

Management to conserve the Brown Hairstreak

Woodland edges and rides

Broadleaved woods are essential to Brown Hairstreak colonies and can be managed for their benefit.

- Maintain all farm woods and broadleaved wood edges and retain trees identified as key mating sites and congregation points. Adults tend to congregate around specific groups of trees, particularly in mid August when they are seeking mates. The same trees, usually prominent Ashes, are used for this purpose from year to year. Where these trees can be identified they should be retained whenever woodland management occurs.
- Coppice or fell trees in rotation. Spread any clearing or coppicing work over several years and leave some belts of woodland intact to act as focal points for the colony.
- Manage woodland edges and rides in rotation as for hedges. Woodland edges and wide, sunny rides can also form important areas for egg laying. Any Blackthorn should be cut on rotations of 2-5 years, similar to that for hedgerows. Creating new east-west rides within woods can be valuable, especially where they link existing egg laying areas. When creating new woods or rides plant Blackthorn along sunny, sheltered edges.

n0190 October 2009



Butterfly
Conservation



Brown Hairstreak

Thecla betulae



Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats



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Produced by Butterfly Conservation with funding from the National Lottery Awards for All.

Additional logo designed by Hilary Kennelly, West Wales Museum of Childhood and Waters Creative.

Photographs by Michael J Clark, Mark Parsons, Paul Pugh and David Walker

Butterfly Conservation, Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)

Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP

Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

Designed and produced by www.nectarcreative.com 01942 681648

The Brown Hairstreak is a beautiful and secretive butterfly that depends upon hedgerows and woodland edges for its survival. In Wales the butterfly breeds on blackthorn with colonies usually occurring at low densities over a wide area. The butterfly is severely affected by hedge removal and frequent cutting.

The Brown Hairstreak was once very widespread in Wales but has declined severely due to the loss of woodlands and hedgerows and intensive hedgerow management. Its remaining stronghold is Carmarthenshire with scattered colonies in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion.

Life Cycle of the Brown Hairstreak

Adults emerge from late July and may be on the wing into October. They spend much of their lives in the treetops or along woodland edges feeding on honeydew secreted by aphids, and secretions produced by Ash trees. They are most often seen with their wings closed, revealing golden brown underwings that are crossed by two thin white lines and their distinctive orange tails. Their upper surfaces are dark brown, though the female has orange patches on the forewings.

The females are more commonly seen as they fly along hedgerows or around young scrub looking for suitable egg-laying sites on young Blackthorn stems. The eggs remain here throughout the winter and do not hatch until the leaves open during the following May.

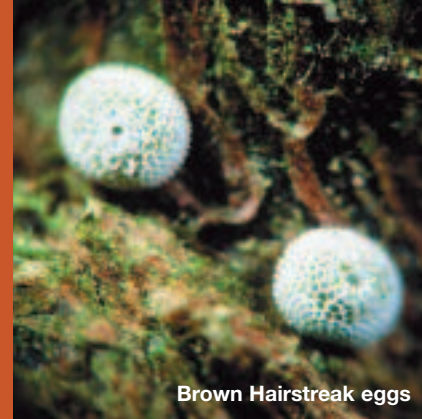
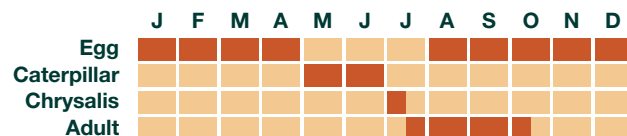
The pale green caterpillar feeds on Blackthorn leaves until it pupates in early July.

The chrysalis is formed close to the ground, amongst leaves, and is sometimes tended by ants.

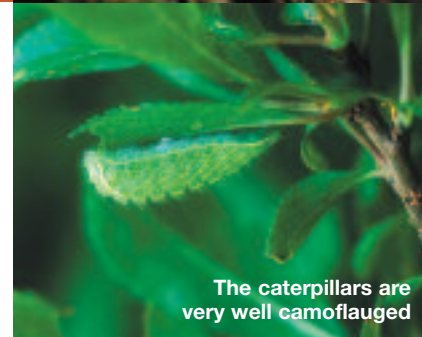
Position of eggs

The butterfly's presence is most easily confirmed by searching Blackthorn for eggs during winter. The white, pinhead-sized eggs are conspicuous against the dark bark of the young Blackthorn twigs. They are usually laid singly, between ground level and up to 1m (3ft), on protruding shoots at the hedge bottom or suckering Blackthorn at the field edge. Sunny, sheltered positions are favoured for egg laying.

Colonies are normally centred on a wood, but egg-laying usually extends over several square miles of the surrounding countryside. A complex of woodlands, scrub and hedgerows with abundant, suitably managed, Blackthorn is therefore required. Most colonies occur on heavy or clay soils where blackthorn is a dominant constituent of the hedgerows or scrub.



Brown Hairstreak eggs



The caterpillars are very well camouflaged



Brown Hairstreak underside

Management to conserve the Brown Hairstreak

Blackthorn hedges

As the Brown Hairstreak's eggs and caterpillars depend on young blackthorn twigs for much of the year, most hedge trimming will severely affect them. Annual trimming is particularly harmful and can kill whole populations. This can be avoided, and populations enhanced, by adopting appropriate cutting regimes.

- Trim hedgerows once every 3-5 years, and cut no more than a third in any one year. This can be 50% cheaper than annual cutting, as well as ensuring a healthy hedge and producing a more diverse and attractive countryside.
- Rotations over 7 years involving hedge laying or coppicing are also highly suitable. This produces young growth that is highly attractive to egg laying females. It is advisable to fence early coppice against browsing by stock.
- Avoid chemical spraying up to field edges and, ideally, leave an uncultivated margin. Spraying can damage the eggs and caterpillars as well as the hedgerow, so leaving wide unsprayed field margins is beneficial to wildlife.
- Look for opportunities to restore and create hedgerows using Blackthorn, especially if you can link up existing hedges and woodland edges. Generally, east-west hedges with a sunny, south-facing side are favoured by Brown Hairstreak.

Yr oedd y Britrhribin Brown i'w weld yn gyffredin ar draws Cymru ar un adeg, ond mae wedi dirywio'n arw yn sgil colled y coetiroedd a'r perthi, a rheolaeth ddwys ar berthi. Ei gadarnle olaf yw Sir Gaerfyrddin, ynghyd â chytrefi gwasgaredig yn Sir Bentra a Cheredigion.

Cylich bywyd

Mae'r oedolion yn dod allan o ddiwedd Gorffennaf ymlaen a gallant fod yn dal i hedfan tan ganol mis Hydref. Maent yn

treulio rhan

heleath o'u bywydau rhwng brigau'r coed

neu ar hyd ymylon y coetir yn ymorthi ar y

melwllth a secretir gan lau planhigion (pryfed

gleision), a'r secretiadau a gynhyrchir gan

ym. Fe'u gwelir amlat â'u hadenydd ar gau,

gan ddatgellu isadenydd brown euraid wedi'u

croesi gan ddwy llinell wen gul, a'r gyrtffon

oren nodweddiadol. Mae'r arwyneb uchaf yn

trwm tywyll, ond mae gan y fenyw glytiau

oren ar y blaen-adenydd.

Gwelir y benywod yn amlach wrth iddynt

hedfan ar hyd y perthi neu ymhlith prysgwydd

ffanc yn chwilio am fannau addas i ddodwly

wyau ar goesynnau ffanc y drain duon. Mae'r

wyau'n aros yma gydol y gaeaf, nes bod y

dall yn ymagor ym mis Mai.

Mae'r lindys gwyredd golau'n ymorthi ar

ddall y drain duon nes chwileria yn ysto

hanner cyntaf mis Gorffennaf. Ffurfir y

crysalis yn agos i'r ddaear ymhlith y dall,

a bydd morgrug weithiau'n gofalu amdano.

Leoliad yr wyau

Y ffordd hawsaf o gadarnhau presenoldeb y glöyn byw hwn yw chwilio am yr wyau ar

ddrain duon yn ystod y gaeaf. Mae'r wya

gwynion, tua maint pen pin, i'w gweld yn

amllwg yn erbyn rhisgl tywyll brigau ffanc

drain duon. Maent yn arfer cael eu dodwly

tesul un, o lefel y llawr hyd at 1m (3ftedd)

uwchben y ddaear, ar eglu allwthiol wrth

fôn y perthi neu ar grachngoed y drain duon

ar ymyl y caeau. Safleoedd heulog clyd

a ddewisir amlat i ddodwly wyau.

Canolir y cytrefi fel rheol o gwmpas coedwig,

ond mae'r wyau'n arfer cael eu dodwly ar

drws sawl millitri sgwâr yn y wlad o gwmpas.

Mae angen cyfuniad o goetiroedd, prysgwydd

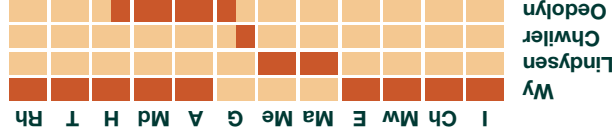
a pherthi sy'n cynnwys digonedd o ddrain

duon wedi'u rheoli'n briadol. Mae'r rhan

twyaf o gytreffi i'w cael ar briddoedd trymion

neu gleiog, lle y mae drain duon ymhlith

prff eiffennau'r perthi neu'r prysgwydd.



Rheolaeth er gwarchod y Britrhribin Brown

Perthi drain duon

Gan fod wyau a lindys y Britrhribin Brown yn dibynnu ar frigau ffanc y ddraenen ddu am gyfran helaeth o'r ffwyddyn, mae tocio perthi ar unrhyw adeg yn debyg o'u lladd neu amharu arnynt. Mae tocio blynyddol yn arbennig o niweidiol, a gall ladd poblogaethau cyfan. Gellir osgoi hyn, a hybu goroesiad y poblogaethau hyn, trwy gadw at drefn docio addas.

- Tociwch berthi unwaith bob 3-5 mlynedd, gan ymatal rhag torri mwy na thraean mewn unrhyw ffwyddyn. Gall hyn gostio 50% yn llai na thori bob bliwyddyn, yn ogystal â sicrhau perth iach a chreu cefn gwlad fydd yn fwy amrywiol a deniadol.

- Mae trefn haenu perthi neu goediamnu sy'n cychandroi dros gyfnod o saith blynedd yn addas dros ben hefyd. Mae hyn yn hybu tyffant ffanc sy'n ddeniadol iawn i fenywod sy'n dodwly wyau. Mae'n beth doeth i ffensiio coedlannau ffanc rhag cael eu brigborti gan dda byw neu geirw.

- Gochelwch rhag chwistrellu cemegau hyd at ymylon caeau ac, os gellir, gadewch odre amdanyn't heb ei droi. Mae chwistrellu'n gallu niweidio'r wyau a'r lindys yn ogystal â'r berthi, felly mae gadael goddreon llydan heb eu chwistrellu o gwmpas caeau'n fuddiol i fwyd gwylt.

- Chwiliwch am gyffeoedd i adfer a chreu perthi gan ddefnyddio drain duon, yn enwedig os gallwch chi gysylltu hysteroedd perthi ac ymylon coetir sydd mewn bodolaeth yn barod. Fel rheol, mae'r Britrhribin Brown yn ffafrio perthi sy'n rhedeg o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin, a sydd ag un ochr heulog yn wynebu'r de.



Brown Hairstreak eggs



The caterpillars are very well camouflaged



Brown Hairstreak underside

Rheolaeth er gwarchod y Britthribin Brown

Ymlyon a rhodfeydd y coetir

Mae coedwigoedd llydandall yn hanfodol bwysig i'r rhan fwyaf o gytreffir Britthribin Brown a gellir eu rheoli er ei les.

- Cynhaliwch unrhyw goedwigoedd fferm ac ymlyon coedwigoedd llydandall, gan gadw coed sydd wedi cael eu hadnabod fel manau ymgyrnall a pharu allweddol. Mae'r oedolion yn tueddu i ymgyrnall o gwmpas gwmpiau penodol o goed, yn enwedig tua chandol mis Awst wrth chwilio am gymar. Mae'r un coed, ym amlwg fel rheol, yn cael eu defnyddio i'r cilben hwn fwyddyn ar ôl blyddyn. Fyrd bynnag y gellir adnabod y coed hanfodol hyn fe ddylid eu cadw lle bynnag y mae'r goedwigoedd yn cael ei rheoli.
- Coedlannwch neu torrwnch goed i lawr yn ôl trefn gylichdroadol. Gwasgarwch unrhyw wath cilliro neu goedlannu droos sawl blyddyn gan adael ambell laln o goetir heb ei chyffwrdd i fod yn ganolwyrnt i'r cytreffir.
- Rheolwch rhodfeydd ac ymlyon y coetir yn ôl trefn gylichdroadol yr un fath â pherthi. Gall ymlyon coedwig a rhodfeydd heulog llydan fod yn safle dodwy wyau pwsig. Dylid torri drain duon bob 2-5 mlynedd, yr un fath â pherthi. Gall creu rhodfeydd dwyrain-gorllewin newydd mewn coedwig fod yn fuddiol, yn enwedig os ydych chi'n cysylltu manau dodwy sydd mewn bodolaeth. Planwch ddrain duon ar hyd ymlyon heulog clyd wrth greu coetiroedd neu rhodfeydd newydd.

n0190 October 2009

Butterfly Conservation



Y Britthribin Brown

Thecla betulae



Mae'r Britthribin Brown yn löyn byw dirgelaidd prydeith sy'n llwyddo i fyw mewn perthi ac ar ymlyon coetiroedd. Yng Nghymru mae'n bridio ar ddrain duon. Mae eu cytreffir i'w gweld fel arfer wedi'u gwasgaru ar draws ardal eang heb fod yn niferus. Gan ei fod yn dibynnu ar berthi, mae gwaredu perthi a'u torri'n rhy aml yn effeithio arno.

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Cynhyrchwyd gan Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw gyda chyllid o Gronfa Arian i Bawb y Loteri Genedlaethol.

Luniau gan Michael J Clark, Mark Parsons, Paul Pugh and David Walker

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