



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
Cornwall Butterfly Conservation held on 22 April 2017  
St Erme Community Centre, Castle Field, Trispen, near Truro**

**1 Welcome**

The Chairman, Philip Hambly, welcomed delegates and speakers. The promotional video, *Cornwall's Butterflies: Back from the Brink* was shown. The Chairman praised Nina Constable on the high quality and inspirational nature of the film, and thanked Tristram Besterman for writing the script.

**2 Apologies for absence**

None had been received.

**3 Minutes of the 2016 AGM**

The minutes of the AGM of CBC held at St Erme Community Centre on 12 March 2016 were approved (*moved by Roger Hooper, seconded by Jim Barker*).

**4 Matters arising**

No matters were raised from the Minutes of the 2016 AGM.

**5 Chairman's report**

The report, which summarised activities by the branch over the past year, was tabled, and questions invited. None was forthcoming. The Chairman reiterated his thanks to all the volunteers on whose work CBC depends and particularly to members of the Committee for their work over the year. The Chairman's report was subsequently posted on the CBC website.

**6 Treasurer's report**

The report was tabled showing total income for the year at £19,287 (including a generous legacy of £12,577 from Roger Lane) and expenditure of £11,502, leaving a surplus at year end of £7,785. Questions were invited. None was forthcoming.

**7 Election of officers and committee members**

**Jim Cooper**, who had been co-opted to committee during the year, gave a brief description of his experience and interests. His appointment was unopposed and approved (*proposed by Jo Poland, seconded by Jim Barker*).

**Philip Hambly**, Chairman, **Jo Poland**, Publicity and Fundraising Officer, **Carly Riley**, Health & Safety Officer and **Tristram Besterman**, Committee Member, were due for re-election. Their appointment was unopposed and approved (*proposed by* Kathy Wood, *seconded by* Tony Atkinson).

**Jim Barker**, Branch Contact and Transect Recorder, **Gordon Thomas**, Treasurer and **Kathy Hicks**, Secretary, had retired and were not standing for re-election. The Chairman thanked all three for their contributions, which in Jim Barker's case had extended over many years of dedicated and unstinting service,

## 8 County Butterfly Recorder's report

The Butterfly Recorder, Dick Goodere, presented a report, highlighting the main findings from records submitted in 2016. A summary forms Appendix 1.

## 9 County Transect Recorder's report

Jim Barker presented his report for 2016 as CBC Transect Recorder. The principal findings are summarised at Appendix 2.

## 10 Any other business

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

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Appendix 1

## CBC County Butterfly Recorder's annual report for AGM 2017

The Gatekeeper was top of the list this year for the number of butterflies seen (over 9000) closely followed by the Silver-studded Blue. I can report that 18,627 records were received this year and an impressive total of 67120 butterflies counted. This is slightly down from last year but it does not include records from BTO which amounted to over 2,500 last year.

### Butterfly records overall

Year	No. records	No. butterflies	
2011	11069	39179	
2012	6377	21804	
2013	13450	56863	
2014	22056	78256	
2015	19492	68072	(Plus BTO 2584 records)
2016	18627	67120	(No BTO records)

Records come from a variety of sources which include local individual recorders and transects. Other records come via Butterfly Conservation HQ and include, Big Butterfly Count, Garden survey, Wider Countryside Scheme, ibutterfly apps and Migrant Watch.

I have compiled a *Winners & Losers* list comparing this year's butterfly numbers with last year's. The declines and falls were similar to those noted by our Transect Coordinator with some notable exceptions. Those marked with an asterisk showed a 50% decline. Transects did better than the overall Cornish records in terms of positive percentage changes in abundance whereas some of the species doing well on the transects actually declined on my list. (Shown in red are species included on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.)

<i>Down</i>	<i>More or less the same</i>	<i>Up</i>
Small Tortoiseshell*	Purple Hairstreak	<b>Silver-Studded Blue</b>
Brown Argus*	Dark Green Fritillary	Green Hairstreak
<b>Grizzled Skipper</b>	<b>Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary</b>	<b>Marsh Fritillary (Adults)</b>
<b>Small Heath</b>	<b>Pearl-bordered Fritillary</b>	<b>Heath Fritillary</b>
<b>Wall</b>	Gatekeeper	Large White
<b>Grayling</b>	Meadow Brown	Small White
<b>Dingy Skipper</b>	Speckled Wood	Green-veined White
Silver-washed Fritillary		Orange-tip
Large Skipper		Red Admiral
Small Skipper*		
Peacock		
Comma*		
Common Blue		
Holly Blue*		
Brimstone		
Marbled White*		
Small Copper *		
Painted Lady		
Clouded Yellow		
Ringlet ( <i>Figured right: Porthcothan</i> )		



The figures are based on both records and abundance. The records correlate on the whole with numbers seen with only one or two exceptions. For example, records are slightly down in relation to Marbled Whites but abundance is down 75%.

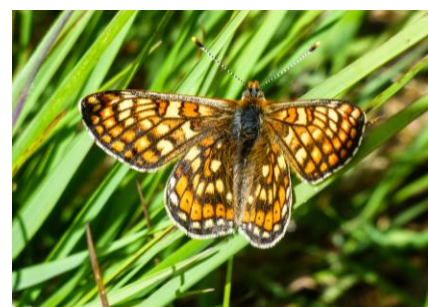
### Rarities in Cornwall

I now want to give a brief recap of what is happening to our rarer butterflies. The two butterflies which are the focus of the *All the Moor Butterflies* project are of particular interest: the Marsh Fritillary and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Marsh Fritillary** adult numbers were up this year-470 compared with 254 in 2015 and very similar to the numbers recorded in 2014. On the other hand, the webs recorded in 2016, particularly on Bodmin Moor, were sharply down from 2015 when there was a concerted effort to search for them at different sites. This does show how important it is to make the effort to monitor and survey regularly and to explore potential areas which hopefully the *All the Moor Butterflies* project will do.

#### **Marsh Fritillary** (*fig. right: Bodmin Moor*)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Records</i>	<i>Adults+webs</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>webs</i>
2016	38	737	470	267
2015	58	576	254	322



**Pearl-bordered Fritillary** numbers were slightly up on last year. It was pleasing to see that 25 were recorded at De Lank last spring compared to none the previous year. Could this be the result of all our conservation work there? Numbers from Marsland are fairly consistent but there does appear to be a recent decline in abundance on the South Coast which we need to keep an eye on.

**Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Fig. right: coast path near Looe*)

Year	Records	Butterflies
2011	31	252
2012	32	550
2013	31	450
2014	24	510
2015	26	303
2016	28	349



NB: in most years, the numbers seen have been boosted by 200+ seen at Marsland

Last year, I expressed concern about the decline of the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**. This year, the number of records I received was slightly down although the number of butterflies seen was almost the same as last year. I would like volunteers to make a concerted effort to survey for the Small Pearl which not long ago seemed to be doing so well in Cornwall.

**Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Fig. right: Breney Common*)

Year	Records	Butterflies
2011	112	1024
2012	84	1660
2013	133	2070
2014	152	1005
2015	150	618
2016	124	625



Similarly, I would like to focus efforts on searching for the **Dingy Skipper** which again showed another decline in records and numbers in 2016 and is against the national trend. Grizzled Skipper numbers were also down on its one remaining site in the Penhale region.

**Dingy Skipper** (*Fig. right: Penhale Sands*)

Year	Records	Butterflies
2011	42	170
2012	10	22
2013	24	116
2014	23	99
2015	30	286
2016	23	177



**Silver-studded Blues** continue to be Cornwall's great success story with numbers increasing year on year. This may partly be due to Sally Foster's special interest in this butterfly and her encouragement of timed counts by members but the range of this butterfly also appears to be expanding, particularly on the coast. Upton Towans is one of the 4 top UK sites which is regularly monitored for this species.

**Silver-studded Blue** (Fig. right: Upton Towans)

Year	Records	Butterflies
2011	124	5932
2012	122	2891
2013	133	3696
2014	173	7359
2015	159	7503
2016	262	9435



On a positive note, **Heath Fritillary** continue to increase at Greenscombe Wood. I was fortunate to see many Heath Fritillary caterpillars there two days ago and have a photograph of one sunning itself on dried oak leaves on the Greenscombe ridge path. A particular thanks to Tony Atkinson who led me to the spot.

**Heath Fritillary** (Fig. right: Greenscombe Wood)

Year	Records	Butterflies
2011	42	227
2012	15	73
2013	12	172
2014	17	166
2015	27	187
2016	34	307



I would like to offer a big thanks to all of you in the audience who have provided records. It is so important to identify where there are concerns related to changes in numbers, records and distribution so that we can focus our conservation and monitoring work and contribute to the national picture. Please send your records directly to me. All I need is Date, Species, Location, 6 figure Grid Reference and Numbers.

Dick Goodere, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Appendix 2

**CBC County Transect Recorder's annual report for AGM 2017**

Total number of butterflies recorded in 2016 along transects: 23,918

<i>In order of abundance</i>		<i>No. butterflies</i>	<i>No. transects</i>
Most abundant	<b>Meadow Brown</b>	5785	36
Second most abundant	<b>Silver-studded Blue</b>	3333	10
Third most abundant	<b>Gatekeeper</b>	3103	33
Least abundant	<b>Clouded Yellow</b>	3	3
	<b>Grizzled Skipper</b>	4	1

37 Transects walked in 2016 and we have added 3 this year (most recent the Kenidjack valley near St Just). A big thank you to volunteer walkers and particularly to the National Trust for boosting the numbers of transects significantly.

Top transect: Upton Towans - thank you Dick Goodere.

**National comparisons in 2016**

*Doing better in Cornwall:* **Heath Fritillary**, **Grizzled Skipper** and **Grayling** are three species whose abundance increased in Cornwall whilst their numbers have decreased nationally. **Wall Brown** decreased by 6.56% in the county compared with a 31% decrease nationally.



*(Figured right: Wall Brown Porthmeor, North Cornwall)*

*Doing OK in Cornwall:* **Red Admiral numbers** have remained about the same, comparable with the national trend.

*Doing worse in Cornwall:* **Clouded Yellow** has decreased by 91.3% (perhaps because winds were not favourable to Cornwall in 2016?), as compared with an increase of 35% for the species in the UK.

In 2016, we have also been counting day-flying moths, for example:

	<i>Number of moths</i>
<b>Silver Y</b>	257
<b>Speckled Yellow</b>	76
<b>Humming-bird Hawk</b>	35



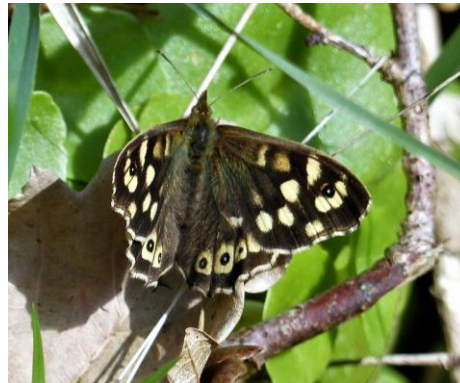
*(Figured right: Silver Y Penlee Meadow)*

*Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme (WCBS):* 20 random squares allocated to Cornwall of which 6 were walked in 2016 plus 2 (non-random) set up by Natural England on the Lizard.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Butterflies</i>
26	1300

In order of abundance:

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Meadow Brown**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Small Heath**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Speckled Wood** *(Fig. right: Lanteglos)*



White-letter Hairstreak and Marsh Fritillary seen on WCBS but not on any transect.

Not reported anywhere: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Purple Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper.

Welcome to Kelly Uren our new WCBS Champion!

Jim Barker 23 April 2017



*Photo credits:*

Dingy Skipper: Shaun Poland.  
Other images: Tristram Besterman

*Figured left: Small Copper, Porthcothan cliffs*