

BUTTERFLY AND MOTH EVENTS

in Dorset

No. 81

Spring 2016



Compiled by the Dorset
Branch of Butterfly
Conservation

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION DORSET BRANCH

Butterfly Conservation is an organisation dedicated to saving wild butterflies and moths and their habitats. Dorset has a very active branch of the Society which, as well as carrying out conservation work, organises guided walks and survey days.

- **Everybody is welcome at all events**, except the few marked 'members only'.
- **Most events are free** - if there is a charge it will be mentioned in the listing, unless it is an event put together by another organisation in which case we may not have received the relevant information.
- **Butterflies will not fly unless it is fairly warm and sunny**, so if the weather makes you dubious you are welcome to phone the contact listed for each walk.
- **Some of the walks are on private land** which is not open to the public at times other than those stated.
- **Conservation work days start at 10.00am** (ending around 3.30pm) and are suitable for all the family except the very young. Children should be accompanied. Please wear stout footwear and protective gloves, and bring a packed lunch. You are advised to ensure your tetanus injections are up to date.

For further information about the society, please contact the branch secretary Adrian Neil on 01305 832937 or adrian.neil@madasafish.com, or visit the website: www.dorsetbutterflies.com

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)
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SATURDAY 16th APRIL

INTRODUCTORY GUIDED WALKS AT ALNERS GORSE AND ROOKSMOOR

This will be an opportunity to take a gentle stroll around two adjacent areas of superb butterfly and moth habitat, while getting to know the routes and the practicalities of the butterfly transect walks if you would be interested in helping us with these occasionally. We will meet inside the Alners Gorse reserve entrance at 1.30pm (or bring a packed lunch down to the wood for 12.30pm if you would like to picnic there) and finish after tea and cake around 4.30pm. Wear waterproof footwear!

Alners Gorse reserve entrance is on the road from Kings Stag to Hazelbury Bryan, near the 30mph and Hazelbury Bryan village signs. Map reference is ST736100. For further information, contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SATURDAY 7th / SUNDAY 8th MAY

SPRING AT ALNERS GORSE

Saturday 8.00pm: Moth Trapping evening and camp with a backdrop of Nightingales. Camping facilities are available for anyone wishing to stay overnight – bring tent, sleeping bag, eating utensils etc. and food as required.

Sunday 4.00am for 4.30am start: The Nightingale Experience. Dawn chorus walk to hear the

nightingales and other spring songbirds, followed by breakfast. Booking is essential.

9.00am: Moths - inspection of last night's moth catch followed by refreshments at 10.30am.

11.00am – 1.00pm: Guided Walk to see the butterflies and other wildlife.

Bring your own picnic if you would like to have lunch on the reserve.

2.00 – 4.00pm: Guided walk to teach basic butterfly identification and ecology. Beginners, learners and new members welcome.

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SUNDAY 15th MAY

GIANT HILL, CERNE ABBAS GUIDED WALK OVER CHALK DOWNLAND

Joint with Devon Branch

A visit to this splendid, ancient grassland habitat to view abundant wild flowers and numerous spring butterflies - an area where transect recording over 22 years has identified 35 butterfly species throughout the season. We shall search for colonies of Duke of Burgundy and look to discover other species typically expected at this time such as Adonis, Common

and Small Blues, Brown Argus, Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers, Marsh Fritillary, Small Copper, Small Heath and Wall Brown. Please note that there are steep slopes in places, and do bring a packed lunch to continue walking into the late afternoon. Meet at 11.00am in the picnic area car park opposite the village hall, map reference ST663015. Contact is Malcolm Wemyss on 01935 872047 or 07977 287739

THURSDAY 19th MAY

GUIDED WALK - CASHMOOR DOWN

A guided walk for spring species including Dingy Skipper, Small Blue and Green Hairstreak. Meet 1.00pm in the lay-by at the eastern end of Cashmoor 50 mph speed restriction, map reference ST980139. Contact is Arthur Bryant on 01202 892816 or 07711 404190 on the day.

SATURDAY 21st MAY

WORKSHOP ON IDENTIFYING, SURVEYING & RECORDING BUTTERFLIES AND DAY-FLYING MOTHS

Cerne Abbas Village Hall

At time of going to press the course is fully booked, but feel free to check if there have been any cancellations if this course is of interest to you. Contact is Robin George, rab.george@which.net.

SUNDAY 22nd MAY

GUIDED WALK – STRATFORD TONY and THROOPE DOWNS

Joint with Wiltshire Branch

We are invited to visit and survey these two extensive areas of chalk grassland in south Wiltshire which are becoming increasingly attractive to butterflies through sympathetic management.

Meet at 10.30am at New Farm Barn, map reference SU093240. If travelling from Dorset then 600 yards after the sign on the left to Throope, there is access via an unmarked track on the left just before the pylon line. Press the button to open the gate. Bring a packed lunch if you intend to stay for the afternoon visit to Throope Down. For further information, contact

Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SUNDAY 22nd MAY

BUTTERFLY WALK ON BALLARD DOWN (SWANAGE)

Joint with Dorset Wildlife Trust

A walk along the lower slopes of Ballard Down to enjoy this chalk downland site with its stunning views and the spring flowers. Target species are Green Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper and the first broods of Adonis Blue and Brown Argus. Meet 11.00am at Ulwell lay-by on the Swanage to Studland road, map reference SZ021809.

Contact is Colin Nunn on 01929 439211.

FRIDAY 27th MAY

MOTH TRAPPING – LYDLINCH COMMON

For details of this event please check the website - www.dorsetbutterflies.com/events.

SUNDAY 29th MAY

GUIDED WALK - CHALDON HERRING

This is an exploratory walk around the chalk downland coombe to the south of the village, where we hope to find a range of spring species.

Meet 1.00pm by the grass triangle in the centre of the village, map reference SY791834.

Contact is Tom Smith on 01305 567537, or 07717 437250 on the day.

MONDAY 30th MAY

GUIDED WALK - LYDLINCH COMMON

This is a key site for the Marsh Fritillary and our winter work programme here is designed to maintain the habitat for this species.

Meet 2.00pm in the lay-by just outside the village on the Sherborne to Sturminster Newton road, map reference ST736137. Contact is Colin Burningham on 01935 873219, or mobile 07849 921594.

SATURDAY 4th JUNE

GUIDED WALK – COMPTON DOWN

This site has populations of Marsh Fritillary, Small Blue, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper as well as Adonis Blue, and most should be on view. Park at the National Trust car park at the top of Spread Eagle Hill, or on the north side of the triangle near the airfield. Meet at 11.00am in the National Trust car park, map reference ST885187. Bring lunch to carry and eat on the down. The walk has slopes and a stile.

Contact is Carole Argles on 01258 455513.

THURSDAY 9th / SATURDAY 11th JUNE

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT

The theme of this year's events is 'Hawk-moths'. The following event has been arranged in conjunction with the occasion:

Thursday 9th June

9.00 am: trap opening at the Urban Wildlife Centre, Corfe Mullen, map reference SY977948, postcode BH21 3RX. Contact is Andy Fale on 07970 552673.

Check for other events organised at www.dorsetbutterflies.com/events.

SUNDAY 12th JUNE

FRITILLARY WALK, ASHCLYST FOREST, near EXETER

Joint with Devon Branch

Now rarities in Dorset, Pearl and

Small-bordered Fritillaries should be flying here during our butterfly walk.

Meet 1.30pm in the Forest Gate car park, map reference SX999995.

The leader is David Hinde and his contact numbers are 01404 823412, or mobile 07745 415216.

SUNDAY 26th JUNE

MARTIN DOWN NNR and VERNDITCH CHASE

Joint with Bournemouth Natural Science Society

The day starts with a walk across Martin Down to see Dark Green Fritillary and other downland species. After returning to the car park for lunch we cross the A354 into Vernditch Chase woods to look for woodland species including White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

Meet 11.00am or 1.30pm at the car park off the main A354 Salisbury to Blandford road, map reference SU037201.

Contact is Mark Spencer on 01202 760621, or 07926 556653.

SATURDAY 2nd JULY

MOTCOMBE MEADOWS, North Dorset

This 25-acre site has been managed as an amenity for the village and a refuge for wildlife. Butterfly interest includes Purple Hairstreak and Essex Skipper.

Meet 1.00pm in the car park at map

reference ST846260, postcode SP7 9NN, at the top of Prideaux Drive, Motcombe. If driving north, look for the red front door of the first house. The site may be wet underfoot if there has been a lot of rain.

Contact is Peter Cooper on 01747 850968.

SATURDAY 9th JULY

CHASE WOODS - RUSHMORE ESTATE

Joint with Wiltshire Branch

A guided walk in old woodland with Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral among the target species.

Meet 11.00am inside the gate to Greatstone Coppice on the north side of the B3081, about one mile west of Sixpenny Handley, map reference ST978173.

Contact is Arthur Bryant on 01202 892816, or 07711 404190.

SUNDAY 10th JULY

OPEN DAY AT THE QUARR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE AND TERRACE MEADOWS SNCI – SHERBORNE

The Quarr is Sherborne's local nature reserve, an area of young woodland, scrub and grassland off the Bristol Road. The Terrace Meadow is a fascinating patch of limestone grassland adjacent to Sherborne's Terrace Playing Fields sports facilities. It is of particular interest as the soil is unusual for the area, and supports flowers (including orchids), butterflies and

other species not generally seen in the locality.

Join us for one or both guided walks, which will include flower and insect identification sessions. We will meet on the Quarr at 11.00am and at the Terrace Meadows SNCI at 2.00pm. Tea will be available afterwards.

For the Quarr, meet at the entrance by the Mermaid pub off the Bristol Road at map ref ST637174. For the Terrace Meadows, park in the Terrace Playing Fields Car Park, map reference ST641156, signposted off the A352 just south of Sherborne, and then follow the footpath back towards the town through the patch of newly planted trees and up a few steps, map reference ST637156.

For further information contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelsspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SUNDAY 10th JULY

ASHCLYST FOREST, near EXETER

Joint with Devon Branch

For details of this event please check the website - www.dorsetbutterflies.com/events.

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY

GUIDED WALK – THE BUTTERFLIES OF LULWORTH

The Lulworth Skipper will be a

target species on this, the first of two walks that we are leading in conjunction with The Heritage Centre at Lulworth Cove. The walk will involve a climb onto Bindon Hill which will be steep in places. The event is free but pre-booking is advisable as numbers may be limited. Charges apply in the large car park next to The Centre, map reference SY824800.

The start time is 11.00am and it is expected that the walk will last about 2 hours, after which you may wish to stay on the hill for lunch or visit The Heritage Centre.

For further details and booking, phone The Heritage Centre on 01929 400155.

15th JULY – 7th AUGUST

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

To find out more about how to take part, go to www.bigbutterflycount.org.

SATURDAY 16th JULY

GUIDED WALK – SANDFORD HEATH

Joint with Sandford Heritage Community Group

We will be joining local enthusiasts to study the ecology of this lowland heath, with Silver-studded Blue and Grayling as target species.

Meet at 11.00am at the main entrance to the Sandford Heath part of Holton Heath NNR which is on Station Road, map reference SY943903. By car, take the turning to Holton Heath Station at the traffic

lights on the A351 at Holton Heath. The entrance to Sandford Heath is past a row of houses on the right and is at the next bend in the road (n.b. this road is closed at Holton Heath station car park and cannot be entered from the Holton Heath Trading Park).

Bring a packed lunch as well as robust leg and footwear.

Contact is Brian Dicker on 01963 32453 or Lena Ward on 01929 552512.

SATURDAY 16th JULY

GUIDED WALK – DURLSTON NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

In 'Discover Butterflies in Britain', Newland puts Durlston as no. 4 in his top 10 sites to visit in Britain. There are 3 National Butterfly Transects based at Durlston and there should be up to 15 species on the wing, including Lulworth Skipper.

Meet at 10.30am at the entrance to the renovated Durlston Castle (not the educational centre), map reference SZ035772.

Follow the brown signs to the car park where charges apply.

Contact is John Gilbert on 01929 425165.

SUNDAY 17th JULY

GUIDED WALK AT RINGSTEAD BAY (BETWEEN WEYMOUTH AND LULWORTH COVE)

This cliff top walk from Ringstead

towards Lulworth will be an all-day event, so bring a packed lunch. The walk is steep at one point. Marbled White, Grayling and Lulworth Skipper should all be seen. Meet at 11.00am in the National Trust car park (at the top of the hill, not the lower car park) map reference SY759824.

Contact is Bernard Franklin on 07711 304412.

SATURDAY 23rd JULY

GUIDED WALK – SUNNYSIDE, STOBOROUGH HEATH, RIDGE

Although predominantly heathland, this reserve managed by Natural England has a mix of habitats and supports a variety of butterfly species including Silver-studded Blue and Grayling.

Meet at 1.30pm. From the B3075 Wareham to Swanage Road, take Nutcrack Lane towards Arne. The car park for the Sunnyside Reserve is on the right after about a mile, map reference SY937863.

Contact is Tony Long on 01202 880508.

SUNDAY 24th JULY

FAMILY WALKS ON THE SOUTH DORSET RIDGEWAY

Guided walks in the stunning south Dorset landscape and a chance to help with the Big Butterfly Count. An event organised by Butterfly Conservation Dorset branch in association with the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership.

Short route (2.5 - 3 miles)
Portesham Farm to Friar Waddon via Corton Farm: meet 12.00pm at Portesham Farm, map reference SY611861. The walk will end opposite Friar Waddon House, from where drivers will be taken back to their cars.

Longer route (5miles) Portesham Farm to Friar Waddon via Hardy's Monument: meet at 10.00am at Portesham Farm.

You will need suitable footwear and a packed lunch with plenty to drink; binoculars will be useful. We will be identifying butterflies and day-flying moths (and plenty of other wildlife and landmarks) as we go. Both walks are expected to finish around 3.00pm.

For further information, contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23599 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SATURDAY 30th / SUNDAY 31st JULY

THE SECOND GREAT DORSET BUTTERFLY SCRAMBLE

10.00am - 4.00pm.

A weekend of butterfly counting with a small element of competition and a large element of fun! The results will help us with our mapping of Dorset's butterflies.

We are looking for teams of at least two people who will be allocated a 10x10km square in which to survey as many 1km squares as they can in the time allowed, the aim being to see as many species as possible during the time.

Teams can compete on one or both days.

For details of the rules and/or application forms please email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07981 776767.

SUNDAY 31st JULY

RODWELL TRAIL - BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION WALK

A walk along the old railway line between Weymouth and Portland. This walk is ideal for families and those wishing to improve identification skills.

Meet at 1.00pm at the café in Sandsfoot Castle gardens, Old Castle Road, Weymouth, map reference SY675773.

Contact is Bernard Franklin on 07711 304412.

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

A DAY ON PORTLAND

The target species will be Silver-studded Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Lulworth Skipper and the cretaceous form of Grayling.

Meet at 11.00am in the public car park by the Portland Heights Hotel, map reference SY691731, for the morning at Tout Quarry. For the afternoon, meet at 2.00pm in Perryfields Butterfly Reserve car park, map reference SY695712, for an East Weares visit.

Contact is Bernard Franklin on 07711 304412.

SATURDAY 13th AUGUST

GUIDED WALK - ALNERS GORSE

Joint with Wiltshire Branch

The Brown and Purple Hairstreak will be target species, along with other summer species.

Meet at 11.00am at the Alners Gorse reserve entrance which is on the road from Kings Stag to Hazelbury Bryan, near the 30mph and Hazelbury Bryan village signs. Park on the wide straight road verge on the Kings Stag side of the village sign, well away from the dangerous bend.

Map reference is ST736100.

Contact is Frank Crosier on 01722 790419

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST

GUIDED WALK – MARTIN DOWN NNR

Joint with Wiltshire Branch

Target species include Silver-spotted Skipper, Chalkhill Blue and hopefully second-brood Adonis Blue.

Bring a packed lunch as we will be stopping for lunch along the walk.

We meet at 11.00am in the car park at the top of Sillens Lane which runs from the triangular green in Martin village, map reference SU058192.

Contact is Maurice Avent on 01249 713218.

WEDNESDAY 17th AUGUST

GUIDED WALK – THE BUTTERFLIES OF LULWORTH

Adonis Blue will be a target species on our second visit to Bindon Hill. See July 13th for details.

FRIDAY 19th AUGUST

UPTON HEATH MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES

Joint with Dorset Wildlife Trust

9.00am: Moths. The inspection of the overnight moth trap.

11.00am: Butterfly Walk on Upton Heath for Grayling and other wildlife.

Meet at the Urban Wildlife Centre, Corfe Mullen, map reference SY977948, postcode BH21 3RX.

Contact is Andy Fale on 07970 552673.

SATURDAY 20th AUGUST

GUIDED WALK - CHALDON HERRING

This is our second visit to this downland site.

See May 29th for details.

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST

BUTTERFLY WALK ON BALLARD DOWN (SWANAGE)

Joint with Dorset Wildlife Trust

A return visit to Ballard Down to see the second brood of the Adonis

Blue and Brown Argus which will now be on the wing. Meet at 11.00am at the Ulwell lay-by on the Swanage to Studland road, map reference SZ021809. Contact is Jon Bellamy on 01929 450182.

THURSDAY 25th AUGUST

GUIDED WALK - OSMINGTON (East of Weymouth)

A downland and country lane walk on which we should find at least 15 species of butterfly. Targets will include Adonis Blue and Wall. There is a choice to return to the start making a 2 hour walk, or to have a picnic lunch if you wish to continue to make a total of 4½ hours of walking and watching. Children are very welcome.

Meet at 11.00am outside Osmington Church, map reference SY725829.

Contact is Lawrie de Whalley on 01258 880524.

SATURDAY 27th / SUNDAY 28th AUGUST

OAK FAIR, STOCK GAYLARD PARK

Stock Gaylard Estate is a small traditional country estate just over 4 miles from Sturminster Newton and 8 miles from Sherborne. Come and find us on Conservation Row at this popular festival.

Contact is Bridget de Whalley, email stall@dorsetbutterflies.com or phone 01258 880524.

SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

DORSET COUNTY SHOW, Dorchester Showground, Dorchester.

Come and find us in the Bee Tent at the top of the field, and visit our Information and Display Stall at this popular show. Attractions include children's activities, live moths, and sales.

Contact is Bridget de Whalley on 01258 880524.

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

CONSERVATION WORK DAY AT ALNERS GORSE

We continue the woodland and scrub management work to improve our wildlife habitats.

There will be a bonfire with hot drinks and cake for refreshment.

Join us if you can, between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Alners Gorse reserve entrance is on the road from Kings Stag to Hazelbury Bryan, near the 30mph and Hazelbury Bryan village signs. Park on the wide straight road verge on the Kings Stag side of the village sign, well away from the dangerous bend.

Map reference is ST736100.

For further information, contact Nigel Spring on 01963.23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 25

"DORSET – Wildlife, landscapes and villages - a musical appreciation"

A free one hour presentation at 11.30am by local photographer and Dorset Branch member Rex Bale at Athelhampton House for Dorset branch volunteers and their friends/spouses; followed at 2.30pm by a fundraising event for the public in aid of Dorset Branch funds.

Rex's Dorset-based show will cover his photography of wildlife (dragonflies, butterflies etc.), landscapes, villages, churches and manor houses. Panoramic video footage will include a sunrise and sunset, and views from Hengistbury Head, Eggardon, Lamberts Castle and Pilsden Pen. The accompanying classical and popular music features Dorset-based musicians – Ben Waters, Natalie Clein, Julian Bream, and Alfred & Adrian Brendel.

Both shows will include access to the House and Gardens where the attractions include the new Kitchen Garden and the Marevna Art Gallery. Refreshments are available for purchase in the house in the Coach House Restaurant and bar, but are not included in the 'package'. For the morning event, Butterfly Conservation regular volunteers can bring one guest each free of charge.

For further information and to reserve tickets, contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER

CONSERVATION WORK DAY

Lydlinch Common

Lydlinch is part of an area crucial to the Marsh Fritillary and conservation work is vital to ensure that the habitat is kept suitable for its survival at this site. Meet at 10.00am and park in the lay-by just outside the village on the Sherborne to Sturminster road, map reference ST736137.

Contact is Colin Burningham on 01935 873219, or mobile 07849 921594.

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER

CONSERVATION ACTION DAY

Lankham Bottom Reserve

We continue the task of gorse and thorn scrub clearance on this important downland reserve. The reserve entrance is off the minor road from Cattistock to the A37, about ½ mile from the A37. Park inside the metal gate at map reference ST 606004.

10.00am to 4.00pm. There will be a bonfire with hot drinks and cake for refreshment. For further information, contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk.