45 pm**

Moth recording in this mixed woodland site. Meet in the carpark at grid ref. SX 713 519. From A38 take the A3121 then B3196 passing through Kitterford Cross on to California Cross where a left hand fork takes you beyond the petrol station towards Loddiswell. Through Loddiswell to Coldharbour Cross and the car park is 250m on the right. If the weather looks poor, 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, Butterfly Conservation and Devonshire Association. Leader Barry Henwood, tel.01626 364 080

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020: Devon BC Members' Day and AGM, Boniface Centre, Crediton Parish Church**

Timings to be confirmed but usually 10 am – 4 pm. Our programme and guest speakers will be announced in the June newsletter.



Field event at the Undercliffs National Nature Reserve PHIL PARR



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