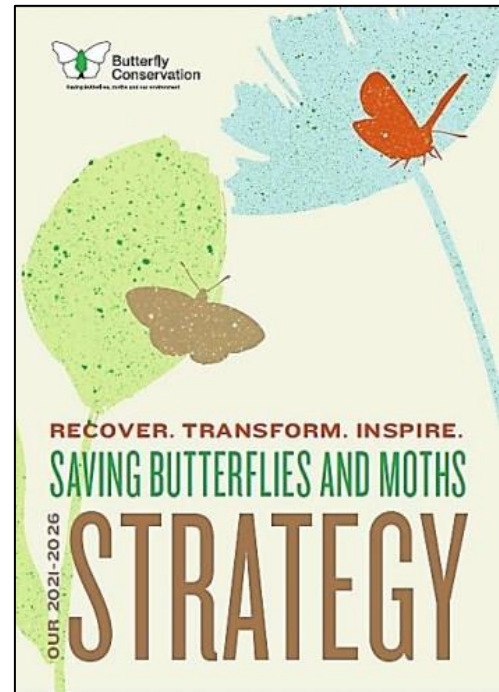




### Cornwall Branch e-Bulletin: summer 2023

#### Our Cornwall plan

Our 5-year strategy aims to halve the number of the UK's threatened species of butterflies and moths. We have two threatened species in Cornwall, the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary (PBF) and the Marsh Fritillary (MF). Fortunately, Andrew and Liz Thomas and Alan Stapleton are very active Species Champions for the PBF and MF respectively. They have been working tirelessly researching and monitoring their chosen species. Coincidentally both species are resident in good numbers on Bodmin Moor, one of Butterfly Conservation's chosen important landscapes. If anyone would like to be involved, we would welcome someone to walk a transect which covers either of these threatened species. If you are interested please contact [specieschampions@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.co](mailto:specieschampions@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.co). We also have regular volunteering opportunities on Bodmin Moor, monitoring in the flying season, MF web counts, and practical conservation in autumn and winter. Contact Georgie to get on her volunteer list to hear about the opportunities as they arise. [gpaul@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:gpaul@butterfly-conservation.org)



#### Local news

This year our butterflies have got off to a slow start, the wet and cold weather in March and April seems to have had an effect. I wonder how it will play out through the rest of the year? Our summer field trips are underway, please check our website [www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk](http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk) and join in, no need to book. Steve Batt took a group out on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, here is his report:-

# PENHALE MOD Field Trip Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023



*Lunch stop overlooking a Dune Slack*

Firstly, huge thanks to Cornwall Wildlife Trust and especially Jon for allowing us access to this very special nature reserve, and secondly thank you for some wonderful weather to best enjoy.

We met for 9.30 and after the essential briefings, 16 of us set off to explore the reserve and generally enjoy a huge variety of diverse nature. As it was a Cornwall Butterfly Conservation trip, first mention will be the 10 species of butterfly we saw including Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, Brown Argus seemed to be everywhere 😊.



After wandering around the reserve, lunch was taken about 12.30, as you will see from the picture above, where Pip Cook kindly shared further details of the Dynamic Dunes Project with us all.



Other highlights of the day were Grass Snakes, Slow Worms and Common Lizard, Choughs obligingly arranging a fly by during lunch, loads of rare flora, and some Odonata too. And the Poplar Leaf Beetles a stunning shade of red.



I could write pages, as there was just so much to see, a pleasure to lead with Jon Cripps help and his fabulous knowledge of the site, it is always a joy to be at Penhale MOD. We all left by 3.00 some of us a little weary after the ups and downs of the site, but all seemed to have fully enjoyed the day, well they said so, and I don't think they were just being polite!

Steve Batt

#### **Greater capacity to get more done 😊**

Georgie has trained 5 of us in the role of group leaders, this means we can do more activities, practical conservation, web searches and timed counts in the flying season. Keep your eyes peeled for Georgie's e-mails. She will be co-ordinating and sending details of all volunteering opportunities to the people on her list. If you are not on it sign up today by contacting Georgie on the e-mail address [gpaul@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:gpaul@butterfly-conservation.org)

#### **Mining Landscape Goal**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May Sue Allen led a group of volunteers from Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) in a walk in the Carnon Valley checking habitat as part of our Mining Landscape Goal. We were looking for Birds-foot Tefoil, the larval food plant of the Dingy Skipper and Silver-studded Blue and hoping to see Dingy Skippers. WE found some likely spots that will be worth revisiting but no Dingies 😞. We had a lovely day and finished at CWT Bissoe Reserve where we watched bees mining.



*Silver-studded Blue*

**BREAKING NEWS .....**

On our survey of West Basset Stamps we recorded 1 Dingy Skipper

**Save the Date**

On 16<sup>th</sup> September we are having a Members Day at St Erme Community Hall. It's 4 years since our last AGM and Members Day and we have a lot of catching up to do. We are planning to have a mixture of presentations and information about our current, and very new projects, including talks by Dr Colin French and Marcus Rhodes. More details in due course.

**Moth Trap Event**

Two CBC volunteers have kindly invited us to visit their lovely garden and adjacent meadow and wood just outside Helston to see the results of a moth trap there. They will, weather permitting, put the moth traps out on the night of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. The traps will then be closed up early in the morning and kept in the shade until we are ready for them. You are invited to be there at **9 o'clock on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July** to see the traps being unpacked and the moths being identified. Do come along and take part! No moth knowledge is required, here is an opportunity to learn. It is just at the right time for hawkmoths, so we hope to find some of those. There will be refreshments and a sales table, and plenty of opportunity for a close look at a variety of moths, so we should have an enjoyable and enlightening morning. Well supervised children are welcome. The following night/morning, and the following weekend, are possible alternative dates if the weather is too bad on the chosen night/morning.

Because of limited space, especially for parking, and so we know how to contact interested members if the date needs to be changed, **booking is essential**. Those who have booked will then be sent details of the venue. There is no admission charge but donations for CBC will be gratefully received.

To book, or if you have any questions, please email Sue Allen, [events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk](mailto:events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk) Please let her know how many there are in your party, whether you need or can offer a lift and, if so, from where you will be coming.



*Elephant Hawk Moth*



### Habitat Survey Training Day

There are still a couple of spaces on our Habitat Survey Training Day on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. E-mail Sue on [events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk](mailto:events@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk) or mobile 07884 974528

### Latest News

On Sunday 4 June, three enthusiasts were CBC's guests for a wonderful day up in Greenscombe Wood, the only place in Cornwall where you can see the rare Heath Fritillary. Led by local expert and transit recorder Richard Vulliamy and by Tristram Besterman on a warm, sunny day, the Heath Fritillary was out in numbers, small jewels of delight. We counted 52 individuals but there were certainly more.



Paul Jell had joined a CBC field trip for the first time and enjoyed both the insects and the plants, including the aptly named Lesser Butterfly orchid. Chris Russell, accompanied by Lewis, kindly kept a tally of the butterflies we saw.

Tristram, while eating his sandwiches, was treated to personal visit by a Nursery Web spider, carrying her egg sac onto his trouser leg.

Your committee wants to keep you posted on what we're doing for butterflies and moths and for you in Cornwall. You will receive the e-Bulletin in addition to the twice-yearly *Cornwall Butterfly Observer*, which you receive in spring and autumn.

