

BC Devon Roger Bristow Memorial Butterfly Walks

Welcome to BC Devon Branch's Roger Bristow Memorial Butterfly Walks. These walks cover places in our county which are good places to see particular butterflies at different times of the Spring and Summer. Our aim is to add more walks to the BC Devon In Your Area web site - so do return and check for new listings. If you have any further butterfly walk suggestions we would love to hear from you. Please email the branch on contact@devon-butterflies.org.uk.

These Devon Butterfly Walks are in remembrance of a much respected and highly regarded member of Butterfly Conservation, Roger Bristow, who passed away in September 2020. Roger was one of the founding members of the Devon Branch of Butterfly Conservation and he played a huge role in improving the knowledge of Devon's butterflies.

Roger served on the branch committee for many years and took on many roles from Chairman, Newsletter Editor and, most significantly, as the Devon County Recorder for 35 years. He was always very generous with his time giving talks and attending public events to raise awareness and share his knowledge of butterflies.

Walk 2 – Ashclyst Forest – by Paul Butter

Ashclyst Forest is part of the National Trust Killerton estate and one of the largest woods in East Devon. Access to Ashclyst is best from the B3181 from Exeter through Broadclyst, past the left turn to Killerton, about another 100 m take a right turn signed Ashclyst Forest. Keep on this narrow lane passing the left turn signed Caddihoe until you come to the Forest Gate car park on your left. This route avoids a dangerous blind junction on the earlier approach just past Broadclyst. OS Grid Ref: SX471462. Two walks are detailed – Walk 1 May/June & Walk 2 June/July

Walk 1 May/June - This walk follows the Red Route (as signposted by the National Trust)

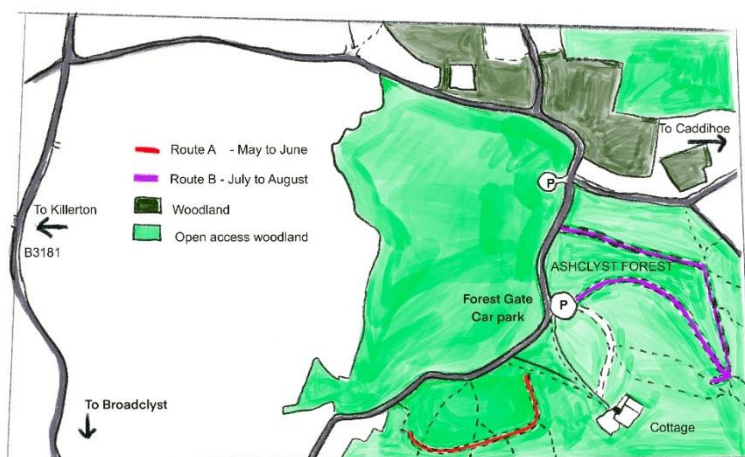
Key species: Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Other species: Speckled Wood, Green Hairstreak, Brimstone, Common Blue, Dingy Skipper

Suggested walk: From the Forest Gate Car Park take the red route waymarked on the information board located in the open area between the car parking area and the road. The second post is confusingly coloured green, but a red and yellow marker post marks the route passing an open clearing on the right. Cross over a surfaced trackway

through a gate, this area like much of Ashclyst can be very muddy in wet weather. Speckled Wood and Green-veined White may be seen here. Passing through closed canopy woodland you will come to an open grassy ride running left to right, follow the path to the right; this is "the butterfly walk". The open slope to the left is often frequented by Small Skipper and you may get your first sight of a Pearl or Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary here.

Walk along the wide ride with bracken which is managed for the Pearls. Young Oaks on the right are frequented by Purple Hairstreaks in July, early evening being the best time to see them. The ride continues



for about 400m following the telegraph poles which then dip across country. This area has Green Hairstreak on the Gorse and Dingy Skipper and marks the end of the walk. You have a choice here to either retrace your steps back to the car park, or continue to follow the red posts for a longer woodland walk. If you choose to retrace your steps this walk is a little over a mile in length.

Walk 2 June/July - This walk follows the Purple Route (as signposted by the National Trust)

Key species: White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

Other species: Purple Hairstreak, Comma, Large and Small Skippers, Scarlet Tiger moth

Suggested walk: From Forest Gate Car Park the purple route initially winds through mature Oaks and occasional Conifers and keeps the road off to your left. Before bearing right to a purple marker post with arrow to right. A large felled area here is a favoured spot for White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary which nectar on the profusion of bramble. Scarlet Tiger moths can often be seen on the track which goes on downhill from here. At the bottom of the slope go right over the wooden bridge and up the slope where there is another purple marker at the top. Keep a lookout for Purple Hairstreaks on the Oaks. There is an open grassy area on the shoulder of the bend in the track which is worth checking for Skippers before following the track uphill back to the car park. This walk is a little over a mile in length.

The Silver-washed Fritillary *Valezina* form has been seen here. It occurs in a small percentage of females, primarily in the south of England, where the orange-brown colouring is replaced with a deep olive-green.

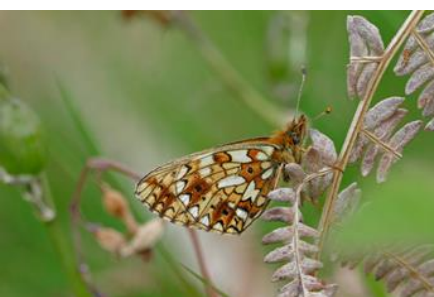
Ashclyst Forest is one of the best places in Devon to see White Admiral.



Butterflies of Ashclyst Forest (photos by A Hunter, IH Leach, P Butter, D Turrell)



Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Pearl-bordered Fritillary underwing (A Hunter)



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (A Hunter) Sml Pearl-bordered Fritillary underwing (D Turrell)



White Admiral (IH Leach) Silver Washed Fritillary Var. Valenzina female (Paul Butter)



Silver washed Fritillaries - female left, male right (A Hunter)



Silver washed Fritillary underwing - Scarlet Tiger Moth (A Hunter)