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Cornwall Butterfly Observer



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Cornwall Branch
www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk



Editor's Note

Cornwall Butterfly Observer welcomes contributions from members and supporters of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. We are keen to publish information relevant to butterflies or moths in Cornwall, whether it's news of an event or development, or an in-depth article.

Cornwall Butterfly Observer is careful to check the information that it publishes. Whilst content attributed to a named individual will normally have been reviewed by fellow volunteers, the information and its interpretation, together with the views expressed, are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the settled position of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation

If you would like to contribute to the *Cornwall Butterfly Observer,* please get in touch via email at chair@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Front cover: Large Tortoiseshell Photo; Andrew Thomas
Inside front and back covers: Cubert Common Field Trip Photos: Tristram Besterman
Back cover: Green Hairstreak on Alderney Photo: Steve Batt

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Post from the Chair

A warm welcome to this spring edition of the Cornwall Butterfly Observer and from me, personally, as I take up the reins as the new Chair of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation (CBC). It was wonderful to see so many of you in-person at our Open Day on the 14th March and I very much appreciate the many warm words of support received. A huge thank you to my predecessor, Jerry Dennis, and to our outgoing Treasurer, Sarah Board, for their leadership in guiding the Branch over the last few years. At our Open Day, we heard from a brilliant line-up of speakers and were able to celebrate some of CBC's successes over the last year.

We have just reached the end of a busy winter of habitat management, with our dedicated volunteers carrying out 19 work parties across our priority landscapes of Bodmin Moor and the mining district around Camborne, Redruth and Gwennap. This winter, we have greatly expanded our operations in the mining district, working



The 2026 Open Day and AGM *Photo : Sarah Board*

across a total of six sites, including four new sites for the first time. Here our volunteers have been working to manage scrub and control invasive species that are threatening the habitat of Silver-studded Blues, Grayling and Dingy Skippers.

On Bodmin Moor, habitat management for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Marsh Fritillary has seen a programme of scrub and Bracken management at existing sites, along with work to improve connectivity between the few remaining populations of Pearl-bordered Fritillary on the Moor. At De Lank, a new ride has been created connecting the outer slope to Pendrift Bottom, whilst in the Camel valley we have been busy planting Violets along a corridor between Fellover and Pendavy to enhance the habitat between these two areas. A huge thanks to all who have volunteered their time – we couldn't deliver our conservation work without you.

Survey work has also continued at pace, with the completion of larval surveys and habitat assessments for our Magnificent Marsh Fritillaries project back in the autumn and the subsequent report finalised this spring. Providing detailed, up-to-date information on the status and management needs of Marsh Fritillaries across 50 sites on Bodmin Moor, this report forms the vital evidence base to drive forwards our conservation work across this landscape over the next few years. We have continued to engage with Cornwall Council on the delivery of the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy, helping to shape partnerships that can deliver butterfly and moth conservation at greater scale across our region.

We have also been attending student fairs at colleges and universities, environmental events, local shows and engaging with parish groups, such as the Mining Villages Regeneration Group, to spread our message to a wider audience. As the new butterfly season gets underway, attention now turns to getting out and enjoying the fruits of all this labour. Do take a look at the marvellous programme of field trips lined up for the spring and summer - I hope to see you on one of them very soon!

Marcus Rhodes

Large Tortoiseshell: Spots are the difference!
By Andrew Thomas

On Tuesday, March 3rd at 3:20pm—the first sunny day after months of non-stop rain—I spotted what I first thought was a Small Tortoiseshell basking on a little muddy patch in my Lanreath garden. I was pretty pleased, since we had seen only a couple of Red Admirals so far this year. I took photos and a 30-second video in case it flew off, then hurried inside to show my wife Liz, but when we came out it had vanished. Reviewing the images together, we had our doubts; a quick check on my phone confirmed it: a Large Tortoiseshell (Nymphalis polychloros), with its telltale black blobs on the wings. My shout of joy startled the dog - and probably the neighbours!



Large Tortoiseshell

Spotting the Difference

At first glance, it looks like a bigger version of the familiar Small Tortoiseshell. However, looking closely at the photos, there were a few clear giveaways. Most obvious: four black spots next to the main black patch on the forewing—Small Tortoiseshells typically show only two, though these markings can be a bit variable. It also lacked the bright white splash that the smaller ones have near the wingtips, sporting a deeper, more tawny orange-brown ground colour instead.



Small Tortoiseshell

A Long-Awaited Return

While the recent flurry of sightings has made national headlines, this comeback has actually been a gradual process. After being considered extinct in Britain for decades, Large Tortoiseshells have been spotted off and on for about ten years. Locally, Cornwall records have averaged around four or five a year over the last decade, with a notable peak of nine in 2023.

However, the momentum has clearly shifted. Following breeding evidence in Dorset and Sussex since 2020, Butterfly Conservation officially declared the species "no longer extinct" in Britain on March 9th this year. Our four-acre garden offers Grey and Weeping Willows for spring nectar, plus Wych Elms (and likely nearby Cornish Elm) as primary larval hosts—with willows also as secondary food for caterpillars. Seeing one here adds to the growing hope that these butterflies aren't just passing through but are successfully overwintering and establishing themselves in the Cornish landscape.

Reporting the Record

I will be sending the details of my sighting to the County Recorder, Jerry Dennis, at **records@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk.** If the sun comes back again, it is well worth double-checking any "tortoiseshells" you see; if you are lucky enough to spot one, please send your report to Jerry as well. The return of this beautiful butterfly is a real cause for celebration—let’s make sure we track its progress across the county!

Meet your Newest Committee Member

My name is Sophie Headland and I have just joined the CBC committee, so here are a few lines about me so you can get to know me better.

I have lived in Cornwall from the age of 7 and was a sickly child; being asthmatic took me into hospital every couple of months and there I developed an aspiration to become a doctor, which I realised in 1986. Having qualified in Cardiff I returned to Cornwall in 1999 and have worked in Treliske hospital as an Ophthalmologist ever since. My time in the NHS is drawing to a close as I plan to retire in 2028 when I turn 60. I have so many post-retirement plans....!!

I have always loved nature and been passionate about trying to protect it and effect change for the better. These motivations have driven me to volunteer every week with the National Trust as a Ranger at Penrose, where our efforts are really bearing fruit in the form of restored wildflower meadows, new woodlands and preserved biodiversity. There is nothing like getting cold, wet and mucky for a good cause.



I have been a member of Butterfly Conservation for 3 years, having been drawn in after volunteering for 2 transects on the Lizard for NT, and one at Carrine Common near Truro for Natural England. These transects are ongoing and something I really enjoy. I hope to lead some walks at 2 of these sites this summer with CBC. I am also learning the art of finding Marsh Fritillary larval webs and joining some CBC work parties this winter.

I am a member of Cornwall Wildlife Trust and, with a NT friend, volunteer at Devichoys Wood removing invasive Himalayan Balsam from this area. After 4 years there is good progress and it's rewarding to see what can be achieved with a bit of effort. In fact, I admit to being a bit of a nut when it comes to balsam, and have about 15 sites which I target every summer, sometimes working with local landowners but often just by myself. Fellow balsam bashers are always very welcome! I also do Riverfly testing at Cot Valley and Penrose.



I love travelling to experience other cultures and wildlife, and am going to Sri lanka in February to see Blue whales and Leopards. I also go to Spain often to visit my brother who is also into birds and butterflies, so is a kindred spirit. We compete on iNaturalist to see who has the most species - I am currently winning!!

I am an improving birdwatcher and am interested in the natural world in general, although butterflies have a special place in my heart.

I have a "Can do" attitude and like problem solving. I hope I can be a positive and effective member of the CBC committee going forwards, to drive positive change for butterflies, moths and nature in general in the County I love.

Violet Highways: Linking Cornwall's Fragile PBF Colonies

By Andrew and Liz Thomas

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation has carried out traditional scrub bashing at Bodmin Moor sites like Pendavy, Jordan, Fellover and De Lank quarry for years, but Pearl-bordered Fritillary (PBF) numbers have stubbornly refused to climb. It seems something else was needed.

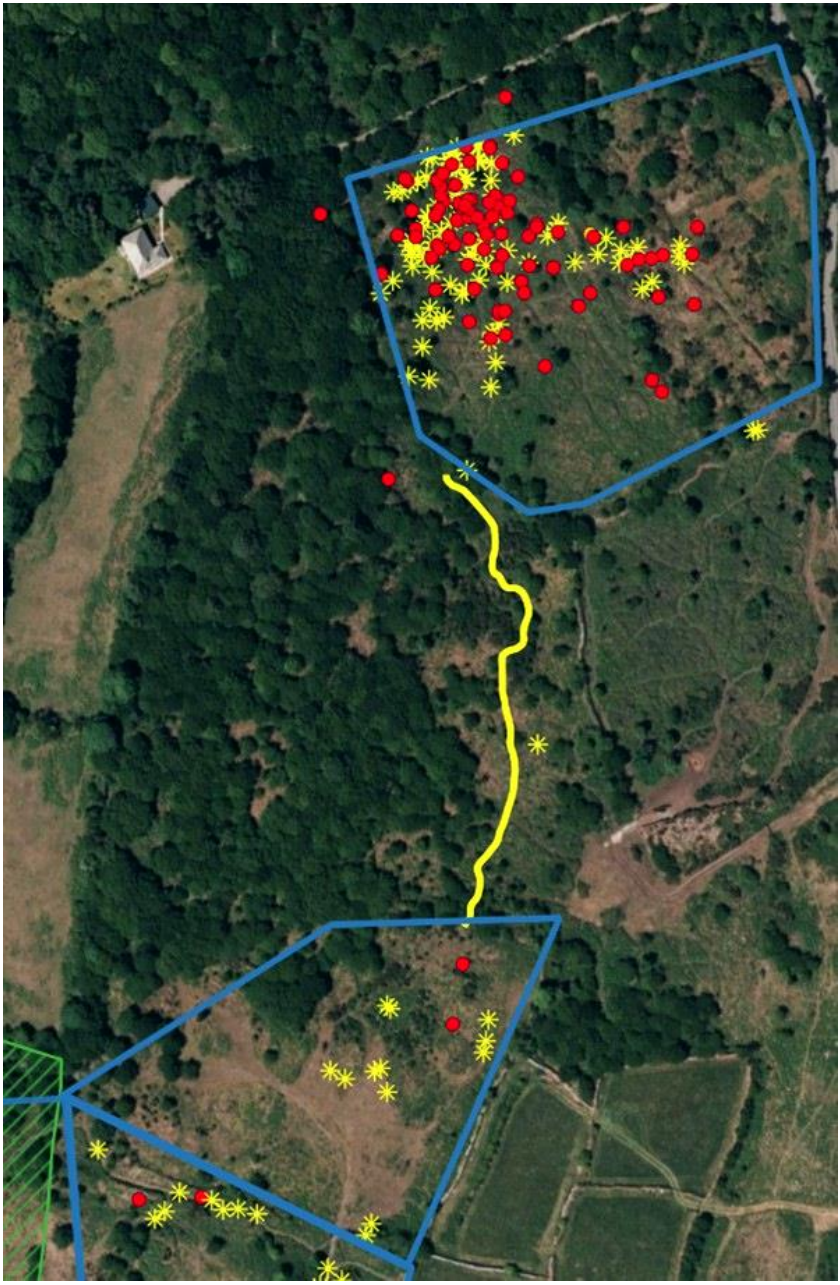
That's where the idea of connectivity came in. The concept isn't new, but we wanted to see if joining up isolated colonies like Fellover and De Lank could strengthen these fragile populations. As far as I know, no one's tried this approach with PBFs here before, and whether this will have an effect remains to be seen!

One of our first connectivity efforts targeted Fellover and Pendavy. Fortuitously, the idea of linking them had struck both landowners and us independently. So, landowners and CBC volunteers joined forces to clear the dense scrub, brambles and trees preventing butterfly movement, opening a two-metre-wide path along the route.

Meanwhile at nearby Jordan, low PBF counts raised fears for the population's future. One hunch we had was that low numbers of violets might be to blame, so we started "violet mapping" to precisely record their distribution across the site. We started off using sticks to mark the plants' locations but soon abandoned them, logging locations directly into GPS.

The results at Jordan were a revelation. Contrary to our assumption of scarcity, mapping revealed plenty of violets clustered in the field's centre but almost none at the edges. The PBF were only present in the centre, exactly where the mapping showed the violets clustered.

When we applied this same mapping to the new Fellover-Pendavy corridor, the results also came as a surprise: there were almost no violets in the corridor at all. We realized that without food, the butterflies simply wouldn't use the route. Because this site is not protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), CBC were able to buy 350 violets from the Devon Wildlife Trust to tempt the butterflies through and make the corridor a functioning route.



Red dots show PBF sightings for last 4 years; yellow asterisks show violets. Pendavy at the top has many violets and PBFs. The yellow line marks the wildlife corridor, where violets are scarce. Fellover is at the bottom. (Photo: Andrew Thomas)

Our second corridor project at De Lank quarry was far more complex. The goal: connect a tiny PBF population on De Lank's outer slope to the much larger Pendrift population, but long-unmanaged dense hazel, oak and willow blocked the way. Because it's an SSSI, securing permissions from Natural England, the Forestry Commission and quarry owners took six long months of back-and-forth paperwork, leaving us with very little time before the winter window closed and the nesting season began. With time running out from red tape delays, we were hugely relieved when an ecologist, chainsaw operators, and CBC volunteers dropped everything on very short notice. The ecologist generously checked for protected species, chainsaw operators volunteered their expertise for free, and CBC volunteers tackled the brash—in pouring rain—truly restoring faith in human nature.



The newly cleared wildlife corridor at De Lank quarry.
(Photo: Andrew Thomas)

Applying the Jordan violet-mapping approach afterwards revealed a total absence of foodplants. However, we couldn't simply buy in plants; local provenance—wild stock sourced from this very area—was essential.

For De Lank SSSI, planting requires Natural England consent and confirmed local provenance. To this end, we collected violets from Pendavy—with landowner permission—to serve as parent stock for propagation. Their seeds should produce plants genetically suited to De Lank, parts of Fellover, and other local SSSI sites, though we are still waiting for final guidance from Natural England.

It has been an interesting ride so far - corridor creation, violet mapping, and locally provenanced seed production – let's hope the end result is worth the effort.

Who wants to try moth trapping?

Butterfly Conservation has always been as interested in moths as in butterflies, but moths were very unfashionable when BC started around 55 years ago so were left out of the title of the organisation. More recently, interest in moths has grown and more people are sending in records to the moth recorder. These records are mainly obtained by recording moths attracted to a light at night which then drop down into the trap and stay there until morning, when they can be identified and counted.

No harm is done to the moths as long as they are not allowed to overheat in strong sunshine, and the same moths are not caught frequently, which would interfere with their opportunities for nectaring (where applicable-not all adult moths feed, some don't even have mouthparts) and breeding. These records, like their butterfly counterparts, are useful indicators of the health of any habitat and whether that is improving or deteriorating.

CBC has two collapsible mains-operated Skinner traps, used to provide moths to show to the public on our stalls at events around the county, and to lend to members who would like to try moth trapping but not commit to any expenditure until they know that they want to continue. Some basic instructions will be provided.

One of the traps has become available and we are looking for someone who would like to borrow it. If you are a member of Cornwall Branch, resident in Cornwall, have somewhere outdoors within reach of mains electricity where you can place the trap and would like to borrow it, please let me know on my official email, membership@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Kathy Wood

Moths, 2025

The following highlights are of records received for 2025 (at the time of writing, late January, 2026), in addition to those mentioned in the Autumn 2025 report.

Etainia decentella**:* 16 November, St Mellion, Steve Nash (SN), 6th Cornish record. ***Simacauda dicommatias: 12 July, leaf mines on Chilean Myrtle, Lost Gardens of Heligan; and 24 August, Penzance, (Jack Oughton (JO).***Narycia duplicella***: 22 April, larval cases, Lanhydrock, George Tordoff (GMT), new to Cornwall. ***Infurcitinea captans**:* 13 July, Chapel Porth (JO), the 3rd Cornish record. ***Nemapogon ruricolella**:* 12 July, Pentillie, Chris Vincent & Karen May (CV, KM), only the 2nd Cornish record.



Infurcitinea captans
Photo: Jack Oughton



Oinophila v-flava
Photo: George Tordoff

Oinophila v-flava (**Yellow V Moth**), 19 April, Eden Project, 3 moths flying, (GMT), the first Cornish record away from the Isles of Scilly, where it is resident. ***Caloptilia honoratella***: 6 October, St Mellion, (SN), new to Cornwall at time of writing; also, 10 October, Torpoint, Leon Truscott (LT). ***Dialectica scalariella***: 5 October, Coverack, Darren Taylor (DT), the 2nd Cornish record. ***Yponomeuta irrorella***: in addition to the Downderry record previously reported, two further records received: 20 June, St Buryan, Ryan Irvine (RI); 26 June, St Mellion (SN). ***Zelleria oleastrella***: 13 June, Truro, Tony Wilson



Caloptilia honoratella
Photo: Steve Nash

(TW); 20 June, St Buryan (RI). ***Oegoconia quadripuncta***: 26 July, Pentillie (CV, KM), new to VC2. ***Metalampra italica***: Five records received: 12 July, Torpoint, Alan Pease (AP), new to VC2 and 2nd for Cornwall; 14 July, Mawnan Smith, Tim Laws (TL); 17 July, St Mellion, (SN); 17 July, Torpoint (LT); 20 August, Trevarth, Nick Watmough (NW). ***Trachypepla contritella***: 14 June to 27 June, abundant (100+) at the Hayle Towans area (CV, KM), also 11 & 17 July, Truro (TW), 12 July, Trevarth (NW); 14 July, Mawnan Smith (TL).



Trachypepla contritella
Photo: Tony Wilson

Aproaerema polychromella: 12 June, Truro (TW), new to VC1. ***Sitotroga cerealella***: 12 July, Lost Gardens of Heligan, moths abundant (JO), new to Cornwall. **Tuta *absoluta***: 9 November, Tresillian, David Shenton. ***Teleiodes wagae***: 10 May, St Mellion (SN), 2nd Cornish record, followed by several others there up to 4 June; 31 May, Pentillie (CV, KM). ***Stenolechia gemmella***: 25 August, Kilminorth Wood, Rogan Jones & Friends of Kilminorth Wood (RJ, FOKW), new to Cornwall. ***Coleophora conyzae***: 18-23 June, 4 sites Hayle/Upton Towans (CV, KM). ***Coleophora laricella***: 18 May, Pentille, 2, (CV), our 1st record since 2012. ***Coleophora taeniipennella***: 19 June, Mexico Towans (CV, KM), our first since 2004. ***Coleophora versurella***: 25 August, Truro (TW). ***Coleophora adspersella***: 21 June, Gwithian Green (CV, KM), the 4th record for Cornwall. ***Elachista dispunctella***: 13 July, Chapel Porth (JO). ***Elachista obliquella***: 13 May, West Pentire, Richard Fox; 23 July, Housel Bay, Chris Lewis. ***Elachista gangabella***: 20 August, tenanted leaf-mines on *Brachypodium sylvaticum,* St Kew (GMT), the 4th record for Cornwall. ***Mompha ochraceella***: 19 June, St Mellion (SN). ***Pachyrhabda steropodes***: 6 April, Pentillie (CV, KM); 29, 30 (2) April, St Mellion (SN); 1 May, Trematon, Trudi Barker. ***Agdistis meridionalis*** (**Cliff Plume**): 20



Teleiodes wagae
Photo: Steve Nash

August, 2 larvae on Rock Sea-lavender, Port Gaverne (GMT), the 7th Cornish record and the first since 2016 (also by GMT).



Endothenia nigricostana
Photo: Debbie Symons

Gynnidomorpha permixtana: 21 June, Gwithian Green (CV, KM), so still present here. ***Endothenia nigricostana***: 16 & 23 June, Seaton, Debbie Symons, new to Cornwall. ***Bactra robustana***: 11 May, Truro (TW); 16 August, Lostwithiel, Jim Swalwell (JS). ***Pammene gallicana***: 22 June, Rumps Point, Peter Floyd-Spong. ***Epischnia asteris***: 26 August, St Mellion (SN), the first since 2016 and first inland record. ***Acrobasis tumidana***: 20 June, St Buryan (RI); 26 June, St Mellion (SN); 27 June, Mawnan Smith (TL). ***Euzophera pinguis***: 12 July, Mawnan Smith (TL). ***Ancylosis oblitella***: 13 July, St Mellion (SN); 13 August, Downderry, John Nicholls (JCN); 26 September, St Mary's, IOS, Ralph Parks. ***Anania verbascalis***: 20 May, Truro (TW), first VC1 mainland record.



Acrobasis tumidana
Photo: Steve Nash

Agrotera nemoralis: 19 June, Truro (TW), added to the 3 sites reported in the Autumn 2025 edition. ***Duponchelia fovealis***: 29 May, Truro (TW). ***Spoladea recurvalis***: 7 November, St Mellion (SN). ***Musotima nitidalis***: 10 November, found dead at Pendennis Shipyard, Falmouth (Pete Legg).



Ancylosis oblitella
Photo: Nick Watmough

Bedstraw Hawk-moth (*Hyles gallii*): 16 August, Lostwithiel, Jim Swalwell (JS). **Marsh Pug**



Black V Moth
Photo: Mike Spicer

(***Eupithecia pygmaeata***): 20 August, Truro (TW), the 4th Cornish record. **Pauper/ Fletcher's Pug (*Eupithecia egenaria*)**: 19 June, Truro (TW), 4th Cornish record. **Shaded Pug (*Eupithecia subumbrata*)**: 13 July, Ladock (JO), the first since 2006. **Latticed Heath (*Chiasma clathrata*)**: 7 September, Downderry (JCN). **Black V Moth (*Arctornis l-nigrum*)**: 20 August, Little Treleaver, Mike Spicer & John Foster, new to Cornwall. **Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)**: 15 August, Lostwithiel (JS). **Rosy Underwing (*Catocala electa*)**: 28 July, Kilminorth Wood (RJ, FOKW), 15 August, Lostwithiel (JS), 2 & 16 September, St Mellion (SN).



Latticed Heath
Photo: Leon Truscott

Golden Twin-spot (*Chrysodeixis chalcites*): 15 October & 5 November, Torpoint (LT); 17 October, Torpoint (AP); 21 October, Mullion (DT). **Dewick's Plusia (*Macdunnoughia confusa*)**: 1 & 12 May, 19 September, 18 October, 5 November, St Mellion (SN); 18 September, Coverack (DT); 2 October, Mullion (DT). **Sprawler (*Asteroscopus sphinx*)**: 11 November, Tresillian, David Shenton, the first Cornish record for 30 years. **Porter's Rustic (*Athetis hospes*)**: 15 August, Carnyorth (John Swann); 5 & 9 October, Coverack (DT); 10 October, St Mellion (SN). **Straw Underwing (*Thalpophila matura*)**: Several records throughout August from St Mary's, IOS, where it is occurs regularly (John Headon, Graham Cundale), but one on 8 August at St Mellion (SN) is only the 3rd from VC2. **Glaucous Shears (*Papestra biren*)**: 3 May St Mellion (SN), the 4th record for Cornwall.

Leon Truscott

‘Alderney Moth Stalking’



I had the pleasure of joining the Speyside Wildlife trips to Alderney in both 2024 and 2025, and was stunned by the sheer variety of insects, flora, birds and so much more. All sorts of other wildlife too including blonde hedgehogs and Oxford Sandy and Black piggies!

Obviously, there were lots of different bird species, as it was prime migration time, but perhaps the surprise was the variety of moths, and especially being stalked by one species. We were lucky enough to be hosted on 4 mornings, before breakfast, to watch Matt (from Alderney Wildlife Trust) empty and log the species in a moth trap, in the garden of a private house. The weather was far from ideal for moths but over 4 mornings, we had 46 different species and underlines how stunningly beautiful moths are when you get close. Pale Prominent and Cream Spot Tiger right.







The scenery is stunning and the pace of life is wonderful, extremely welcoming community as well.



The sunrise view from the bedroom window gives you some idea.

What you ask about the stalking in the title? Matt kindly offered to lend us a pheromone to help lure the Emperor Moth. Well, I was nominated to look after the pheromone, suitably sealed in a plastic bag, and when we got to a likely spot removed it from the bag, placed it on some vegetation and waited to see what would happen. Quite quickly a couple of Emperor Moths arrived and busily flew around, allowing all good views. So returned pheromone to bag and moved on, same result at few other spots by removing the pheromone from the bag. But then the Emperor Moths just started to stalk me even when the pheromone was safely stored in the bag and deep in my pocket, a real pleasure but amused the rest of the group loads!

Returned the pheromone to Matt, but obviously it had left a trace on my trouser pocket as they continued to stalk me for a couple more days! Fabulous moths and a real privilege to have received so much



attention from them.
But what of butterflies I hear you ask as this is the Cornwall Butterfly Observer, well there are lots of butterflies about and we clocked 17



species, a good score for late April / early May. But my favourite was from 2024 the gorgeous Glanville Fritillary, led me a merry dance to get a decent photo, but worth every drop of sweat!



And finally what number plate would you allocate to the island's only police car?



List of moths from the moth trap – Emperor Moth as an extra on multiple sites but not in the trap.

29th April

Dark Spectacled Moth
Peach Blossom
Pine Beauty
Brimstone
Flame Shoulder
Chocolate Tip
Early Thorn
Shuttle Shaped Dart
Rusty Dot Pearl
Cochylis atricapitana

30th April

Coronet
Cream-spotted Tiger Moth
Seraphim
Brown Silverline
Garden Pebble
White Point
Hebrew Character
Tawny Shears
Powdered Quaker
Common Quaker
Knot Grass
Buff Ermine
Radford's Flame Shoulder

May 1st

Least Black Arches
Chinese Character
Portland Ribband Wave
Muslin
Heart and Dart
Angle Shades
Waved Umber
White Ermine
Bright-line Brown-eye
Pyrausta despicata
Eudonia augustea

May 2nd

Diamond Back
Green Pug
Ruby Tiger
Early Grey
Pale Prominent
Green Carpet
20-plume Moth
Willow Beauty
Vine's Rustic
Small Elephant Hawkmoth
Psuedoswammerdamia combinella
Ethmia bipunctella

Steve Batt March 2026

Treasurer's Report

Butterfly Conservation Cornwall Branch
Branch Accounts 01/04/2025 to 31/01/2026

This year there has been a change in the way Butterfly Conservation (BC) allocates funds to the local branches. We used to receive a proportion of the income from membership sales – from those who registered for Cornwall branch. However, at the start of this financial year, Butterfly Conservation decided to stop automatically giving a proportion of the membership fees and instead each branch had to produce a draft budget stating income and expenditure which had to be agreed by BC's Senior Management Team. Therefore, income and expenditure do not necessarily need to balance. We are likely to end the year raising about the income we expected in our General Fund, but spending a lot less.
The money in all Restricted Funds were ring-fenced and so our Restricted Fund relating to sales of *Butterflies of Cornwall* can only be used by Cornwall branch for conservation in the county.

General Fund: Income - £1394 (expected at year end £1669+)
The bulk of our income has come from the Cornish Biodiversity Network as a proportion of the funding they get from the Environment Agency for the provision of species records. Other income came from donations from individuals and local organisations who were fortunate to receive a talk from our wonderful Steve Batt, as well as through sales of field guides, badges etc. at various events that our 'outreach team' attend throughout the year.

General Fund: Expenditure - £2660 (expected at year end £3468+)
The bulk of expenditure has been on volunteer expenses (predominantly travel expenses for attending practical conservation days, as well as species recording days), field equipment (including violet plug plants for the pearl-bordered fritillary on Bodmin Moor) and the production of branch newsletters.

Restricted Fund: *Butterflies of Cornwall* - £744 income
Sales of the *Butterflies of Cornwall* have slowed (as to be expected), with sales through Ebay, the Naturebureau and through direct sales at events. We pay a small amount of fundraising commission through Ebay sales (currently less than £1 and so this is not shown in the accounts below). BC want branches to spend money sat in their Restricted Funds and so we used some of ours (£7159) along with a contribution from Cornwall National Landscape's Farming in Protected Landscapes Fund, to pay for the re-surveying of marsh fritillary sites on Bodmin Moor, along with the provision of habitat management advice to secure the species long-term survival in the county (our Magnificent Marsh Fritillaries of Bodmin Moor project).

General Funds

Description	Actual	Annual budget	Planned/allocated for Feb & Mar 2026
Opening balances (funds)			
Income			
Donations - individual - unrestricted	68	**50**	£250 from various organisations
Donations - corporate-unrestricted	1,000	**1,000**	
Sales - primary - bought-in	318	**800**	£25 from sale of items at events
Sales -Non-primary - bought-in	9		
Total income	**1,394**	**1,850**	
Expenditure			
Travel & Subsistence - conservation volunteers	(1,021)	**(800)**	£166.50
Training - conservation volunteers	(60)		
Consultants (conservation)		**(1,000)**	£504 - habitat works at DeLank
Field equipment	(592)	**(300)**	
Events - conservation (inc workshops)	(93)	**(1,400)**	
Branch newsletters	(721)	**(2,700)**	
Fundraising commission	0	**(20)**	
Printing - marketing & publicity		**(20)**	
Website costs	(38)	**(1,200)**	£84 for web/email hosting
Purchase of stock for resale	(19)	**(300)**	
Stationery & other office consumables		**(50)**	
Computers - Purchase, R&M		**(300)**	
Computer consumables	(60)		
T & S - committee vols		**(100)**	
Committee expenses	(56)	**(100)**	
AGM expenses			£53.89 plus room hire
Insurance		**(120)**	
Contingency fund (budget only)		**(2,268)**	
Total expenditure	(2,660)	**(10,678)**	
Closing balance	**(1,265)**	**(8,828)**	

Restricted Funds - *Butterflies of Cornwall*

Description	Actual	Annual budget	Planned/allocated for February & March 2026
Opening balances (funds)	**9,489**	**9,800**	
Income			
Sales - primary - bought-in	38		
Sales - own publications	707	**500**	£33.65 - further atlas sale via Ebay
Total income	**744**	**500**	
Expenditure			
Travel & Subsistence - - conservation volunteers		**(500)**	Magnificent Marsh Fritillaries of Bodmin Moor project (included in General Fund T & S - conservation volunteers above)
Consultants (conservation)		**(5,000)**	Magnificent Marsh Fritillaries of Bodmin Moor project (transferred out to HQ rather than spent direct – see below)
Fundraising commission	(1)		
Postage		**(10)**	
Total expenditure	(1)	**(5,510)**	
Fund transfers (HO/Branch)	(7,159)		Magnificent Marsh Fritillaries of Bodmin Moor project (transferred to HQ as Cornwall branch contribution to this project)
Closing balance	**3,074**	**4,790**	

CORNWALL BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS 2026

Welcome to Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's programme of field trips for 2026; an exciting mix of new sites and old favourites. As before, we have also organised a few trips in partnership with other local conservation organisations. Increasingly, the importance of recording is recognised so we will be noting what we find on these field trips so that we can continue to build a better picture of lepidoptera distribution across Cornwall

Our field trips are fun and friendly and open to all - including accompanied children - whatever level of experience you have, and you do not need to be a member of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. Please always come prepared for Cornwall's changeable weather and mixed terrain – waterproofs, good walking shoes or boots, sun cream etc., as well as water and lunch/snacks. Please be aware that it is often a good idea to use insect repellent at many places in the countryside due to the prevalence of ticks, clegs and other biting insects.

We encourage attendees to car share whenever possible as many of our destinations have limited parking. Please be aware that we would prefer dogs not to be brought because we are in wildlife sensitive areas.

Postcodes have been included. However, please bear in mind that they may not be as accurate as 6 figure grid references in pinpointing meeting places, and What 3 Words can take you right to your parking place! www.gridreferencefinder.com and www.what3words.com

Please check our website and social media prior to each field trip in case of cancellation due to weather or other complications. You can also check our website events page http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk/events.html for upcoming events. Or contact Sue Allen on 01872 240246, 078849 74528 or events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

We are also looking further afield for our butterfly experiences and have teamed up with Devon Butterfly Conservation who have kindly invited us to look at the field trip list on their website

https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/devon-branch

Devon has several butterflies not found in Cornwall, including Small Blue, Brown Hairstreak, High Brown Fritillary, White Admiral and Wood White. They also have several colonies of White-letter Hairstreaks.

Sunday 10th May: DE LANK AND PENDRIFT

Near St. Breward 12 noon

A meeting where we are likely to see some of the UK's most declining and endangered butterflies, the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at this hillside known to be reliable for them. The owners of Eddystone Court, PL30 4LQ are kindly allowing us to park at their property. (SX099753) W3W fragments.irrigated.reduce Please bring a packed lunch. **NB wellington boots are recommended**!

Leaders and contact: Liz and Andrew Thomas (07799 247144 or 01503 221105)

Tuesday 12th May: WILDFLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES OF PENHALE

Near Cubert 9:45 for 10am

This is a joint walk with Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) which will be led by Jon Cripps, CWT ranger and Ian Bennallick (Botanical Cornwall Group) We hope to find Brown Argus, Dingy Skipper and the Grizzled Skipper which is now only located on this site in Cornwall. Please meet by the M.O.D. South Gate near Treworthen Farm (SW783567). Postcode for Treworthen Farm, TR8 5PZ. W3W busy.nest.degrading Please bring a packed lunch. Places are limited so booking is **essential** for this one. Please note there is no phone signal at the South Gate.

Leaders Jon Cripps, Ian Bennallick and Steve Batt. Booking essential Contact: Sue Allen events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk (01872 240246 or 0788 4974528)

Sunday 17th May: CHAPEL PORTH

Near St Agnes 11am

Join us looking for Green Hairstreak butterflies along this beautiful cliff walk. The terrain can be steep and rough in places, so we advise a walking pole and sturdy footwear, but the views are spectacular. Meet at Wheal Coates National Trust (NT) cliff top car park (not the beach car park) (SW702500) TR5 0NT. W3W flute.baguette.crucially Please note that there is a parking charge for non-NT members. Please bring a packed lunch.

Leaders and contact: Kathy Wood (01872 864344) and Sue Allen

Tuesday 26th May: DUBBERS RESTORATION PROJECT

Near Nanpean 11am

Join our Dingy Skipper Species Champion Libbie Bosisto for a walk in the Clay District on these newly opened trails. Dingy Skippers are recorded in good numbers in this area. Meet at the new car park (SW977555) W3W gardens.ranches.fists Please bring a packed lunch.

Leaders Libbie Bosisto, Sue Allen (0788 4974528) and Sophie Headland

Thursday 4th June: GOONHILLY DOWNS

Near Helston 11am

Join us on an exciting field trip in partnership with the Natural England (NE) team on The Lizard. Goonhilly Downs house a significant number of our rarer butterflies including Marsh Fritillary, Grayling, Silver-studded Blue, Small Heath and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. The NE team will lead us to a location in Central Goonhilly where Marsh Fritillary were recorded last year. Meet at Dry Tree car park in the National Nature Reserve (near the Earth Station) on the B3293 St Keverne road (SW730212) W3W magpie.marathons.ticked Bring a packed lunch and wellies in case it's wet underfoot!

Leader: Duncan Lyne (NE). Contact: Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Sunday 7th June: GREENSCOOMBE WOOD

Near Luckett 10:30

Come and join us on a field trip to Cornwall's only site for the nationally rare Heath Fritillary butterfly which is now established here after a successful reintroduction in 2006. This walk has several steep inclines that can be slippery, so we advise a walking pole and sturdy footwear. Local expert on the species, Richard Vulliamy will be leading the trip. Meet in Luckett Village car park, (SX 38915 73657). PL17 8NJ. W3W: shorter.bring.agreement. Please bring a packed lunch.

Leader: Richard Vulliamy. Contact: Liz and Andrew Thomas (07799 247144 or 01503 221105)

Tuesday 9th June: CHURCH HAY DOWN

Near St Breward 11am

Alan Stapleton our Marsh Fritillary Species Champion is leading us through the colonies on his doorstep at Church Hay Down, Churchtown Marsh, Irish Farm and Lady Down. We may also see Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This is very rough terrain, wellies are essential and walking poles advised. Please bring a packed lunch. Parking at "Treverran", St Breward, PL30 4PE (SX101771) W3W tearfully.comic.fuel

Leaders and contact: Alan Stapleton (01208 850085) and Sue Allen

Saturday 13th June: MOTH EVENT

Near Helston 9am

Two CBC volunteers have kindly invited us to visit their lovely garden and adjacent meadow and wood. Weather permitting, they will put the traps out on the night of 12th June. The traps will be closed early in the morning and kept in the shade until we are ready to unpack them and identify the moths. Because of limited parking space booking is **essential** and we will send out

the details near the time. (This event will take place on 14th in case of bad weather.)
Leaders: Kathy Wood and Sue Allen. Booking essential Contact: Sue Allen events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk (01872 240246 or 0788 4974528)

Tuesday 16th June: CUBERT COMMON
Near Crantock 11am
Cubert Common is one of the few enclosed commons in England. It is a gently undulating area of sandy grassland owned by the National Trust (NT) and designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We will be looking out for a wide variety of butterflies (including Brown Argus, Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue and Small Heath); moths; other invertebrates and rare plants. Meeting point is the NT Car Park near Polly Joke beach, (SW776599) TR8 5QS. W3W dusty.advances.duplicity This is a relatively small car park, so car sharing is advised. Directions: Drive through Crantock village and shortly after turn left onto the road to Treago farm. Drive through the farm and follow the track and park in the NT car park (note that at Treago Farm there is a gate crossing the track which you will need to open and close). Please bring a packed lunch.
Leader and contact: Tristram Besterman (077966 60057) and Steve Batt

Thursday 25th June: UPTON TOWANS
Near Hayle 11am
Join us on a walk through this extensive sand dune complex situated between Gwithian and Hayle: a Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The main target species will be Dark Green Fritillary and Silver-studded Blue but there will be many other lepidoptera species and other wildlife to see. Meet by the gate, in front of the large chimney at the entrance to the CWT reserve (SW580396) TR27 5BJ W3W last.sprinkler.fortunate Please bring a packed lunch
Leaders and contact: Dick Goodere (01736 753077) and Jerry Dennis

Sunday28th June: GWENNAP HEAD AND PORTHGWARRA
Near Land's End 10.30am
This beautiful location boasts stunning views and an abundance of butterflies, including Green Hairstreak, Silver-studded Blue, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Copper, Clouded Yellow, Small Heath and many more. Meet in the Porthgwarra car park (SW370217) where charges apply TR19 6JR (café) W3W stop.dragonfly.path Please bring a packed lunch.
Leaders and contact: Jerry Dennis (079560 41263)

Sunday 5th July: PENLEE BATTERY
Near Rame Head 11am
We expect to see a meadow full of Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, as well as seeing Small Heath and Dark Green Fritillary on this walk. Spectacular views from this south coast meadow that is buzzing with life! Six-belted Clearwing moths are also recorded here, and we hope to lure some for you to see. Please bring a packed lunch. Meet in Penlee Battery car park (SX437491) PL10 1LG. W3W outfit.power.butternut
Leader: Steve Batt and Leon Truscott. Contact Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Saturday 11th July: CARRINE COMMON
Near Truro 11 am
On this trip we follow Sophie's Natural England transect and hope to see a wide variety of butterflies including Green and Purple Hairstreaks. There are uneven tracks, it is wet in places, and some road walking is necessary. Please bring a packed lunch and insect repellent is advised! Meet at Kea Woods lay-by TR3 6EA (SW800427) W3W fortnight.park.counter
Leaders: Sophie Headland and Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Wednesday 15th July: CABILLA WOODS
Glyn Valley (3 miles east of Bodmin) 11:30 am
Join us for this walk through the Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) reserve described as "one of the largest and possibly finest ancient woodland in Cornwall". Our target species is the Silver-washed Fritillary with a chance of seeing the aberration f. valezina. There should also be many other butterflies including Comma, Ringlet and Gatekeeper. We will be joined by CWT ranger Stuart Mathieson who will tell us about the practical conservation work he is doing. Please bring a packed lunch. Directions: Proceed along the A38 from the A30 heading towards Liskeard. About a mile past Bodmin Parkway junction, turn left down Le Ball Hill. Cross over a small bridge and immediately turn right. There are some places for parking (SX129652) PL30 4BE, but these are limited, so car sharing is advised. W3W recliner.elbow.nurses
We have dedicated this field trip to the memory of Roger Hooper who used to lead it.
Leader: Kelly Uren. Contact Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Saturday 18th July: TINCOMBE PARK and CHURCHTOWN FARM

Saltash 11 am

We are offering an extra destination in Saltash, discovering Tincombe Park, led by Friends of Tincombe Park. We will meet at Oaklands Community Centre PL12 4EZ (SX415590) W3W gambles.anchovies.cautious Refreshments and toilets are available and after lunch we will move on to our 2nd meeting point where we are then joining Friends of Churchtown Farm (FOCF) at 2pm for a walk identifying and learning about the butterflies and moths that make their home at this Local Nature Reserve on the banks of the river Lynher. A donation of £2 is suggested for those not members of FOCF. Directions: Meet by St Stephen's Church opposite The Cecil Arms on the junction of St Stephen's Road and Farm Lane. (SX417583) PL12 4AR W3W transcribes.toasters.alike It is about a mile from Saltash Railway Station, there is a local bus link to St Stephen. For the 2nd half, please check with Sue before setting off.

Leaders and contact: Kelly Uren (074293 54011) and Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Tuesday 21st July: CARNON VALLEY

Near Devoran 11am

Join us for a walk along the Carnon Valley in a landscape still dominated by the mining industry. The area has been visited regularly for our Mining for Butterflies project. This gentle walk uses the Coast-to-Coast cycle/ walking track from Carnon Valley Car Park in Grenna Lane, to Bissoe Bike Hire and St Piran Cafe (where there are toilets) and back. We hope to see plenty of common butterflies and near the pools along the way, dragonflies, maybe even the Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. We will explore Cornwall Wildlife Trust Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve and the Arsenic Works where the Silver-studded Blue butterfly has been recorded. Please bring a packed lunch. Directions: From the A39 at the Devoran roundabout take the road heading towards Bissoe. Go straight over the first crossroads, under the viaduct then take the next left and the car park is on your right. (SW783408) TR37LN W3W thrilled.whispers.clinking

Leader: Sue Allen (0788 4974528) and Mac McLeod

Saturday 25th July: WHEAL FORTUNE AND CUSVEY

Near Twelveheads 11am

This walk in the heavily mined area of the Carnon Valley starts steeply and is uneven throughout. We may be lucky enough to see Purple Hairstreak at

the top where we can look down on the oak trees. Some of the tracks are very rough and the space shared with cyclists, so caution is required. There is also the hope that we will catch some late Silver-studded Blues and this area supports a population of Grayling. As we descend to the heavily polluted tailings dam, we will see dragon and damselflies. Please bring a packed lunch and hand wipes.
We have been given permission to park in the Methodist Church car park at Twelveheads TR4 8SJ (SW760422) W3W vibrating.morphing.passage
Leader and contact: Sue Allen (078849 74528) and Mac McLeod

Tuesday 28th July: GODOLPHIN WOODS
Near Godolphin 1.30pm
Join us for this interesting walk, through Godolphin Woods. There will be a wide variety of lepidoptera, but the target species will be the Purple Hairstreak. Directions: Coming from Leedstown, turn left at Townshend, then at Godolphin Bridge the road swings to the left. A little further along the road a track runs down to the river on the left. Drive down the short track and park in the car park at the bottom at (SW600324) TR13 9RE W3W cabbage.lifeguard.sung
Leaders: Jerry Dennis (07956 041263) and Sue Allen

Sunday 2nd August: TRELUSBACK
Near Stithians Reservoir 11am
We are invited to visit the Trelusback Foundation to look at the work that has gone on to create a haven for nature. We hope to see late summer butterflies, dragon and damselflies. You may like to bring a packed lunch. Directions: From Redruth take the B3297 Helston road, at the top of Buller Hill (before Four Lanes) take the minor road on the left. Follow this road to Penhalvean and at the sharp right-hand bend take the track, on the left, to Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ (SW712383) W3W verge.situated.nanny
Leaders Keith Wilson, Carly Riley and Dave Cooper. Contact Sue Allen (07884 974528)

Thursday 6th August: NEWLYN DOWNS
Near St Newlyn East 11am
Join us in exploring this SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. Newlyn Downs is a large area of wet and dry heath with four heather species, including the nationally rare Dorset Heath Erica ciliaris. It has previously

been mined and quarried, resulting in bare ground and areas of gravel. We will be searching for Grayling, Silver-washed Fritillary, Wall and Small Heath and hope to see heathland plants and insects including dragonflies and damselflies. Meet in the layby opposite the entrance to East Wheal Rose Farm TR8 5LQ (SW836552) W3W bulldozer.ditching.arose Bring a packed lunch.
Leaders and contact Sue Allen (0788 4974528) Mac McLeod and Carly Riley

Saturday 8th August HALZEPHRON AND CHYVARLOE
Near Gunwalloe 11am
A lovely walk around the coast and across the fields as part of a National Trust (NT) transect where we hope to see a variety of summer butterflies and 6-spot Burnet moths. We will meet at the Gunwalloe NT car park TR12 7JB (SW659208) W3W dive.grudging.jazz charges apply for non-members. We will have lunch (café and toilets on site) and move on to Chyvarloe TR127PY (SW 652236) W3W stocked.perky.fetching for another short walk!
Leaders Sophie Headland and Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Tuesday 11th August LANILEY HOUSE
Near Truro 9am
We are grateful to David and Sue Stone for providing this exciting opportunity to set moth traps in their beautiful grounds. The great variety of flora that they have planted promises to attract many different moths. We will meet at Laniley House TR4 9AG (SW842484) W3W massive.gravitate.yummy
Leaders: Sophie Headland, Sue Allen (0788 4974528) and Dougy Wright

Saturday 15th August LUNDY BAY
Near Polzeath 11am
A circular walk to Lundy Bay and back via the coast. This wonderful scenic walk forms part of a NT transect and we hope to see a variety of butterflies including Silver-washed fritillary and Clouded Yellow. Meeting at Pentireglaze NT car park (café and toilets) PL27 6UX (SW944798) W3W distanced.bulletin.rainbow There is an option to explore the lane to Polzeath on our return.
Leaders: Sophie Headland and Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Tuesday 18th August: WINDMILL FARM NATURE RESERVE MOTH EVENT AND BUTTERFLY WALK

Near The Lizard 10am

Windmill Farm was purchased jointly by the Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society and Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) in 2001. This 85ha (210 acre) farm is home to an array of habitats including wet and dry heaths, hay meadows, wetland, ponds, and arable land. The mix of habitats means the site is home to a huge variety of plant, bird, and invertebrate species.

Dougy Wright CWT volunteer warden is going to introduce us to the moths found in the area. Join us in the Field Studies Centre at the reserve as Dougy opens the traps.

After the moth event we will go for a walk through the reserve where we would hope to see late summer butterflies, including the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Grayling, and, around the pools, dragonflies and damselflies. There is also the chance of seeing Marsh Fritillary larval webs. Meet at the car park by the windmill which is down a lane off the A3083 (SW693152) TR12 7LH W3W lamp.sparkle.prevented Please note dogs are not allowed anywhere on this site. If you want to stay and walk around the reserve, please bring a packed lunch.
Leader: Dougy Wright CWT volunteer warden. Contact: Sue Allen (0788 4974528)

Details of all these field trips can be found on our CBC website: http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk/events.html
Don't forget to have a look over the border to get the chance to see some different species in Devon (whose field trips need to be booked.)

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA BEFORE EVERY EVENT IN CASE WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS

Jewels in the Cornish Mining Landscape...conserving our butterflies



Poldice with Rainbow
Photo : Marcus Rhodes

This autumn/winter season our conservation volunteers, led by Sue Allen, did 8 days work across mine sites in the Camborne/Redruth and Gwennap Cornish Mining World Heritage Sites. The work involved removal of invasive vegetation to improve the habitat for our target species: Silver-studded Blue, Small Heath, Grayling, Dingy Skipper and Wall.

We visited :-
West Basset Stamps
Ale and Cakes mine, near Wheal Clifford
Poldice, 2 visits
Wheal Maid, 2 visits

Carnon Valley, with support from Richard Rider from the Environment Agency

Cook's Kitchen at South Crofty with permissionfrom Cornish Metals.

We supported United Downs Environment Group at United Downs Raceway who have links with the racing teams and encouraged them to help.

We have also engaged with various community groups and Parish Councils in the area, regularly attending meetings of the Mining Villages Regeneration Group and Wheal Maid Solutions Group. We have been helping King Edward Mine with their school programme and attended a student fair at Duchy Rosewarne.



Buddle at West Basset Stamps
Photo: Marcus Rhodes

Sue Allen

Growing Cabbages for Butterflies

Dave Stebbings

Last year my sister told me a story of how the sprouts she was growing in her garden had been devastated by Large White caterpillars. Nobly she left them to carry on feeding and watched them grow. In early October she observed the caterpillars crawl across her patio, up the side of the house and pupate high up under the eaves of the house. They spent the winter there to emerge in early spring this year as adults.



A batch of Large White eggs *Photo: Dave Stebbings*

Inspired by this story I thought I might have a go at growing cabbages specifically to attract the so called 'Cabbage Whites' into my garden to breed. Rather than requiring specific habitats the Small and Large Whites are generalists and roam the countryside looking for plants of the Brassica family on which to lay their eggs. It is difficult to get most butterflies to breed in gardens but the Small White and Large White are species which are easy to attract and get to breed in small gardens by growing Brassicas.

In early April I bought a packet of cabbage seeds and planted them out in small pots in a mixture of compost and soil from the garden. By mid-May I had about twenty plants which I transplanted to large pots to keep them off the ground and make it more difficult for slugs and snails to get at them. By August I had some well-developed cabbages just waiting for the arrival of the late summer generation of Whites. Sure enough the scent of the Brassicas attracted Small Whites first. They lay their pale yellow bottle shaped eggs singly, usually on the underside of cabbage leaves. It was interesting to watch the females laying; they fluttered around the plants inspecting them

closely but not landing. They laid their eggs by dabbing their abdomen onto the leaf while still in flight. So far I have dozens of Small White eggs and about ten caterpillars feeding. The Small White caterpillars are vulnerable to predation by birds and I have noticed caterpillars disappearing which I presume have been eaten by birds. To counter this they are beautifully camouflaged, being the same shade of green as the cabbage leaves. They also align themselves along the ribs of the leaves when not feeding, making them quite difficult to find.



A Small White caterpillar *Photo: Dave Stebbings*

The Large White butterflies and caterpillars behave quite differently. The female lands to lay her eggs and spends a few minutes laying a batch of up to 100 bright yellow eggs. In contrast to the camouflaged caterpillars of the Small White, the Large White caterpillars boldly display themselves on the plants, their vivid yellow and black markings advertising that they are poisonous. Unlike the Small White they can absorb mustard oils from Brassicas and store them in their bodies making them unappetising to birds. So far I have only seen one batch of 19 Large White eggs on my cabbages. At the time of writing the caterpillars are feeding and growing on the cabbages, although I have put some netting over the plants to protect the Small White caterpillars from birds. It remains to be seen if I can follow their progress when they look for pupation sites in the autumn. Being able to study their behaviour at close quarters made me realise there is more to these butterflies than meets the eye. So often just dismissed as pests or just another White, they are in fact fascinating insects to watch at close quarters, and one of the few that are easy to study in your garden.

Acknowledgement: This article appeared in the North East England newsletter and is reproduced by kind permission of the author Dave Stebbings.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation calendar for 2027





This year we have designed and printed a Cornwall Butterfly Conservation calendar for 2027. This features some beautiful Cornish butterflies and moths, with photos kindly donated by members - they are stunning! Please support us in our fundraising efforts by purchasing a calendar for yourself and all of your friends!

Calendars will be available to buy on Field trips (CASH ONLY as there will not be reliable internet or phone signal for our cash machine) and local CBC events throughout the year, and cost £10. They will also be available on Ebay- just search Cornwall Butterfly Conservation calendar.

All profits will go back into Cornwall Butterfly Conservation for our important ongoing projects. We hope a CBC calendar will become a regular feature in the coming years.

Committee Members and Contacts

Cornwall Branch Committee of Butterfly Conservation

Chair:
Marcus Rhodes
chair@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Secretary:
Mac McLeod
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Lead on Landscapes:
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Marsh Fritillary Species Champion:
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Miriam Christine
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Other key contacts

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey Champion and Joint Transect Coordinator:
Kelly Uren
transect@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

County Moth Recorder:
Leon Truscott
Leon.truscott47@gmail.com

County Butterfly Recorder:
Jerry Dennis
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Volunteer Coordinator:
Vacant

Joint Transect Coordinator:
Jim Barker
jimfrances@talktalk.net

Social Media

Website: http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Like us on Facebook:
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Bluesky
bc-cornwall.bsky.social

https://bsky.app/profile/bc-cornwall.bsky.social



