

## Dates For Your Diary – Summer 2017

1. Meetings will start at the time indicated in the individual event description. Some events may continue into the afternoon and if so a packed lunch will be advised.
2. If the weather is uncertain, please contact the leader on the phone number given, preferably the evening before (especially if I'm leading – Andy Daw), but no later than 9am on the day.
3. All map numbers and grid references refer to the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Landranger® series unless stated otherwise.
4. **DEER TICKS** are becoming increasingly common. As they can carry Lyme disease, it is advisable to wear coverings over the legs.
5. Dogs should not be brought to meetings.
6. At the moth nights, people should bring a torch each and wear UV protective glasses if they have them. They should also wrap up warmly; it can be surprisingly cold even on a quiet summer's night, and consider bringing a seat.
7. Butterfly Conservation does not accept liability for damage or personal injury incurred at field meetings.
8. Risk assessments for guided walks: If anyone needs advice on doing risk assessments for guided walks or other events please contact Hugo Brooke. Example risk assessments can be found on the BC website.

**Please inform the trip leader if you are intending to go on the field trip, either directly, through leaving a phone message, or via text message, no later than the evening of the day before a trip. The field trip leader will have the discretion to cancel a field trip if there are no confirmed attendees.**

**Please check the Branch Web Site, or field trip leader for corrections, changes and additions to the programme and to confirm the details prior to joining any field trip.** <http://www.wiltshire-butterflies.org.uk>

**Where the walk is included in the “Butterfly Walks in Wiltshire” (BWW) booklet the walk number is included.**

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30 am: Lower Moor Farm & Clattinger**

This area in the north of Wiltshire is a good location for spring butterflies, and a good opportunity to learn how to tell the whites (Large, Small, Green-veined, Brimstone and Orange Tip) apart.

**Target Species:** Spring butterflies familiarisation

**Location:** Meet in the RSPB car park of Lower Moor Farm at **SU 008 937** (Map 173). Turn left off the yellow road just before a 90 degree turning to your right, on the Cotswold water park to Oaksey about 1 mile west of the Neigh Bridge Country Park and Minety turnings. The ground may still be wet and muddy from the winter rains, so please wear suitable footwear.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎ 07778 146 297)

**BWW No. 12**

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 11:00 am: Chickengrove Bottom & Vernditch Chase**

This is a South Wilts Butterfly Recognition walk. Chickengrove Bottom is a small area, well within children's walking capabilities. Vernditch Chase is a larger wood, but we shall be selective in choosing to walk the more open areas in the Kitt's Grave section. Bring a packed lunch.

**Location:** Meet at **Martin Down car park SU 038 201** (Map 130) off the A354.

**Target Species:** spring butterflies, including green hairstreaks, dingy and grizzled skipper

**Directions:** How to get there. Meet at Martin Down A354 car park. Then travel in as few cars as possible to Chickengrove Bottom. Return to car park afterwards, and then move on to Vernditch Chase

**Contact:** Arthur Bryant (☎ 07711 404 190)

**BWW No. 10 & 41**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 am: Martinsell Hill**

This steep hill has a good selection of down-land butterflies. The walk will be down and up the steep slope and can be quite muddy at the bottom.

**Target Species:** Spring butterflies

**Location:** Meet in the car park at **SU 183 645** (Map 173). Turn off the A345 from Marlborough to Pewsey road at Clench Common and the car park is about 1 Mile to the South-East.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎ 07778 146 297)

**BWW No. 27**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 am: Codford Village Hall (meet and greet)  
11:00 am: Cotley Hill****(New Members Day #1)**

All new members who have joined Butterfly Conservation in the last 15 months have are invited to a Welcome Event at Codford Village Hall followed by a guided walk around nearby Cotley Hill. This prominent hill to the East of Warminster is a super place for butterflies.

**Location:** Meet at 10am at Codford **ST 966 400** (Map 184) village hall

Meet at 11am at **ST 910 446** (Map 184)

**Directions:** Codford Village Hall: Turn off the A 36 into the High Street. The clearly signed hall is on the south side of the road, opposite the Cherry Orchard Estate. There is ample hard parking by the football pitch..

Cotley Hill is by the roundabout on the Eastern end of the Warminster by pass. There is parking off the B3414 by the roundabout at **ST 918 429**.

**Leader:** Hugo Brooke (☎ 01749 850 693)

**BWW No. 17**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 11:00 am: Sidbury Hill**

This chalk grassland site has spectacular views over Salisbury plain and a rich assortment of butterflies and other wildlife.

**Location:** Meet at **SU 234 513** (Map 184)

**Target Species:** Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Marsh Fritillary

**Directions:** Meet at the Tank crossing about 0.5 Mile south of the junction between the A342 to Ludgershall and A338 to Tidworth (**SU 234 513**). We will then drive in convoy to the start location (**SU 213 508**).

**Leader:** Wayne Clinch (☎ 07977 256788)

**BWW No. 36**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 11:00 am: Stratford Tony & Throope Down**

This is an exploratory walk with the Dorset branch to see what can be found at these sites in the late spring. We will spend the morning at Stratford Tony and then move on to Throope Down in the afternoon. Lunch will be about 13:00. Bring a Packed Lunch.

**Target Species:** Spring butterflies

**Location:** Park and meet at New Farm Barn at SU 093 240 (Map 184 or Explorer 130)

**Directions:** On the A354 south of Coombe Bissett, after the right-hand bend at the top of the hill, take the unmarked track on the right-hand side just after the pylon line. Push the button to open the gate.

**Contact:** Arthur Bryant (☎ 07711 404 190)

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 am: Manor Farmhouse, Biddestone (meet and greet).**  
**11:00 am: West Yatton Down.**

**(New Members Day #2)**

All new members who have joined Butterfly Conservation in the last 15 months are invited to a Welcome Event at Manor Farm followed by a guided walk around the reserve managed by our past-chairman Maurice Avent. This well-known SSSI (Special Site of Scientific Interest) is well worth a visit at any time. About 30 species are seen each year.

**Location:** Use the car park at Manor Farmhouse, Biddestone at **ST 866 734** and be welcomed with a cup of tea and an introduction to other members, walk starts at 11am at the T junction to the hamlet of Long Dean at **ST 851 759** (Map 173).

**Information:** Bring walking boots, if you wish to extend your visit bring a picnic too.

**Leader:** Maurice Avent (☎ 01249 713218)

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 11:00 am: Warminster Bottom**

This is a South Wilts Exploratory walk. This is a very small site off the Monarch's Way with another footpath passing through it. It will be a short morning's walk. It is not a well known site, but it is not too distant from Grovely and Stockton Woods.

**Location:** Meet at **ST 981 347** (Map 184).

**Target Species:** Duke of Burgundy, marsh fritillaries

**Directions:** Turn left off the A303 at the top of the hill from Wylve which is signposted for Chilmark. Continue for about 0.25 mile. Turn right and park on the Monarch's Way, just past the drive to a colour-washed farmhouse. We shall walk along the Monarch's Way to the site.

**Leader:** Hugo Brooke (☎ 01749 850 693) and Clive Patten

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 11:00 am: Bentley Wood**

This is a South Wilts Butterfly Recognition walk to see early summer/late spring butterflies.

**Location:** Meet in the Eastern Car park **SU 258 292** (Map 184). Take care, as the track to the car park is notorious for its potholes. Bring a packed lunch.

**Directions:** Take the road North from West Dean and take the left fork towards Middle Winterslow. In about a quarter of a mile on the left is the track into Bentley Wood. The car park is just under another quarter of a mile down the track on the right.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎ 07778 146 297)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 11:00 am: Daneway Banks**

This will be a joint trip with the Gloucester Branch to the newly acquired Gloucester Wildlife Trust reserve.

**Location:** Meet at the post box before Daneway Inn at **SO 939 033** (Map 163). There is limited parking here and further past the reserve. Note - Parking at the nearby pub is at the discretion of the landlord.

**Target Species:** Meadow butterflies and orchids.

**Directions:** Daneway is on the minor road between Saperton and Waterlane/Bisley, north of A419 between Stroud and Cirencester.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎ 07778 146 297)

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 11.30am: Iford Manor Butterfly Day**

A great FREE family day out. Guided walks, moth trap displays, bat roost viewing by infra-red camera, arts and crafts, face-painting and story-telling, butterfly-friendly plants for sale etc. Refreshments available at Iford Manor tea rooms, alternatively, bring a picnic.

**Contact:** Hugo Brooke (☎ 01749 850 693)

**Location:** Public Car Park is at **ST 801 589** (Map 173)

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 11:00 am: Martin Down**

Martin Down National Nature Reserve is worth a visit at any time during the butterfly season. This year we shall look for the mid- summer species such as Dark Green Fritillary, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper and Marbled White.

**Location:** Meet at **SU 058 192** (Map 184).

**Directions:** Take a left turn off of the A354 dual carriageway section (Salisbury to Blandford Forum road) into the village of Martin. Take the second right turning in the village (Sillens Lane). This will take you to the South car park at **SU 058 192**.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw ( 📞 07778 146 297)

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 11:00 am: Chase Woods**

This is a joint trip with Dorset Branch to explore this mixed woodland that straddles both counties. Bring a packed lunch.

**Location:** Meet at **ST 978 173** (Map 184 or Explorer 118) Greatstone Coppice.

**Target species:** White Admiral and other woodland species.

**Directions:** Meet inside the gate to Greatstone Coppice on the north side of the B3081 about one mile west of Sixpenny Handley.

**Leader:** Arthur Bryant ( 📞 07711 404 190)

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 11:00 am: Danks Down (near Ford)**

This walk includes a steep South West facing section of limestone down. This is a quiet mid-summer period for many species but our objective will be to find a White-letter Hairstreak.

**Location:** Meet at **ST 841 748** (Map 173 or Explorer Map 156)

**Directions:** Meet at the tables at the rear of the White Hart at Ford in the courtyard by the stream where coffee or tea will be served. Ford is approx 4/5 miles out of Chippenham on the A420, turn left at Ford if arriving from Chippenham, the pub is well signposted; we will cross a stream so walking boots or wellies are essential. Bring a packed lunch if you wish to continue wandering in the afternoon, we will then explore Colerne Park Wood where White-letters breed.

**Leader:** Maurice Avent ( 📞 01249 713 218)

**BWW No. 18**

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 10:00 am: Black Dog Woods (near Frome)**

This trip is a short half day butterfly recognition walk on the border with Somerset. This is a good site for close-up views of butterflies.

**Location:** Meet in the layby at the bottom of the hill off the A36 from Warminster to Bath at **ST 827 493** (Map 183).

**Target Species:** Silver-washed Fritillaries, White Admirals and other woodland butterflies

**Directions:** From Warminster the layby is on the left at the bottom of the hill which starts after the signposted turning for Westbury and Frome.

**Leader:** Maurice Avent ( 📞 01249 713 218), Hugo Brooke ( 📞 01749 850 693) and Clive Patten

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 11:00 am: Banner Down (near Bath)**

This is a joint walk with Bath Natural History Society and is aimed at familiarisation with grassland butterflies.

**Target Species:** Dark Green Fritillary, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper and summer species

**Location:** Meet in the car park at **ST 794 688** (Map 172). Bring packed lunch.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw ( 📞 07778 146 297)

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 11:00 am: Stonedown Wood**

This is a joint trip with Dorset and is a South Wilts Walk (Butterfly Recognition). Bring a packed lunch.

**Location:** Meet at **ST 989 192** (Map 184 or Explorer Map 118) Shermel Gate.

**Target Species:** Summer woodland butterflies

**Directions:** North of Sixpenny Handley, turn onto Dean Lane, signposted to Deanland and Newton, until the road ends. This road is narrow so needs to be followed with caution.

**Contact:** Tom & Jean Smith (☎01305 567 537 📠07717 437 250)

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 11:00 am: Clearbury Down**

This is a South Wilts butterfly recognition walk.

**Location:** Meet at **SU 141 235** (Map 184).

**Target Species:** Chalkhill Blue and other summer species

**Directions:** Take minor road south from Odstock village crossroads for 1.75 miles and park near the gate at SU 141 235.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎07778 146 297)

**BWW No. 13**

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 11:00 am: Ballard Down (Dorset)**

This walk is to look for summer migrants and familiarise yourself with downland butterflies. If the season isn't too advanced there is a chance for the odd Lulworth Skipper.

**Location:** Meet at **ST 736 100** (Map 194).

**Target Species:** Summer downland species

**Directions:** Meet in the lay-by at **SZ 021 809** (Map 195) off the road between Swanage and Studland opposite the caravan park at the South-western edge of the down..

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎07778 146 297)

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 11:00 am: Fontmell Down**

This south facing steep downland in Dorset still holds a good colony of Silver-spotted Skipper. This is a joint trip with Dorset and Devon branches.

**Target Species:** Silver-spotted Skipper, Chalkhill Blue, Adonis Blue

**Location:** Meet in reserve car park **ST 886 186** (Map 183). Take the B3081 South from Shaftsbury towards Ringwood and continue straight on for Melbury Abbas (take care as these are narrow roads through the village) and then up the steep Spread Eagle Hill beyond. As the road starts to level off there is the National Trust car park on the right. Alternative parking is available around the triangle 200 metres further on.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎07778 146 297)

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 11:00 am: Webbs Wood & Echo Lodge**

This visit is to look for the elusive Brown Hairstreak adults.

**Location:** Meet at **SU 038 857** (Map 173).

**Directions:** From the B4042 Royal Wootton Bassett to Malmesbury road turn North at Callow Hill, East of Brinkworth on Wood Lane. After a mile turn right on a track into the wood where there is a car park at **SU 038 857**.

**Leader:** Andrew Daw (☎07778 146 297)

**BWW No. 42**

## **MOTH EVENTS**

There will be a moth morning at West Yatton Down at the T junction to the hamlet of Long Dean at **ST 851 759** (Map 173) at 09:00 am on 17<sup>th</sup> June. This event is arranged by the Bath Natural History Society and Wiltshire Butterfly Conservation Members will be welcome.

Contact: Maurice Avent (☎01249 713 218)