

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Butterfly and Moth Field Meetings 2011.

**Compiled by Lee Slaughter – Field Trip Organiser
(Cornwall Butterfly Conservation).**

Friday 22nd April 2011 – 8:15 pm – Cadsonbury, East Cornwall.

Moth Evening arranged by Cornwall Moth Group to search for Marbled Pug and Orange Upperwing moths.

The Orange Upperwing is perhaps our rarest moth and its status is still uncertain. It has only occurred from time to time very sporadically across southern England in the last 20 years. The moth hibernates as an adult. The Marbled Pug is a Notable B species found only in East Cornwall. Both species inhabit mature oak woods.

Leader - Phil Boggis. Meet at SX345674. Follow the A390 to Cadsonbury. Just before the bridge over the River Lynher, take the C class road on the right (coming from West Cornwall). Follow the road for about half a mile. Parking is on the left by the river.

For full details phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 30th April – 10:30am – Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary, Millendreath, nr Looe.

This is a special early visit to the Millendreath to Seaton coastal footpath to search for Britain's earliest flying Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies which will take in some brilliant scenery looking out to sea on this excellent habitat for this rare species. Yes! You can see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary in April in Cornwall given reasonable weather! This unique habitat, some of which is an ancient landslip, provides the ideal microclimate needed for this species to be on the wing up to 3 weeks earlier than elsewhere in Cornwall so don't miss this opportunity to see this for yourselves. Walking boots are a must due to steep terrain and bring food & drink too! Access is through strictly private land at Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary which will be closed so all attending should be ready to be guided through to the cliff path by the leader at 10:30am from the Monkey Sanctuary car park. Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Green-Veined White, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Orange Tip & possible Dingy Skipper will hopefully be seen today.

Leader - Paddy Saunders. Meet at map ref - SX285546 in Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary Car Park.

For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

Saturday 14th May – 2:00pm – Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin Moor.

Bunny's Hill is an easily accessible site and is one of the best places in Cornwall to see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly at close quarters. Please do bring your camera as photography is comparatively easy at this locality. Brimstones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possible Dingy Skipper. There is plenty of easy parking available.

Leader – Lee Slaughter. Meet at map ref – SX117675 at fork in road, with further parking 50 yards up track.

For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Saturday 21st May – 2:00pm – Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Breward.

This site still holds one of Cornwall's finest colonies of the nationally threatened Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly which can be seen over a wide area of well managed bracken covered hillside. Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in places. Orange Tip & Brimstone should also still be on the wing.

Leader – Lee Slaughter. Meet at SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge.
For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Sunday 22nd May – 11:00am – The Dodman Headland, South Cornwall.

We are most grateful to Paul Brewer for offering to guide us around this fascinating headland on the south coast of Cornwall. We will be hoping for good numbers of Wall Browns which are becoming scarce even here in Cornwall although 25 were seen here on a single day in May 2010. Small Copper, Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Green-Veined White & Orange Tip should be seen today. We will also keep a keen lookout for Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries which have been recorded from The Dodman historically. This area of coast could also produce a few surprises and it will be interesting what discoveries could be made by eagle-eyed members. Walking boots, waterproof (if weather changeable), sun cream, packed lunch & drink all essential.

Leader – Paul Brewer. Meet at SW999405, in National Trust car park near Penare Farm.
For details and directions phone Paul Brewer on 07990 881052.

Saturday 28th May – 1:00pm – Rinsey Head to Trewavas Head West of Helston.

Rinsey Head to Trewavas Head return walk on the coastal path to look for Green Hairstreaks, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries, Small Heath, Wall Browns & other spring flying species. Walking boots, drink & sun cream essential.

Leader – Paul Browning. Meet at 1:00pm at SW592271 in N.T. car park at Rinsey Head.
Phone Paul in morning if you are unsure about weather and/or travelling long distance.
For details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Saturday 4th June – 1:00pm – Breney Common, nr. Lanlivery.

Our annual visit to probably Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colony. Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak and always a few interesting moths too!

Photography is almost always easy here so do bring your camera and walking boots.

Leader – Phil Boggis. Meet at SX053611, small roadside car park near Gunwen Chapel or Breney Common main car park (up bumpy CWT reserve track through gate).
For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 5th June – 11:00am – Chapel Porth, nr. St Agnes.

A new locality for our fieldtrips. During the 1970's & 80's the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary could be seen flying in good numbers over the hillsides between Chapel Porth & St Agnes but the butterfly has not been seen in recently by anyone who's searched for it. We hope to rediscover it here today and hope that it had just been overlooked in recent years. Good numbers of Green Hairstreaks should also be noted too as this used to be a good locality for it. Walking boots, drink & sun cream essential.

Leader – Phil Harris. Meet at SW697495, in N.T. beach car park
For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Saturday 18th June – 2:00pm Perran Sands and Penhale Sands, nr. Perranporth.

A Mid-summer ramble over Britain's highest sand dunes complex to see large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-Studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skippers, Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger Moth and Humming Bird Hawk-Moth. This event always turns up unexpected surprises in moths or butterflies. Please bring a drink, a sun hat, sun protection and good walking boots.

Leaders - Lee Slaughter and Phil Boggis. Meet at SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose.

For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505 or Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 19th June – 11:00am – Greenscoombe Woods, Lucket.

Organised jointly with mid-Tamar Cornwall Wildlife Trust group.

One of Britain's rarest butterflies, the Heath Fritillary, still exists in Cornwall in the specially managed habitat, at its original main Cornish colony at Greenscoombe Woods, Lucket after it became extinct there after 2002. After it's re-introduction to parts of the woodlands in the summer of 2006 it has become re-established and re-colonised it's former habitat which has been much improved by clearance and management work.

We are grateful to local recorder and expert on this species, Richard Vulliamy who will lead us around showing us the best areas to observe them. The butterfly is breeding well now at Greenscoombe Woods and it is always a joy for enthusiasts from Cornwall, Devon and often much further afield to visit these woods to marvel at the many Heath Fritillary butterflies that would be seen throughout June every year. Bring a drink and your camera.

Leader – Richard Vulliamy. Meet at SX389737 in Lucket Village car park.

For details and directions phone Richard Vulliamy on 01579 370411.

Friday 24th June – 9:30pm – Pontsmill, nr. Penpillick Hill, St. Blazey, Par.

Mid-summer Moths at Pontsmill.

Organised by the Friends of Luxulyan Valley. All CMG and Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members are welcome at this meeting.

A moth evening of recording together with The Friends of Luxulyan Valley and Cornwall Moth Group. This event will begin at dusk and you should bring Wellies and a torch. Plenty of parking is available in the main Pontsmill car park. Past mothing events here have recorded over 125 different species of moth for one night's recording! It will finish at Midnight or later but you can leave before if you want.

Leader - Phil Boggis. Meet at SX073561 in the car park at the end of the single track road.

For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 25th June – 11:00am – Poldice, St Day.

A new locality for our fieldtrips. Today we will be searching Heathland on old mining landscape at St Day for newly emerged Silver-Studded Blues of the 'heathland' type. These are special for Cornwall as most counties have lost their colonies of this species. Grayling & other summer species such as Large Skipper & Ringlet should be seen too. Walking boots, drink & sun cream essential.

Leader – Phil Harris. Meet at SW737426, in lay-by at Poldice.

For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Friday 1st July – 9:30pm – Watergate, West Looe Valley, Looe.

Mid-summer Mothing for the Scarce Merveille Du Jour Moth.

Organised by Cornwall Moth Group.

The sedentary Scarce Merveille De Jour moth has almost certainly continuously bred in the West Looe Valley since shortly after the last Ice Age! It is proposed to re-visit a site a few miles up the West Looe valley from Kilminorth woods at Watergate (SX234545) where there is a distinct possibility that the Scarce Merveille du Jour moth may still be lurking undiscovered. There are some mature oaks near to the water's edge on the footpath leading south. The moth light will be on from dusk until late but meet at 9:30pm. Bring a torch.

Leader - Phil Boggis. Meet at SX234545. Plenty of parking up the lane from the West Looe River's grassy floodplain.

For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 2nd July – 11:00am Upton Towans, nr. Hayle.

A delightful walk through the extensive coastal dunes between Gwithian and Hayle at Upton Towans. We expect to see an abundance of newly emerged Dark Green Fritillaries and the last of the season's Silver-Studded Blues as well as the more common summer flying species of butterflies and moths. The 2nd brood of Small Heaths should now be in evidence and we would like everyone to look out for the Brown Argus and Grayling which recently have all but disappeared from this area. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, and good walking boots or rainwear if weather is unsettled.

Leaders – Dick and Maggie Goodere. Meet at SW579398 at entrance by gate to CWT area.

For full details and directions phone Dick or Maggie Goodere on 01736 753077.

Friday 8th July – 9:30pm for 10:00pm Trelissick Gardens, nr. Feock, south of Truro.

Organised by Cornwall Moth Group.

Our host, the Head Gardener at Trelissick, has warmly welcomed us to the gardens over a number of years and another visit has been arranged. A large colony of the Nationally Scarce A moth, the Four-spotted Footman resides there and some are of the opinion it may be one of the largest colonies in the West Country. Bring a torch.

Leader: Phil Boggis. Meet at SW837396 at Trelissick Gardens lower car park at (by the walled gardens).

For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 9th July – 10:00am Steeple Woods, St Ives.

A morning walk on this transect accompanied by some volunteers from the Steeple Woodland Trust to explain the project on this site. We will do a butterfly count and then proceed to St John's Church Hall to enter our results on Transect Walker also looking at results and trends from other transects. This morning walk will be ideal for anyone thinking of setting up their own transect. Hot drinks will be available at the hall.

Leader – Jim Barker.

Meet by the stile in Steeple Lane, there is a lay-by here. To get to Steeple Lane follow the main road to St Ives (turn right through Lelant, DO NOT follow the holiday route). Having driven through Carbis Bay turn left at The Cornish Arms and immediately left again and follow Steeple Lane (narrow road) for approximately half a mile until you come to a right hand bend on a steep hill. The stile is on the left as you round the bend.

St John's Church is at Upper Stennack, St Ives; the entrance lane is just to the west of the Fire Station. The hall and car park is behind the church. Grid References: SW516388 for the Woods & SW504398 for the church hall.

For full directions & information phone Jim Barker Tel: 01736 794134.

Saturday 9th July – 1:00pm Delabole Quarry, Delabole, Nr. Camelford.

This is an excellent site for our fieldtrips and we are grateful to Malcolm Lee for leading this for our group. Previous visits made here by several Cornwall branch members have produced many sightings of Marbled Whites and Graylings which are not often seen on our field meetings. Graylings are not often found inland in Cornwall and the discovery of good numbers at this location is good news for the species in our county where it is now mainly restricted to parts of the coast. Good walking boots essential.

Leader – Malcolm Lee. Meet at SX074836 in Delabole Quarry Car Park by visitor centre.

For details and directions phone Malcolm Lee on 01208 880106.

Saturday 16th July – 2:00pm – Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Breward.

This site has a good colony on Purple Hairstreaks on its low growing Oak trees and there will hopefully be a good chance to photograph this 'hard to photo' species. Silver Washed Fritillary will be on the wing and Dark Green Fritillary & other summer flying species should be spotted. Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in place as well as long trousers due to tall bracken on the slopes.

Leader – Phil Harris. Meet at SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge.

For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Sunday 17th July – 1:00pm Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin (C.W.T.Reserve).

We look forward to seeing many beautiful Silver-Washed Fritillary butterflies in this well managed woodland (at least 35 were seen on our 2010 trip!) together with the bright summer form '*hutchinsoni*' of the Comma butterfly with plenty of Ringlets, Gatekeepers, new brood Brimstones and Summer brood Holly Blues. There is always various day flying moths to be seen in this wood so there may be new discoveries awaiting us.

Leader – Dave Conway. Meet at map ref – SX128653 by sawmill.

For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Saturday 30th July 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm – ‘Tropic Days Butterfly House’ at entrance to Porfell Animal Land, Lanreath - SX173594.

Cancelled

Saturday 30th July 2.00pm onwards ‘Lethytep’, Penadlake, Lanreath - SX175588.

Philip & Faith Hambly invite all Members & friends to view their Wildlife area where there will be a covered area to eat lunch. Hot drinks + toilet will be available. At 2:00pm there will be welcome from Philip (a CBC Committee Member) who will inform visitors about the Wildlife area with its walks & lakes. It is to be hoped that Purple Hairstreak Butterflies will be flying plus many other species. Hopefully CBC will also have displays on show and have literature for sale etc. We are attempting to arrange an "up close" facility for photography of the Hairstreaks. If the weather is poor on the Saturday the visit will be duplicated on the next day, Sunday 31st July at the same times. For more info see article in last Observer. To get to Porfell, turn south just before or just after Middle Taphouse on the A390 Liskeard - Lostwithiel road. Look out for the brown sign to Animal Land and follow this. Leader - Philip Hambly. Meet at SX175588. For full details phone Philip Hambly on 01503 220385.

Saturday 6th August – 11:00am Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Members ‘Open Day’.

A great locality which contains wildflower meadows, woodland, wetland and a lake. If the weather permits, visitors can expect to see a wide variety of butterflies, moths, birds and, dragonflies. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation is very indebted to Keith Wilson, our host, for hosting this event, who also keeps rare breed poultry at the farm. This is an opportunity to meet and socialise with other members. If you can, bring a guest or two and introduce them to the delights and wonders of butterfly and wildlife conservation! Our branch members have assisted with conservation work & habitat restoration work this winter to return some of the land to suitable breeding habitat for a range of species and to attract nectaring species too!

A barn will be available for chatting, eating, coffee etc. A BBQ will hopefully be running as well if the weather is good and a projector which will be used if the weather is not so kind on the day together with an illustrated talk by Paul Browning if we are confined indoors because of rain. Please bring a packed lunch plus a cake or something sweet to share with other members and our guests. New members will be made very welcome – please introduce yourself to Keith Wilson, Jo Poland or one of the other committee members. Members of the Cornwall Smallholders Group will also be present by invitation of host, Keith Wilson.

Leader – Keith Wilson. Meet at 11:00am at Trelusback Farm (shown on the OS map as ‘Trelusback’ at map reference SW712384), which is about half a mile ‘from the western end of Stithian’s lake and about halfway between Stithians and Redruth. Those with satnav will be able to use the postcode (TR16 6TQ) to get to a red ‘phone box at the end of the driveway to Keith’s house. Proceed down this lane and the barn we are using is about 200 yards past the sandschool and bungalow.

For more detailed directions (or if you get lost) please phone Keith on 01209 860298 or if no reply 07972 376982 or phone Jo Poland on 01872 540371.

Sunday 7th August – 11:00am Gwennap Head and Porthgwarra.

This locality is situated within 4 miles of Lands End, the most South-Westerly point on the English mainland and should produce an abundance of butterflies. We should see Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice*'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. This is a new transect for 2010 and the land is being partly managed by the RSPB for the Chough. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in Porthgwarra car park where there is a cafe & toilets. Pay & display car park in operation.

Leader – Jim Barker. Meet at SW372218 in main Porthgwarra car Park.

For full details and directions phone Jim Barker on 01736 794134.

Saturday 13th August – 11:00am Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard.

Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for Lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice*'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park (car park fee payable to N.T.) and meet near the toilet block at the Southern end of the car park.

Leader - Phil Boggis. Meet at SW688132 in main Kynance Cove Car Park.

For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.