

Butterfly Conservation (South Wales Branch)

Events programme, from September 2014



AUTUMN, WINTER (& early spring) - FIELD VISITS, SURVEYS & WORK PARTIES

Weekdays. There will be **autumn, winter & early spring** brown hairstreak egg **surveys** in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire. These are mainly weekdays, chosen a few days in advance for weather, during period **between late October & early April**. If you are interested please register in advance with Richard Smith (01446 793229 (or rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk). We will be focusing this autumn/winter on both previously surveyed and un-surveyed sites in localities with either gaps in records & surveys or areas with good populations in decade to 2010 updating latter for future site management initiatives to add to known mid Teifi stronghold.

- **Teifi valley (North-south tributary lowlands in Ceredigion)** * **Teifi valley (N Emlyn to Cenarth & N Pems)**
- East & west of Carmarthen (inc lower Cothi, Cynin & Dewi Fawr) * Llandeilo to Talley
- **Pembrokeshire** (led by David Redhead thecla.betulae@btinternet.com)

We will also carry out egg counts at a dozen or so regularly monitored sites across Carmarthenshire, plus a couple in each of Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. Generally, we'll aim to meet fortnightly at the West Wales Museum of Childhood at Llangeler (on A484) and alternate fortnights elsewhere in Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire.

We have volunteer workdays at several sites in Carmarthenshire, which will be a combination of egg searches and helping with coppicing of older blackthorn (see also winter weekends below).

Winter Sundays. For the more energetic, we hope to run a fourteenth year of habitat management in the Alun Valley (Vale of Glamorgan) for High Brown Fritillary. In addition, we will have hedge & blackthorn thicket restoration **workdays** for brown hairstreak at Cwmduhen and other sites in Carmarthenshire & also Teifi valley and a couple of management days for marsh fritillary at our Caeau Ffos Fach/Median Farm reserve at Cross Hands in Carmarthenshire. **For all winter habitat management days, tools are provided, but bring suitable strong outdoor clothing (inc. gloves and footwear), a hot drink and food if staying beyond lunchtime.**

All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.

Full details of fixed dates will be published on our branch newsletter & website <<http://www.southwales-butterflies.org.uk/index.html>>.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Weather permitting, we intend to run Brown Hairstreak site visits in suitable conditions to see the adult butterflies. Dates can be obtained from David Redhead thecla.betulae@btinternet.com re Pembrokeshire or Richard Smith rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk re Teifi valley.

There are also Marsh Fritillary larval web count days in Carms & Glamorgan. Richard Smith rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk

OCTOBER 2014

Saturday 18th October, 2014

Annual Members' Day & Branch AGM, Kenfig NNR, Bridgend

Date for diary: see separate agenda

Monday 27th October (Week commencing)..... brown hairstreak survey season begins
(see under "weekdays" above)

NOVEMBER 2014

Tuesday 4th November 2014

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972).

Saturday 15th November, 2014

Butterfly Conservation's national AGM & Members Day in Kenilworth.

Sunday 16th November, 2014

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Meet at **10.00am** at the entrance gate to rifle range on the west side of the minor road ("Wick Road") between the shop near Ewenny/Corntown and Castle upon Alun. The grid reference is **SS913763**. If the gate is open, please drive carefully in and park tidily in the car park. If gate is closed, we'll proceed from there to another site. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk>*.

Tuesday 18th November 2014

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972).

Sunday 30th November, 2014

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Meet at **10.00am** at the entrance gate to rifle range on the west side of the minor road ("Wick Road") between the shop near Ewenny/Corntown and Castle upon Alun. The grid reference is **SS913763**. If the gate is open, please drive carefully in and park tidily in the car park. If gate is closed, we'll proceed from there to another site. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk>*.

DECEMBER 2014

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972).

Sunday 6th December, 2014 **Annual brown hairstreak egg count at West Williamston, Pembrokeshire**

Meet in small reserve car park at SN033058 or, if full, park in village and walk back. Arrive **10.00** for 10.15am start on foreshore. This is a WTSWW reserve and event, for which help has, in recent years, been provided by BC members. *Contact: Nikki Anderson, 01646 686469.*

Tuesday 16th December 2014

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972).

JANUARY 2015

Sunday 4th January, 2015

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Meet at **10.00am** at the entrance gate to rifle range on the west side of the minor road ("Wick Road") between the shop near Eweny/Corntown and Castle upon Alun. The grid reference is **SS913763**. If the gate is open, please drive carefully in and park tidily in the car park. If gate is closed, we'll proceed from there to another part of the site. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk>*.

Sunday 11th January, 2015

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near Cross Hands. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.30am** at far end of Co-op car park, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or Martin White (01792 477984)*.

Wednesday 14th January, 2015

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Details as 11th January. **10.30am**.

Sunday 18th January, 2015

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 30th November above. **10.00am. SS913763.**

Tuesday 20th January, 2015

Habitat management at Ystradgynlais

Scrub clearance at a site in Ystradgynlais for marsh fritillary butterfly. Meet at **10.15am** in Weaver's Road, at SN791098. **10.15am to 3pm**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer. Joint event with Brecknock Wildlife Trust. *Contact: Ben Mullen 01874 625708 (office hours) or Richard Smith (01446 793229)*.

Sunday 25th January, 2015

Habitat management at Mynydd Ruthin

Meet at **10.00am** at the roadside @ SS974795, just before quarry entrance. Directions: from unclassified Pentre Meyrick to Pencoed road, turn onto common at minor cross roads at SS972796, then immediately right and park 200m along on left, past the parking area on the junction itself. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk>*.

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday 1st February, 2015

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 30th November above. **10.00am. SS913763.**

Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972)*.

Sunday 8th February, 2015

Habitat management at a South Wales Marsh Fritillary site

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on most marsh fritillary sites. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) for details of venue.*

Sunday 15th February, 2015

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 30th November above. **10.00am. SS913763.**

Tuesday 17th February 2015

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach/Median Farm

Light scrub and bramble removal and other light management work needs to be carried out, even with regular summer cattle grazing, on our marsh fritillary reserve near **Cross Hands**. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools but bring your own if you prefer.

Meet **10.00am** at far end of **Co-op car park**, just off A48 roundabout at Cross Hands. SN566131. Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) or George Tordoff (01792 642972).

Sunday 22nd February, 2015

Habitat management at Cwmduhenn

The owner of this marvellous site has given us freedom to carry out management of blackthorn for brown hairstreaks. The plan is to cut a series of short bays into the older blackthorn, using a combination of power tools and hand clearance. Volunteers to help to carry away (within the site!) the cut material would be really useful.

Meet at **10.30am** in the huge layby (cut off road, old A40) at SN353193, which is where the B4298 to Meidrim leaves the A40 just west of Carmarthen. We'll travel from there in convoy to Cwmduhenn Farm at SN346214. Bring warm clothes, strong footwear, gardening gloves, a warm drink and lunch if you wish to stay beyond lunchtime. We can supply some hand tools and leather gauntlets but bring your own if you prefer. Joint event with WTSWW. Contact: **Richard Smith (01446 793229) or Becca Killa at WTSWW.**

MARCH 2015

Sunday 1st March, 2015

Habitat management in Blackrock Quarry, Clydach

Work task at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach, in conjunction with Usk Conservation and Environment Group, clearing cotoneaster from this important lepidoptera site with superb views. Tools provided, but bring lunch, drinks etc. Meet at **10am** at the lay-by adjacent to the old lime kilns (**SO215125**). [Head east along the A465 Heads of the Valleys road from the Brynmawr roundabout. After 1½ miles take the left turn for Clydach Village. Continue along Main Road through Clydach village and the lay-by is then on your right.]

Sunday 8th March, 2015

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 25th November above. **10.00am. SS913763.**

Contact: **Richard Smith (01446 793229) or <rgsoverton@tiscali.co.uk>.**

Sunday 15th March, 2015

Habitat management in Hendre Wood, near Monmouth

Meet at Old Lodge entrance at Hendre Woods (SO 462146), on the B4233 Rockfield Road from Monmouth, at **11:00 - 15:00**. Bring lunch, warm drinks, suitable clothing, footwear and hand tools. The task will be clearing cut rideside vegetation to encourage germination of Wood Spurge, larval foodplant of Drab Looper. Contact: **Martin Anthony, 01633 612272.**

Provisional events for spring 2015

In view of exceptionally poor follow up weather in 2012, we are hoping to repeat an "Introduction to Butterflies Day" at a venue in West Wales, including butterfly identification training.

We are also considering a new members day around April/May.