

Devon Branch

Programme of Events



**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 Summer 2021

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL EVENTS AS NUMBERS MAY NEED TO BE RESTRICTED

Friday 7th May & Saturday 8th May Norman Lockyer Observatory, Sidmouth

Meet at 20:00 hrs on Friday or 10:00 hrs Saturday morning at grid ref SY 139 883 for a nights' moth trapping at this remarkable site. Traps will be inspected at 10 am Saturday. The Observatory is on high ground in an area of minimal light pollution and is surrounded by mixed woodland and situated about 1km from the coast. A good species list should be expected weather permitting. There is an option to camp overnight and toilets are available on site. Joint event with Norman Lockyer Observatory and Devon Moth group. Tel. Leader Paul Butter 01297 442290 to confirm the event.

Sunday May 9th Chudleigh Knighton Heath 10:30—13:30

Meet at Dunley Cross grid ref SX 837 775 which is between Chudleigh Knighton and Bovey Tracey and is a crossroads with Hennock and Kingsteignton. Several laybys are available to park in around the crossroads. We will be searching for and counting Pearl-bordered Fritillaries in half a dozen glades around the heath including clearings made by BC work parties. We will cover about 3 miles in all and some parts can be wet. Option to bring a packed lunch to have at the end of the walk. Leader Pete Hurst tel. 01626 854 182.

Sunday June 6th Goat Island Undercliffs NNR nr Seaton 10:30—15:00

Meet at the layby on Stepps Lane, Axmouth at SY 266 903 at 10.30 for a long walk to the Goat Island area of the reserve and possibly Chasm View and a few more “off the beaten track” areas of special interest. The complex geology of this area gives rise to a very mixed flora and fauna and a lot of conservation work has been done to enlarge the areas of calcareous grassland. It's a long walk and you will need good footwear, sun protection, water and packed lunch. This is a joint meeting with AV&DCS and BC. Butterfly Conservation members will be limited to 12 so book early with Paul Butter 01297 442290 or at paulindbutter@gmail.com or Martin Drake 01460 220650 martin-drake2@gmail.com to avoid disappointment.

Sunday June 13th Locks Park Farm, near Hatherleigh in West Devon EX20 3LZ 10:30—13:00

Meet at the farm house at grid ref SS 518 022 at 10:30 please locate the farm on a map before coming. The farmhouse is at the end of a long lane. This meeting is a chance to explore the insect and other wildlife of a small County Wildlife Site where wet woodland and Culm grassland lie side by side, and to discuss appropriate management. What's the best balance between willow scrub and open flower-rich grassland? Should cattle be allowed access to the wet woodland? Which habitat supports most flies, moths, butterflies or beetles? We will address these and other such questions. We will walk back up

the lane beside species-rich hedges managed for dormice and brown hair-streaks, through a hay field full of flowers and a young broadleaved plantation, to the site. You are welcome to stay on to eat your packed lunches. Wellies recommended. Contact leader Rob Wolton tel.01837 810416.

Sunday June 27th Ashclyst Forest nr. Exeter 10:30—14:30 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, Silver-washed Fritillaries and Scarlet Tiger moths. Bring lunch. Event leaders: Pete Hurst (tel. 01626 854 182) and Peter Beale.

Sunday July 11th Kerswell Downs, Kingskerswell 13:00

Meet at the free car park at Maddacombe Road, Kingskerswell 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 recommended . The walk will hopefully provide sightings of White Admiral, Brown Argus and Silver-washed Fritillary. There is also a good limestone flora of interest and other insects should also be encountered. Leader David Poole tel. 01803 873880.

Friday 30th July Meeth Quarry 21:00 Moth Trapping

Meet at the main DWT car park (free) at the end of the lane which runs off the A386 at Meeth village marked by the signboard at grid ref SS540 085. A large reserve with a variety of habitats to try your trap at with some Aspen, reeds, Oak woodland and drier scrub. There are toilets on site. Please ensure you have warm clothing and snacks/drinks. Leaders Paul Butter 01297 442290 paulndbutter@gmail.com and Kevin New: 01837 811030 kevin.new@gmail.com

Saturday 31st July Meeth Quarry DWT Reserve 10:00

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 grid ref SS540 085. The event is for second brood Wood Whites and possibly Dinky Skipper. Silver-washed Fritillaries should be about and the site has been noted for the rare var. *valezina* form. We will have moth traps to inspect first thing before going on to explore the reserve. A large reserve with a lot to see, especially Odonata and day-flying moths. Bring water and sun protection. Toilet facilities are available. Leader Kevin New on kevin.new@gmail.com