

Butterfly Conservation (South Wales Branch)

Events programme, from December 2009

(Apologies that these events missed the deadline for the latest issue of "Butterfly": Richard Smith)



WINTER WORK PARTIES & SURVEYS

Weekdays. There will be **winter brown hairstreak egg surveys** in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire. These are mainly weekdays, chosen a few days in advance for weather. If you are interested please register in advance with Richard Smith (01446 793229 or rgsoverton@boltblue.com). We will be focussing this winter on sites in pilot areas – around Llangelor & Abernant in Carmarthenshire - for a new Butterfly Friendly Hedgerows initiative. We also have volunteer workdays at several sites in Carmarthenshire, which will be a combination of egg searches and helping with coppicing of older blackthorn.

Winter weekends. For the more energetic, we will have hedge & blackthorn thicket restoration **workdays** for brown hairstreak at Cwmduhenn and other sites in Carmarthenshire. In addition, we have an eighth year of habitat management in the Alun Valley for High Brown Fritillary and a couple of management days for marsh fritillary at our Caeau Ffos Fach reserve in Carmarthenshire, plus other sites in south-east Wales. **For all winter habitat management days, tools are provided, but bring suitable strong outdoor clothing (particularly 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 in next branch newsletter & website <<http://www.southwales-butterflies.org.uk/index.html>>.

January

Sunday 3rd January, 2010

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@boltblue.com>.*

Monday 4th January, 2010

Illustrated talk, Bridgend

"What's Eating the Small Tortoiseshell" - by Dr Owen Lewis.

This much loved and familiar butterfly has experienced big crashes in numbers, in recent years and one suspect is a newly colonised parasitic fly. Owen is originally from Bridgend and a founder member of BC South Wales branch back in late 1980s. Now working at Oxford University, Owen and his research team were given the task of investigating further. Joint event with WTSWW Bridgend Group.

7.15pm at Ogmore Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntirion, Bridgend.

Directions: From A48 at Laleston roundabout (between Bridgend & Pyle), take exit signposted "Laleston". As you, almost immediately, enter Laleston village, proceed straight over first mini roundabout, carrying on through village on main road. As you leave Laleston (although at night you may not notice as street lit AND 30MPH limited!) you are briefly in open countryside, but within half a mile built up area starts again on your left. Take that very first left turning and immediately to your right is the Labour Party Club. Parking surrounds the building or there is parking in the side streets.

Sunday 10th January, 2010

CANCELLED

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach

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).*

Sunday 17th January, 2010

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 3rd January above. **10.00am. SS913763.**

Wednesday 20th January, 2010

Habitat management at Caeau ffos fach

Details as 10th January. **10.30am.**

Sunday 24th January, 2010

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.*]

Tuesday 26th January, 2010

Habitat management at Ystradgynlais

Scrub clearance at a site in Ystradgynlais for marsh fritillary butterfly. Meet at **10.30am** in car park of Ystradgynlais Miner's Welfare Hall, at SN787104. **10.30am 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: Phil Sutton, 01874 625708 (office hours) or Richard Smith (01446 793229).*

Sunday 31st January, 2010

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 3rd January above. **10.00am.** **SS913763.**

FEBRUARY

Sunday 14th February, 2010

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 4th January above. **10.00am.** **SS913763.**

Sunday 21st February, 2010

Habitat management in 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. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229).*

Sunday 28th February, 2010

Habitat management in Alun Valley

Details for all Alun Valley dates, as per 4th January above. **10.00am.** **SS913763.**

Weekday (to be decided) in February

Habitat management in Tonyrefail

Scrub clearance and good outdoor exercise on a marsh fritillary site. *Contact: Richard Smith (01446 793229) for details of meeting venue and day selected.*

MARCH

Sunday 7th March, 2010

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@boltblue.com>.*