

# BUTTERFLY AND MOTH EVENTS

## in Dorset

No. 74  
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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 to 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, when 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 10.00 am** (ending around 3.30 pm) 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 Sue Rawles on  
01305 268471 or [srawles11@btinternet.com](mailto:srawles11@btinternet.com), or visit the website:  
[www.dorsetbutterflies.com](http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com)**

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION  
Company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England (2206468)

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[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

### **CERNE GIANT HILL**

Conservation work will be arranged but details have not yet been finalised, so please check the events section of the branch website. If you would like to be involved you can contact Malcolm Wemyss on 01935 874027 or email [malcolm@wemyssfamily.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@wemyssfamily.co.uk)

### **DUNCLIFFE WOOD and FIFEHEAD WOOD**

Details of work parties at these sites will appear on the Woodland Trust and Dorset BC websites when available. Please contact Ian Hounsell on 01747 814089 for information on volunteering opportunities.

### **FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS – RECORDINGS ON THE CONTINENT**

This is an illustrated talk by Nigel Spring to the West Dorset Group of Dorset Wildlife Trust. 7.30 pm at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport. Suggested donation is £2 (£3 for non-DWT members). Contact is Anne Wheatcroft on 01300 320168.

### **SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER CONSERVATION ACTION DAY At Alners Gorse**

We continue the woodland and scrub management work. For lunch there will be a bonfire with hot drinks and baked potatoes. Please 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, beside the 30mph and Hazelbury Bryan village signs and 30 mph sign. Park on the road verge well away from the bend, map reference ST 736100.

For further information please contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk)

### **SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER CONSERVATION ACTION DAY At Lankham Bottom Reserve**

Working with Dorset Countryside Volunteers, we continue the task of gorse and scrub clearance on this important downland reserve between 10.00am and 4.00pm. 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.

Contact is Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk)

### **SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER CONSERVATION WORK DAY Lydlinch Common (North Dorset)**

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 10.00 am and park in the lay-by just outside the village on the Sherborne to Sturminster road, map reference ST 736137. Contact is Colin Burningham on 01935 873219.

### **SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER CONSERVATION WORK DAY Cashmoor Down (North Dorset)**

The task on the day will be scrub removal from banks, as well as strimming the cleared areas.. Meet at 10.00am in the lay-by at the eastern end of the Cashmoor 50mph speed restriction, map reference ST 980139.

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER CONSERVATION ACTION DAY Alners Gorse**

See October 13 for details.

### **SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's AGM will be hosted by the Wiltshire Branch and held at the Marriott Hotel, Swindon.

Full details in national magazine 'Butterfly' vol. 114 and on BC national website [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

### **SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER CONSERVATION ACTION DAY Lankham Bottom Reserve** See October 20<sup>th</sup> for details

### **SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER CONSERVATION ACTION DAY Broadcroft Quarry Butterfly Reserve, Portland**

Broadcroft is a Butterfly Conservation reserve on Portland managed specifically for butterflies, including the Silver-studded Blue. Our management work involves cutting back the encroaching scrub, particularly clematis and thorn, to maintain the open warm areas of grassland to benefit the butterflies. The event will run from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

For Broadcroft Quarry Reserve, turn left off Easton Road onto Grove Road. After roughly 100 yards there is a track on the right (opposite Portland Football Club) which leads to the car park, map reference SY 695723.

For further information please contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk)

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Lydlinch Common (North Dorset)**

See October 27<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**BROWN HAIRSTREAK EGG SEARCH and CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

**Alners Gorse**

As well as the regular scrub management work, there is the chance to take part in the annual Brown Hairstreak egg search for some, or all of the day. Meet at 10.00am.

Brown Hairstreak eggs are quite easy to see once you know what to look for and are more easily counted than the elusive butterflies, so this is an important exercise. Training will be given. Wear waterproof footwear and bring a packed lunch if you are attending all day. The afternoon egg search will be carried out on Rooksmoor Common, and the meeting time for this is 1.00pm at the Alners Gorse reserve entrance.

Alners Gorse reserve entrance is on the road from Kings Stag to Hazelbury Bryan, beside the 30mph and Hazelbury Bryan village signs and 30 mph sign. Park on the road verge well away from the bend, map reference ST 736100.

For further information on the work party please contact Nigel Spring on 01963 23559 or 07981 776767, or email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk For further information on the Brown Hairstreak egg search please contact Brian Dicker on the day on 01963 32453 or 07817 301203.

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**  
**CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**  
**Alners Gorse**

See October 13<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**  
**CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**  
**Lankham Bottom Reserve**

See October 20<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Lydlinch Common**

See October 27<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Langford Valley, for the Duke of Burgundy**

Meet 10.00am at the field gate beyond Langford Farm Cottages, near Lower Magiston, map reference ST 639958.

Take the minor road northwards from Stratton to Sydling St. Nicholas along the Sydling Water. At the crossroads turn right into the Langford valley and on to the farm.

Contact Brian Dicker on the day on 01963 32453 or 07817 301203.

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**  
**Alners Gorse**

See October 13<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**  
**Broadcroft Butterfly Reserve, Portland**

See November 23<sup>rd</sup> for details.

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Langford Valley**

See Feb 8<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN WEST DORSET and PORTLAND**

All are welcome at this presentation of the results of butterfly recording in West Dorset in 2013. Also, if you think you might be interested in taking part in the monitoring in 2014, please come along. Walks covered are Brackett's Coppice, Black Hill, Chard Junction, Cerne Giant, Southfield Hog Cliff, Kingcombe, Lankham, Lorton Meadows, Powerstock, Portland (Broadcroft, Perryfields and Tout), Radipole and Stonebarrow. There will also be a review of the special site surveys carried out for the

Regional Action Plan in this part of the county, and other interesting general and garden records. The venue is Toller Porcorum Village Hall, and the start time 2.00pm. The map reference is SY562980 and the postcode DT2 0DT. From the A356, drive down into Toller Porcorum, over a small bridge, take the second right (School Lane), then the left into Church Mead to the Village Hall. From Bridport, follow signs to Toller Porcorum, head down into the village over the old railway bridge, then take the first left (School Lane). Contact is Keith Miller on 01300 321007.

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Lydlinch Common**

See October 27<sup>th</sup> for details.

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**  
**CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**  
**Lankham Bottom Reserve**

See October 20<sup>th</sup> for details.

**FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN EAST DORSET**

All are welcome at this presentation on the trends in butterfly numbers revealed by the monitoring in east Dorset surveys in 2013.

This includes results from Transect Walks and Regional Action Plans (RAP). Surveys covered are those at Avon Heath, Badbury Rings, Garston Wood, Hengistbury Head, Iford Landfill, Kinson Common, Moors Valley, Mude Valley, Pamphill Moor, Sopley Common, Sovell Down, Stanpit, Stour Valley, Upton Heath and Wimborne St. Giles.

The event will start at 7.30pm at St. Catherine's Church Hall, on the corner of Leigh Road and Lewens Lane, Wimborne. Contact is Bill Shreeves on 01747 852587.

### **TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH** **EVOLUTION IN ACTION: THE SUB-SPECIES AND FORMS OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES**

#### **Joint with DWT Poole Group**

An illustrated talk by Peter Eeles. Starting at 7.30pm at Carter Community School, Blandford Close, Hamworthy BH15 5BQ. Contact is Ken Yeates on 01202 674998.

### **THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH** **BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN SOUTH DORSET**

All are welcome to attend this presentation of the results of the south Dorset Transect and Regional Action Plan (RAP) surveys in 2013 and the resulting trends in butterfly numbers. Please

come along if you might also be interested in joining in several of the butterfly counting walks at Ballard Down, Bindon Hill, Corfe West Hill, Corfe Common, Durlstons, Hethfelton, Higher Hyde, Langton Westwood, Lulworth Estate, Studland & Ferry Road West, Tadnoll, Townsend, Wareham Walls, Winspit and the miniature walks along the Purbeck Chalk Ridge.

Starting at 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall, North Street, Wareham. Contact is Jon Bellamy on 01929 450182.

### **FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH** **NORTH DORSET WALKERS AND REGIONAL SURVEYORS MEETING**

All are welcome to hear reports on recording in 2013 and plans for the 2014 campaign, plus a report on recent moth recording in the area. Please come along if you are interested or wish to help on any of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) surveys or butterfly counting walks, which are Alners Gorse, Cashmoor Down, Clubmen's Down, Deadmoor Common, Duncliffe Wood, Fifehead Wood, Fontmell Down, Hod Hill, Jerry's Hole, Lydlinch Common, Melbury Down, Milldown, Piddles Wood, Rooksmoor and Stubhampton Bottom.

The event will start at 7.30pm at East Stour Village Hall, map reference ST 804234. This is next to the playing field on the left of the road from East Stour to Gillingham. Contact is Bill Shreeves on 01747 852587.

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### **SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH** **BRANCH MEMBERS DAY AND AGM**

Your yearly opportunity to hear the latest news and developments from the Branch.

The programme will consist of:

- \* AGM and Chairman's summary of the year
- \* A talk by Dr. Phil Sterling on 'The Challenges of Habitat Creation for Butterflies and Moths'
- \* Tea
- \* Members' slides and digital photos: show your slides/photos of butterflies, moths, life stages and Branch events.

It will be helpful to know in advance if you wish to contribute, so please contact Brian Dicker on 01963 23559 or email [B\\_Dicker@btinternet.com](mailto:B_Dicker@btinternet.com) **2.00 - 5.30pm** at Puddletown Village Hall, DT2 8RX, map reference SY 757942. There is free parking in the adjacent school car park. If you require any further details, or can offer help on the day, please contact Adrian Neil on 01305 832937.

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**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**CONSERVATION WORK DAY**  
**Lydlinch Common**  
See October 27<sup>th</sup> for details.

### **FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> to SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL** **SYMPOSIUM 2014**

This will be held at Southampton University. A discount of 15% is available on bookings made by 31<sup>st</sup> December. The theme will be **The ecology and conservation of butterflies and moths**. For more details go to <http://butterfly-conservation.org/4218/symposium-2014.html>

**Look at Butterfly Conservation's website [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) and the Dorset Branch website [www.dorsetbutterflies.com](http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com) to find out more about our reserves.**