

## Butterfly Conservation

### **Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch 'Members' Day' and Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 24 October 2020 by Zoom.**

#### **Minutes:**

50 attendees registered for the 2020 AGM via zoom and 43 were present on the day.

1- **Welcome:** Sue Smith, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jen Gilbert then took over the IT arrangements for the meeting.

2- **Apologies for absence:** Chris Wiltshire, Andrew Brown, Rosalind John, Alan Sumnall and David Adamson.

#### **3- Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

(Full minutes with officer reports had been made available on the Download section of the Gloucestershire BC Branch website prior to the meeting and also emailed to branch members) The minutes of the last meeting were adopted unanimously, proposed by Ken Cservenka and seconded by Guy Meredith.

#### **4- Matters arising from the 2019 AGM minutes**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5- Reports from Branch Officers**

A Powerpoint presentation of report highlights was given by Sue Smith, Serena Meredith and Tricia Atkinson.

Full reports (See Appendix 1 below) were circulated by email prior to the meeting and also made available on the branch website.

- 5.1 Chairman's Report – Sue Smith
- 5.2 Treasurer's Report: Serena Meredith. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Simon Glover, and seconded by Vic Polley and unanimously agreed by members.
- 5.3 Membership Report –Trish Atkinson
- 5.4 Butterfly Recorder's Report – Chris Wiltshire
- 5.5 Moth Officer's Report – Peter Hugo
- 5.6 Bill Smyllie/The Masts Report – John Coates
- 5.7 Rough Bank Report – Chris Wiltshire
- 5.8 Forest Conservation Officer's Report - Simon Glover



**6- Butterfly Monitoring in Gloucestershire Report** - Tricia Atkinson presented highlights of her report which can be found in Appendix 1.

**7- Election of Officers** – Five officers from the existing committee could be re-elected. They were Tricia Atkinson, Vic Polley, Ken Cservenka, John Coates and Juliet Bowman. All agreed to stand for re-election. Proposed by Serena Meredith and seconded by Chris Tracey. This was followed by a unanimous vote from members and therefore duly re-elected.

Andy Daw has decided to resign from the committee after at least 20 years of service for which the committee is very appreciative. He has agreed to become an Associate member. This was proposed by Sue Smith and seconded by Tricia Atkinson.

Peter Hugo has resigned as Moth officer. Peter has achieved so much as our moth officer encouraging and enabling many in the region to learn about and record moths and has done this for over 14 years. Peter will remain on the committee member as Branch Contact. Steve French has agreed to become the Branch Moth Officer. This was proposed by Peter Hugo and seconded by Chris Tracey. Steve French also kindly agreed to look after the Gloucestershire Butterfly Conservation Facebook page, following the resignation of Natasha James who is no longer able to fulfil this role. We thank her for her contribution over the last two years..

**8- AOB.** Dave Sims H&S officer reported that there had been no incidents to report this year.

**9- Date of the next AGM:** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

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**10- Speakers:**

**10.1 The Butterfly Effect, Matt Brierly.**

Matt described how he has managed to continue his work despite the unique restrictions that Covid has imposed. With schools closed all spring and summer Matt has made films to deliver the 'Munching caterpillar' lessons that can be used in schools and home to educate and inspire.

Matt also reached a large audience by sending a short film to Chris Packham's 'Self isolating bird club' which was seen by 1000's. He has used twitter to promote material showing how to manage urban spaces for butterflies, which people have used to improve their gardens and tagged their local councils asking for changes in road verge cutting regimes. He has also made three short films to be used locally and nationally which celebrate the great work of our volunteers and will hopefully encourage more to volunteer for us in the future.



## 10.2 Announcement of photographic competition winners.

### UK Butterflies:

Winner David Adamson 'Mating Chalk Hill Blues'

Runner-up David Elder 'Large Skipper'

### UK Moths:

Winner David Elder 'Nemophora species.'

Runner-up David Elder 'Spindle Ermine Moths'

### My Butterfly Garden

Winner Sue Smith 'Colourful Butterfly Garden'

Runner-up Bob Smith 'Marbled White amongst flowers'

### My Butterfly Garden Moths and Butterflies

Winner David Adamson 'Holly Blue'

Runner-up David Adamson 'Orange-tip'

### Judges special mention.

Rowan Allen (Aged 8). 'Silver washed fritillary'.

### Overall winner

David Elder 'Nemophora species.'

## 10.3 BftB Limestones Living Legacies - Jen Gilbert (see Appendix 2 for Report)

Jen presented some of the highlights of the Limestones Living Legacies projects she has been working on. The projects involve site improvement and training volunteers to find and record rare species. Some of the recording highlights were, Ruderal Bumblebee being found on Cranham Common, Duke of Burgundy found at Rough Bank, Rock Rose Pot Beetle found on Rodborough Common, Breakheart Hill, and Stinchcombe Hill. Many new sites have been found for the Rugged Oil beetle with 143 beetles found in one night on Painswick beacon. Unfortunately no new sites have been found for Adders so far.

The BftB project has been given an extension to continue until August 2021, as so much time in the field was lost due to Covid restrictions in 2020.

## 10.4 BftB Limestones Living Legacies - Julian Bendle (see Appendix 2 for Report)

Julian presented more good news from the Limestones Living Legacies project. The re-introduction of the Large Blue to new sites in Gloucestershire is going well, with new populations introduced on Painswick Beacon and Rodborough Common, with good numbers recorded in 2020.

Research into good sites for re-introduction of Marsh Fritillary has been carried out, looking at habitat temperature as well as food plant availability. The best site appears to be Rough Bank, although a new pheasant shoot nearby has halted progress here as these could predate introduced caterpillars.



Julian has been involved in many habitat management projects with Gloucestershire landowners as well as within our Nature reserves.

This was Julian's last appearance as the BftB Conservation Officer in Gloucestershire as he has now taken up a post with Butterfly Conservation as Land Resources Officer. The Branch wished him well in his new post but were very sad to lose him from his county work and thanked him for all his efforts over the last three and a half years.



## **APPENDIX 1: Reports of Officers of Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch for the AGM, by Zoom on Saturday 24 October 2020, 2 pm**

### **5.1 Chairman's Report – Sue Smith**

Because of Covid-19 it could be argued that there is nothing to report. However, that is not the case! A lot less has happened due to the situation but much of the recording has been on-going, apart from a blip at the beginning of the season so thank you to everyone who has been out there counting butterflies and moths.

Inevitably no events were held throughout the summer which was a shame. We are now starting the winter work party season and these are continuing as normal. See website for details.

Our two Duke of Edinburgh students successfully completed their Silver Award – you may have seen Amelia's write up in *Antennae* and Zander has created a blog which will go out soon.

We were also heartened by the 'Minchinhampton Zoom meeting' which was held in July when, again, two young people, Jack and Alasdair, gave a wonderful presentation about Wilding at their school in Cirencester. The whole morning was great with varied speakers talking on a range of subjects. Those who missed it, missed a treat!

Back from the Brink's Limestones Living Legacies programme stalled for a while in the spring but got going again during the summer. The good news is that this has now been extended to end August 2021 (instead of February 2021). Julian Bendle – the Conservation Officer – is leaving the project to take up a permanent role within Butterfly Conservation as Land Resources Officer. We are glad that we're not losing him completely but we will miss his expertise in the Cotswolds! We are hoping that his post from 1 November with BftB will be filled by someone else. We are glad that Jen Gilbert is still with us (and helping to organise this meeting!).

The Butterfly Effect has also been badly affected as Matt Brierley, the Education Officer for the project, was unable to do a lot of the work in schools he had scheduled for this, the final year. He has, however, been busy making the videos which you will see shortly. These will be for use nationally by BC.

You will probably be aware of the detrimental effects Covid-19 has had on the charitable sector and Butterfly Conservation is no exception. A number of high-profile staff have left the organisation, including John Davis who had been very involved in all our reserves in Gloucestershire. Lucy Morton is also due to leave by end March 2021. Jenny Plackett, as Regional Officer will take over in the meantime.

We have managed to continue working in the nectar garden at Prinknash. The wildflower bank below the café which was sown in very wet conditions last autumn came good this summer – thanks Matt. There are plans to increase diversity in a further area in the Park. The Glorious Grasslands project are helping with this. Stroud Valleys Project volunteers are still working but at a reduced capacity.

Funding from the Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly Cotswolds AONB) for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary project finishes at the end of this year. We hope that some of the work carried out during the last two years will continue into the future.



Further meetings are taking place regarding all the Gloucestershire reserves in the next few weeks but generally speaking they are all in good shape (see separate reports). We were sad to hear that Ron Hatton does not wish to continue with the transect on the Bill Smyllie but we thank him for his dedicated service to the Glos Branch over the years and wish him and Irene well. Tricia has taken over as Contact for the Prestbury Reserves.

The Gloucestershire Branch financial situation is still in a healthy position and we will strive to keep it this way. However, we are mindful that this could change due to various external factors.

Probably one of the most exciting things to happen this year was the reintroduction of the Large Blue to Rodborough Common after a gap of 150 years! This was a joint venture between the National Trust, Butterfly Conservation and Habitat Designs. We look forward to seeing the butterflies again in 2021. Other sightings of individual Marsh Fritillaries, Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Purple Emperors and one Large Tortoiseshell were also recorded in the county.

Thank you all for your continued support. Keep safe, keep well and lets all look forward to a brighter and better spring and summer in 2021!

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## **5.2 Treasurer's Report for the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and adoption of accounts – Serena Meredith**

Income for the year was greatly reduced, mainly because in 2018/19 2 years worth of Agri-environment support scheme payments were received. Also the value of donations and the volume of walks booklets sold were significantly less in 2019/20.

Expenditure rose due to the use of contractors undertaking work on the Pearl-bordered Fritillary project on the Bathurst Estate. This is grant funded and a claim will be made in the coming months to recoup the majority of this. In March, meetings were cancelled resulting in lower Events costs. The Prestbury Hill Reserve water bill covered 4 years (including the 'Beast from the East' pipe repair period) and should therefore be much less this year. The Branch newsletter expense included postage for one edition relating to 2018/19, and increased print costs for the Autumn 2019 edition which were in part countered by the reduced print run and postage charge due to email copy for the majority of the Spring 2020 one. AGM costs rose as the room hire charge increased for the full day meeting and nomination forms were printed.

As a result of the above, for the year there was a excess of expenditure over income amounting to £1069.79, but there is still a healthy balance going forward. Some of this has already been allocated: the second tranche of funding to the education project has been made (another £3000), and contractors are lined up to do £1500 worth of scrub clearance on the Bill Smyllie section of Prestbury Hill reserve. In the light of the current financial situation faced by Butterfly Conservation, all branches have been asked to consider making some of their funds available to the main society and an undertaking has been made by the committee to provide this, should it be deemed necessary.

Lastly, changes have been made by Head Office to the way branch finances are organised in order to simplify and streamline banking reconciliation and audit at their end. All branch bank accounts were closed on 31st March 2020, and instead



replaced by a cashbook value of branch funds calculated by Head Office for Gloucestershire to be £28750.75 at 1st April 2020. This is therefore how our funds will be represented in future. As usual, the figures presented have been included in the main society accounts for audit purposes and signed off by the auditors.

Going forward, there will be no bank reconciliation as the branch account has been closed and all transactions will be done through the main society account. Instead, branch funds will be represented by a cashbook value which at 31 March 2020 stood at £28750.75 as calculated by Head Office



**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET**

For year 2019/20 - 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

<b>INCOME (RECEIPTS)</b>	2018/19	2019/20	<b>EXPENDITURE (PAYMENTS)</b>	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£	<b>Transfers</b>	£	£
Subscriptions	3591.00	4002.00	Contribution to the Butterfly Effect Education Project		3000.00
Donations - individual (inc. Gift Aid)	1021.10	403.79	<b>Other expenditure</b>		
Donations - corporate	250.00	315.00	Training - conservation volunteers	912.00	320.00
Tax refunds - gift aid donations	150.00	62.50	Consultants - conservation		690.00
Postage and packing on walks booklets	93.90	37.60	Field equipment (tools, materials, fuel, plants)	849.20	750.11
Sales - items bought in (ID Charts, plans)	156.00	243.00	Printing - conservation	393.00	169.43
Sales - Walks Booklets	1034.00	576.00	Events - conservation (inc workshops)	406.50	284.20
Events charges	425.60	482.00	Reserve maintenance	3140.79	3198.48
Sales - items donated	135.26	121.20	Reserve Interpretation	365.00	
Raffle Income		55.00	Reserve - water		759.63
Fundraising	17.50		Branch newsletter - printing & postage	1465.33	1661.12
Grants			Events - fundraising costs (prizes)		10.00
Agri- Environment Support Scheme	10866.27	4365.82	Events - promotional	40.00	40.00
Provision of First Aid Training	261.62		Cost of sales (calc)	118.95	222.30
			Stationery & other office consumables	22.63	78.40
			Postage (including for walks booklets sales)	256.77	238.82
			Committee expenses (room hire & refreshments)	47.81	14.91
			AGM costs (room hire, photocopying, gifts)	84.04	164.66
			Computer equipment		8.29
			Insurance	174.77	123.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>18002.25</b>	<b>10663.91</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>8276.79</b>	<b>11733.70</b>
<b>Bank balance at 1 April 2019</b>		<b>29775.85</b>	<b>Bank reconciliation</b>		
Add					
Receipts		10663.91	Payments		11733.70
Payments not yet cleared		977.63	VAT thereon		287.21
VAT input control		55.05	Receipts not yet cleared (Agri-Environment Support Scheme)		4365.82
Duplicated payment refund		40.00	Other adjustments		62.51
			Stock adjustment		4.45
		41512.44			
Account adjustments as aside		16453.69	Account adjustments (total expenditure plus other adjustments shown above)		16453.69
<b>Closing bank balance @ 31 March 2020</b>		<b>25058.75</b>			
<b>Petty Cash balance @ 31 March 2020</b>		<b>12.15</b>			





### **5.3 Membership Report –Trish Atkinson**

Membership numbers are about the same this year as last year with the number of household members falling slightly from 736 last year to 730 this year. As there are some joint and family membership, the actual number of individual members in the branch is around 1000.

We did expect to lose some members during lockdown for financial reasons but are pleased that overall membership numbers have kept pretty stable so we thank you all for your continued support.

Head Office is installing a new database for membership contact details but this has been having a few teething problems. At the time of writing, I hadn't received the details of new members which have joined as a result of taking part in the Big Butterfly Count. As the number of people taking part this year was at a record high, it could mean that we get quite a few new members this way.

One advantage of the new database is that members should be able to access and change their contact details which could be very convenient and also save time for staff at Head Office.

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### **5.4 Butterfly Recorder's Report: 2020 Butterfly Season – Chris Wiltshire**

Following what has been one of the warmest and wettest winters since butterfly monitoring began it all changed in the last week of March becoming warmer still with lots of sunny, dry weather just as lockdown began due to coronavirus. Butterflies responded to the unseasonably warm conditions and duly started to emerge early. Although data is limited due to the lockdown it soon became apparent that some species were between two and three weeks early. As the season progressed it seems that some of the scarcer or key species were doing reasonably well but conversely some of the common species were not. The Small and Large Whites were rather few in number and most gardeners will have noticed that their brassicas were free from their larvae. Green-veined and Small Whites really appreciated the good weather and the latter were abundant late July and throughout August much to the detriment of our brassicas! Speckled Woods were also rather scarce in the first half of the year with a slight improvement by late Summer. However, those butterflies that overwintered as adults did reasonably well with good numbers of Peacocks. Small Tortoiseshell offspring were on the wing in early June and even got a "third brood" in by mid-August.

Dingy Skippers were abundant in the Spring and even produced quite a few second generation adults which were flying from the last week of July on several sites in the Cotswolds. The Duke of Burgundy did well with a record timed count of 72 on Selsley Common. Although numerous searches were made for second generation Dukes none were reported.

The Marsh Fritillary did better than expected at Strawberry Banks and some possible wanderers cropped up in various places some possibly within flying distance and others more likely helped by misguided persons unknown. Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were reasonably abundant and early too as were Dark Green Fritillaries on some sites. Silver-washed Fritillaries were relatively common around the major woodlands. White Admiral



was “rediscovered” at Bushy Grove after an absence of several years but it generally had a poor season.

Some species did not emerge much earlier than usual such as the Ringlet and Gatekeeper which were in lower numbers than their close relatives – Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns. Moving later into the season second brood Holly Blues were around in reasonable numbers, Chalk Hill Blues were out by the second week of July and second generation Adonis were on the wing at the end of July but very few of this generation were seen due to the drought causing the foodplant to wilt at the time the first generation were trying to find turgid plants on which to lay their eggs. There was a good emergence of the second brood Small Blues.

Common Blues and Brown Argus had a terrible year with poor numbers in the Spring and even fewer in the Summer- more drought effects. I suspect that Purple, White-letter and Brown Hairstreaks had a poor year too; having received few reports of the first two species and none of the latter.

Migrants have been rather thin on the ground with a few Painted Ladies from mid-May and from 22<sup>nd</sup> July a handful of Clouded Yellows have been seen. Perhaps the star of the show was a Large Tortoiseshell photographed by Andrew Bullock near Ozleworth. Was it a migrant or a release? Large Tortoiseshell was reported from several southern counties and so perhaps a genuine migrant. Purple Emperors have been seen in the county again this year with at least ten records of adults; of those eight have photographic evidence and nine are in the north of the county while one was seen down at Lower Woods in South Gloucestershire. Matthew Oates has recorded three larvae on the Bathurst estate and one at Westonbirt so now we have confirmation that it is breeding in the county.

Overall the numbers are well down on the record year of 2019, despite the good summer weather and it seems that the season faded out as early as the first week in September with few butterflies seen after this. I have used the Stinchcombe Hill A transect data to show the changes in peak weekly counts (see next page) and over the last ten years it seems to be over two weeks earlier now.

One of the highlights of 2020 was the reintroduction of the Large Blue to Rodborough Common, after an absence of 150 years! The National Trust who own the Common did this in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation, Back from the Brink, and Habitat Designs. The species did very well on Daneway Banks but Rodborough Common is possibly the most successful reintroduction to date.

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## 5.5 Moth Officer's Report – Peter Hugo

### Thanks to Steve French for providing much of the following information

The weather overall seems to have been better than last year but there was no noticeable increase in moth numbers. Steve has reported a slight fall in the species numbers from his garden trap in the north-west of the county, down to 418 from 429 last year, which itself was lower than the previous year, so a slow decline has been occurring. Conversely, numbers in the Westonbirt Arboretum trap, in the south-east of the county have increased for the past three years in a row. Steve has been recording moths on the Bromsberrow Estate, using an LED trap and has reported over 100 moths in one night in February. LED traps seem to be the future, especially for remote recording as they produce very little light



pollution and use small amounts of electricity. He also has a colony of the very rare Barred Tooth-striped moth (Na) in the vicinity of his house and has discovered an additional colony in a nearby garden but despite several further attempts has yet to locate any further colonies. The larvae feed on Wild Privet and Ash so if Ash were to prove to be their preferred food source then we can expect a further decline. Talking of declines, the Dusky Thorn moth suffered a catastrophic decline a few years ago, with numbers dropping by 98% in the 35 years up to 2002. It subsequently made a dramatic recovery. Its only food source is native Ash so with Ash die-back now ongoing we can expect a further massive decline in this species and this could also affect a further 19 species of moth which feed exclusively on Ash.

Gloucestershire has a wide variety of habitats and the moth fauna reflect this well. As Steve is such a prolific moth recorder I can compare species from Steve's lowland garden trap with my semi woodland site surrounded by calcareous grassland. Steve reports catching over 200 Common Wainscot moths in one night whereas I have caught just three this autumn. Steve mentions Magpie moths being more common this year. I have not seen one for several years, though I do get the woodland Clouded Magpie. One thing that everyone agrees on though is the distinct lack of Britain's most common Noctuid moth, the Large Yellow Underwing. This normally appears in our traps in huge numbers every August and September; I have been known to catch over 500 in one night, but have heard of as many as 800 being recorded in a single night. This year it was notable by its absence. The larvae feed on low growing plants and so the moth is more common in wet seasons when these plants are growing more vigorously. However, even this assumption is challenged by the county moth recorder for VC33 who reports no overall change in numbers. I could go on and on with comparisons but these two sites alone serve to illustrate that we need to take a wide view of the county's moth distribution before forming any conclusions. A first class view of the East Gloucestershire moth scene can be found in the annual "Gloucestershire Naturalist" published by Gloucestershire Naturalists Society and supplied free to members. Written by Robert Homan, the moth recorder for VC 33 the report covers about one third of the county.

Migrant moths do not appear to have been so common this year, though the Beautiful Marbled moth, a first for Gloucestershire turned up in Steve's trap (of course!). See Steve's excellent article in the latest edition of "Antennae." Meanwhile, the stunning migrant Clifden Nonpareil moth has been making the headlines this year. Formerly resident in Kent and Norfolk it became extinct in 1964 but reappeared in southern England during 2007. Since then it has begun to breed in this country, on Aspen, and is now widely reported from many southern counties. Many Gloucestershire recorders have found one in their trap this year with my first one appearing on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Steve has been experimenting further with pheromone lures and this has probably encouraged others to do so, myself included. This year saw the launch of an additional lure for the Lunar Hornet and many people managed to see this species for the first time.

Steve's Gloucestershire Moths Facebook site has continued to grow almost exponentially with just under 260 members as I write. Everyone, with even the slightest interest in moths needs to join this site in order to communicate with like-minded individuals, share experiences, arrange events (once we are allowed to) and get difficult species identified by a number of resident experts.



Most recorders either run a moth trap in their garden and/or occasionally visit a remote site for recording. Steve has organised a couple of group events at Hartpury Orchard Centre (within the current rules regarding Covid 19) and this has added several new species to this developing site. The centre, in normal non-Covid times is the perfect site for group events having plenty of parking, an electricity supply and indoor facilities for refreshments and toilets, so the sooner a vaccine can be discovered the sooner more people can be encouraged to join Steve at this centre. Apart from this, one person, as usual, stands out for his contribution to our moth fauna. On just about every suitable moth night Guy Meredith is out somewhere in the county in search of a species which he has targeted. Guy travels from one end of the county to the other, regularly adding (mainly micro) species to the county list. These species will not be noted here as a long list of scientific names will not mean much to many people!

**Westonbirt:** A moth trap has continued to operate on every night of the year since 1973 at Westonbirt Arboretum. This long-term study has produced invaluable information about moth populations which has been used widely by a number of organisations including Butterfly Conservation, to produce trends in our moth populations. Much of the data from the Rothamsted light trap survey was incorporated into the recent Moth Atlas. Interestingly, the trap at Westonbirt seems to be attracting increasing numbers of species, bucking the national trend and this despite the fact that starting off in an overgrown area the trap though only having been moved a few metres now finds itself situated in the middle of a car park with all night security lights competing with the trap light source.

During the recent lockdown many things ceased to operate in the normal way. The network of moth traps in the Rothamsted Insect survey has been running without a break on every night of the year since 1964. Many of these ceased to operate during the recent pandemic as, often being operated in remote areas, there was nobody available to attend to the catch. At Westonbirt, despite there being, at times, just a single member of staff on site for security reasons, they took it in turns to attend to the catch, thus ensuring the continuation of the long run of results.

**Moth Trap Loan Scheme:** We now have just three moth traps available for loan, all of which are currently in us over the coming winter period. The traps will be available to new loanees from next spring so please let myself, or Steve, know if you are interested in borrowing a trap.

**Moth Officer:** After fourteen years this will be my last offering as Moth Officer. Steve French has very kindly offered to take on the role, albeit on a temporary basis. He has in fact already been performing the role for some time, with his encouragement to many new recorders, very successful Moths Facebook site and events at Hartpury Orchard Centre, etc. All he needs now is a title and this is willingly passed on. I will continue as Branch Contact and we all wish Steve every success in his future moth career.

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## 5.6 Bill Smyllie/The Masts Report – Tricia Atkinson and John Coates

Butterflies did well again this summer with a peak count of over 900 on the transect on Bill Smyllie and over 400 on The Masts transect. As on other sites, the warm early spring led to butterflies flying earlier this year and the peak counts occurred at the end of June rather than at the beginning of July. This was mainly due to very high numbers of Marbled White and Meadow Brown in flight at that time. There were also good numbers of Chalk Hill Blue and Dark Green Fritillary. A few Adonis Blue were recorded for the first time on The Masts transect both in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. A Marsh Fritillary was spotted several times in





May but we don't know if it was the same one or whether there were more than one. Unfortunately no Wall Browns were recorded on either the transect on The Masts or Bill Smyllie, but hopefully there may have been some casual sightings.

Duke of Burgundy butterflies did well again on The Masts section but were poor on Bill Smyllie section. Happy Valley on Bill Smyllie used to be the best area for Dukes but since major clearing of the slopes in the last few years, this butterfly has only been seen there in ones or twos. Hopefully we may now get more Cowslips back on the slopes and it will again become a suitable habitat for this butterfly.

18 Belted Galloway cattle were put on The Masts section on 15 Sept and will spend four weeks there and then at least four weeks on Bill Smyllie section. There are fewer cattle available this year but we may be able to negotiate for them to stay on longer in order to get the same grazing effect.

Natural England want to increase the heather on The Masts section as this a rare feature on the mainly limestone Cotswolds. The numerous rabbits there were grazing any Heather that was growing so rabbit fencing was installed a few years ago to make an enclosure to allow the heather to regenerate. However the rabbits just dug their burrows deeper to get under the fencing so are still impacting on the regeneration. Seed from the original small enclosure was collected and sowed by volunteers in the enclosure in the spring. Unfortunately we haven't seen any signs of the seed germinating, probably because of the dry spring. It is planned that seed will be collected again this autumn but sown straight away this time. We are also growing on some of the Heather seed at home so that we'll be able to plant out small Heather plants which we hope will have a better chance of getting established.

Ron Hatton has carried out the transect recording on Bill Smyllie section single-handed for many years. However this year he has passed it over to others to carry on the recording. The recording is now shared between four other recorders. Ron also helped clear away the considerable amount of litter which was left there which we all very much appreciated. We thank Ron for his time and dedication on the reserve.

Due to a reorganisation of Head Office staff, Jenny Plackett, the South West regional conservation officer is now in charge of the reserve, aided by Lucy Morton until easter 2021. We will be having a meeting with her and Lucy on the reserve in early November.

We have work parties planned on Bil Smyllie on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov and on The Masts on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. As we need to know numbers attending, please contact Serena to book a place.

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## 5.7 Rough Bank Report – Sue Smith

**Ash die-back** continues to affect the reserve, although not as much as the facing woodland to Rough Bank. This has been ravaged by the disease, with a few trees falling onto our land. Fortunately, this has not caused too much of a problem so far but it is still one with which we are having to deal. Lucy Morton and Chris Wiltshire completed a survey of all the ash trees on BC land at this reserve.

**Duke of Edinburgh/Video:** We were joined by two Silver Duke of Edinburgh students from Thomas Keble School on some of our work parties. We were very impressed with their energy and interest. Matt Brierley (*The Butterfly Effect*) also produced a video on



volunteering during one of the events which he will be showing at the AGM as part of his presentation.

**Fencing:** The fence along the bottom of the south slope has now been replaced with chestnut posts and three strands of barbed wire making it cattle proof once again. This completes the refencing work on Rough Bank.

**Grazing:** There was no grazing on the bank during the summer but the cattle were frequently in the two Myers fields keeping the grass down rather than taking a hay cut. Now that the fencing is complete on the bank the Belted Galloways should be back on by the end of the first week in October.

**Gate in Access Strip:** The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens made such a good job of putting in the pedestrian gate to the Access strip that it proved impossible to re-site it. The changes in this area were being made to avoid cattle to cattle contact from adjoining land. Alternative arrangements are in-hand.

**Habitat:** The Bank and Myers fields have all looked good this year, with the grazing about right. We held the usual Ragwort party but the thistles didn't get topped this year.

**Personnel:** Matt Watts has replaced Kate Jones as the ranger for the National Trust.

Sadly John Davis, BC Head of Reserves, left BC at the end of July 2020. We have been very grateful for all the help John has given us over the years, especially since the purchase of Rough Bank. Lucy Morton ends her contract at the end of March 2021. We are also very grateful to Lucy for all her help on the reserve.

Julian Bendle, who has been the Conservation Officer for the Back from the Brink Project (BftB) with us for the last three and a half years has been appointed as Senior Land Use Officer to Butterfly Conservation. We also thank him for all his help on the reserve and wish him well in his new job which takes effect from 1 November 2020. We look forward to continued contact with him but in a different capacity. We are hoping that his role within BftB will be filled by someone else.

Jenny Plackett, as BC South West Regional Officer, will be our contact during the changeover period.

**Butterfly Numbers:** The season began very early in 2020 with mainly good weather throughout the Summer. On the transect week zero was done but unfortunately due to Covid-19 weeks one to six were not able to be walked but weeks seven to 26 were. Several species counts were affected by the missing weeks but the peak Spring generation of the Adonis Blue was picked up, it was very early this year but reasonably good numbers. The drought effects in May and early June caused the larval foodplant to wilt and reduced the egg laying from the adults and the larval survival which in turn resulted in a very poor Summer generation. Similarly, Common Blues and Brown Argus did not do very well. Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns put on a good show. In late summer there was a great increase in Small and Green-veined Whites although the former does not breed on the bank. Few butterflies were seen after August.



**Moth Numbers:** As for the butterflies, lockdown prevented some early season recording but as a result of later daytime recording visits and night-time light-trapping sessions the reserve's species list continues to grow. Since 2012 a total of 689 moth species have been recorded. Highlights this year included finding a fourth national rarity for the site, *Phalonidia gilvicomana* (a tortrix moth) flying over its larval foodplant Wall Lettuce in a shady spot. Also a Kent Black Arches which came to light on the bank; prior to 2020 it had only been recorded twice in the county, though this year there were a few other records.

**Notice Boards:** Two of the original notice boards have cracked and need attention. A new notice board for temporary notices, such as species on the wing, work parties, etc, has been installed by the CVWs in the car park.

**Robo mowing:** Cutting down bramble and blackthorn in various areas on Rough Bank was carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> October but some of the work could not be done due to the steepness and uneven nature of the now wet ground.

**Sustainable Urban Drainage System – Stroud District Council:** As the previous bunds had not been working as well as anticipated, the bunds were enhanced together with a new one being made, in Little Myers. Further work was done on drainage below the bunds. Electric fencing will be used to prevent the cattle damaging the bunds. Depending on the success or otherwise, the fencing may become permanent. There has been no major flooding in Stroud since 2007 and since the system has been implemented at this and other sites around the area.

**Work Parties and meetings:** We lost a couple of these due to Covid-19 in the spring. The winter 2020/21 programme is now set up. Dates are in Antennae and on the website. There is a new system in place whereby people wishing to come along need to notify Serena. We are still able to hold work parties outside but with the rules changing it was felt better to have a central organiser.

By the time of the AGM we will have held two Rough Bank committee meetings during the year, looking at the management and making arrangements for various works to be carried out.

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## 5.8 Forest Conservation Officer's Report - Simon Glover

Foresters Forest (FF) has now managed to obtain local grazing which is a big plus for Linear Park as the fenced areas had been without any grassland management for over a year. The intention is to gradually heft the sheep so eventually they can be free ranging and not travel too far. The 'butterfly banks' on a previous Corsican Pine plantation created by Kate Wollen under FF funding 3 years or so ago are developing well. The soils are so poor and clayey on the man made banks, the grasses and other dominant plants are kept in check. All four target species were seen this year on the banks.

The flight season for spbf was the best in recent years with a rough count of 10 to 15 individuals seen across both sites. Still worryingly low but encouraging that they seem to be able to survive. Getting sheep back on the Linear park should be a great help to increasing numbers next year. The Herdwick sheep have now moved to the main field and





will stay until the site gets too wet and then will move over to the butterfly bank area. It is useful to have a number of compounds so grazing can be controlled.

The Wild Towns European structure fund grant is now being used by GWT to thin the poplar trees in the ponds area in the south Linear Park and to put meanders in the Cinderford Brook. We are keeping a close eye on this as it is close to the main spbf breeding area.

Nearby is the Foxes Bridge Colliery tip. A fantastic Wood White site with over 90 recorded in Mid May. The butterflies in the Forest seem to be going the right way as numbers increase.

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## **6. Butterfly Monitoring in Gloucestershire – Tricia Atkinson**

Butterfly monitoring has continued again this year in various forms. We have about 26 transects operating on mainly managed sites, 43 Wider Countryside Butterfly Surveys recording butterflies in the wider countryside, recorders visiting various butterfly key sites in the county, a few recorders targeting previously unrecorded 1km squares (which we call white squares as there are white spaces on the county distribution map) and of course many casual records obtained throughout the county.

For the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, I'm pleased to report that all recorders managed to record their 1km square despite the weather being quite cool and changeable at times in July and August when the recording takes place.

Key sites records have started to come in but I'm expecting quite a few more so I can't yet report on how this has gone. I don't yet know the effect of the lockdown earlier in the year due to the various restrictions. Some recorders may not have been able to get out to sites if they were shielding or when there were travel restrictions.

Some of the highlights from records received so far this year are 116 Dark Green Fritillaries being recorded on one of the sites on Cleeve Common, 6 Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Buckholt Wood and a new site discovered near to Withington with 30 Duke of Burgundy and 2 Pearl-bordered Fritillary being recorded.

Last year, the branch recorded butterflies on 146 key sites. This has been the highest number of key sites recorded in one year since the project started over 10 years ago.

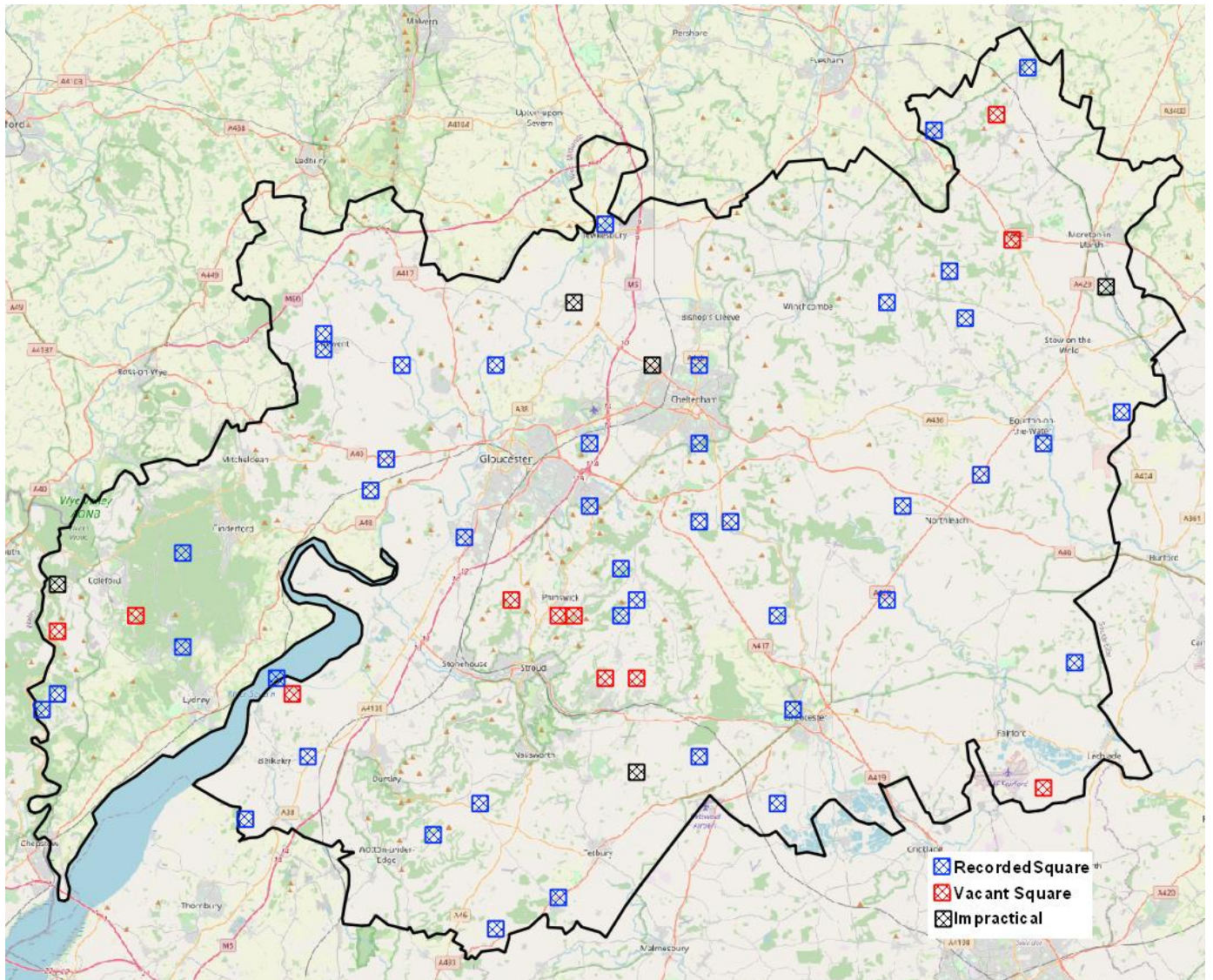
We have always had quite good coverage of our key sites in the Cotswolds around Stroud and Dursley etc, reasonably coverage in the area north of that but poor coverage in the North Cotswolds area and the Forest of Dean. In the spring last year, about 100 members living in the North Cotswolds were emailed to ask if they could do some recording. About 10 members replied and said that they would like to help and most sent in records. We will have to wait and see how many of these recorders have recorded again this year. We would still like to get more recorders for the Forest of Dean area.

All key sites records go into the county butterfly records' database operated by Chris and Vic. Distribution maps of each species can then be produced. All our key sites records are very useful to Head Office staff like Julian and Jen for the Back from the Brink project and Jenny Plackett, our regional conservation officer. We also send records from National Trust sites to the appropriate NT wardens to help them plan conservation work on their sites.

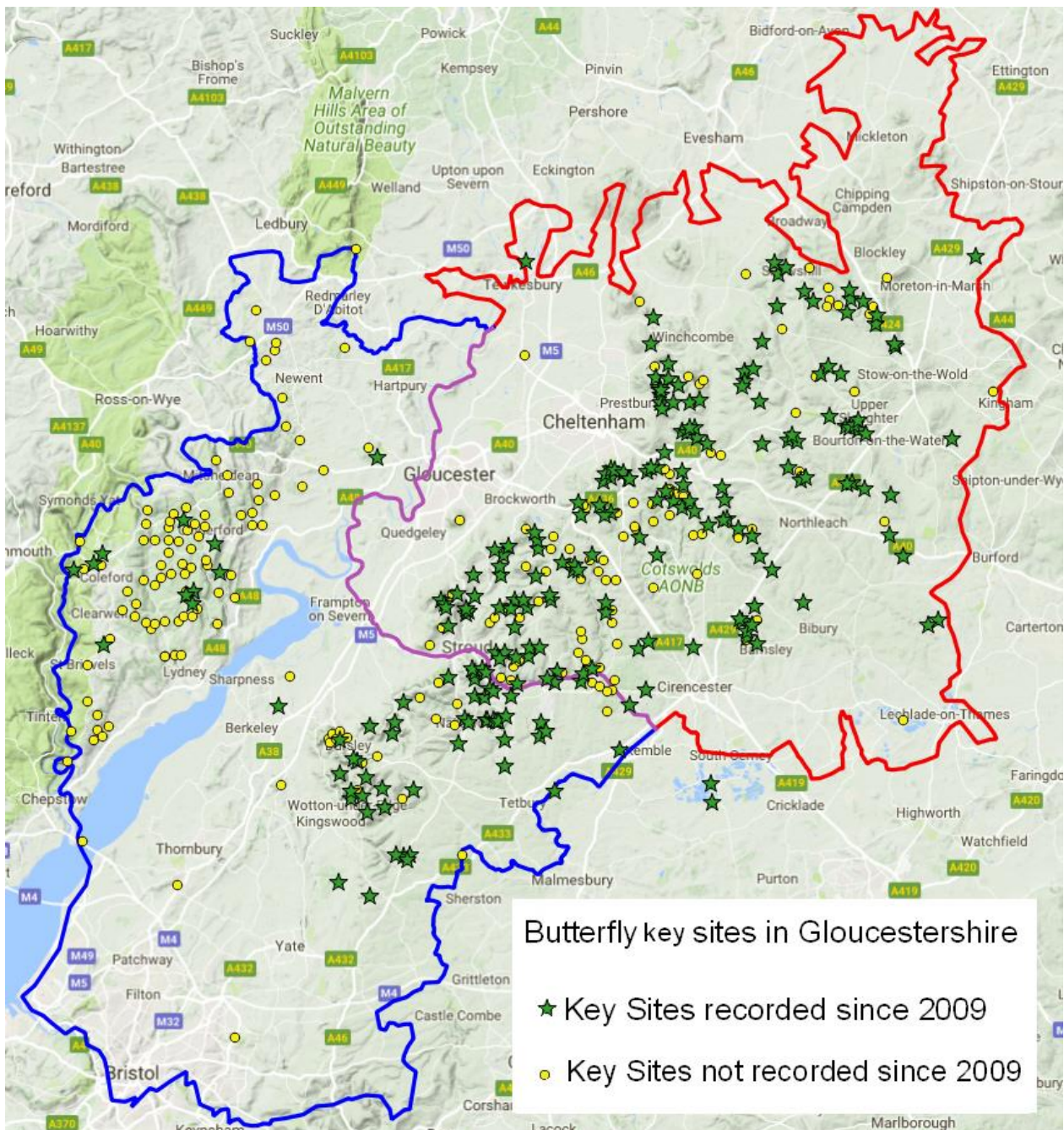


The sites are mapped using QGIS, a graphical information system. Using this system maps showing individual sites or groups of sites can be produced to send out to recorders. It can also save details of key species recorded each year and a brief note of the habitat.

Thanks to all recorders for their time and efforts not just doing the recording but also filling in the forms afterwards.









## **APPENDIX 2: Reports from BftB Limestones Living Legacies BC Staff**

### **Limestone's Living Legacies – Jen Gilbert project updates for the period 26/10/2019 to 24/10/2020**

#### 1. Volunteer training workshops

Sadly the majority of our volunteer training workshops were cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic however we were able to run some workshops over Zoom and carry out a number of surveys either on our own or with small groups of volunteers.

- Adders – despite coming up with a new list of survey sites over the winter period, our volunteer training workshop was cancelled in March and all surveys were put on hold due to the best survey period being during lockdown. Hope to restart these again in 2021.
- Duke of Burgundy – refresher workshop for existing surveyors cancelled in May and all adult surveys missed due to flight period during lockdown. Refresher workshop for larval feeding damage also cancelled in June however a few surveys were carried out by myself and Julian just after restrictions lifted although sadly as larval feeding damage is hard to confirm they were inconclusive in determining if Dukes were present or not.
- Rock-rose Pot Beetle – cancelled in May, however surveys were able to be carried out by Liam Olds (Buglife), Julian, myself and several volunteers at the two known Glos sites and one historic site (Rodborough Common). These resulted in record numbers being found and a very exciting rediscovery. More beetles were found at the two known Glos sites than had been found across all known sites in England in the past 150 years. In addition, volunteers found the beetle at Rodborough Common for the first time in 35 years where it had been thought to have gone extinct.
- Large Blue surveys – fortunately restrictions were also lifted in time for surveys to be carried out with fantastic results at Rodborough Common where reintroductions had taken place in 2019. See Julian Bendle's report for full details.
- Bumblebees – planned workshops for bumblebees were also cancelled although several surveys for our target species, Red-shanked Carder Bee and Ruderal Bumblebee, were carried out in August by our colleagues at Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT), myself and volunteers. Sadly none were found this year however revisits to historic sites were useful in understanding how the habitat had changed since the last recorded sighting and whether they still looked suitable for earlier surveys in 2021.
- Fly Orchid – refresher workshop/survey days with Plantlife cancelled in June however several surveys were carried out after lockdown lifted by myself and Julian. Unfortunately, these were mostly unsuccessful in locating any orchids. This was likely due to early flowering during lockdown and plants having burnt off by the time we were able to get out.
- Bats – during the winter months, I carried out monitoring of two sites adjacent to known Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bat hibernation sites using Audiomoths (static bat detectors) to provide evidence of the need for grazing near to hibernacula during winter months. Results of this are still being analysed by Bat Conservation Trust (BCT).



Once lockdown was lifted, I was also able to start the summer monitoring of Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bat at Rodborough Common. Audiomoths were deployed around two grazing compartments, aiming to see any difference in use by the bats before and during grazing. This data is also now with BCT and will be sent back this winter for myself and volunteers to analyse further. To help with this we held a refresher workshop (over Zoom) for existing volunteers on how to use Kaleidoscope (bat sound analysis software) with BCT in September. This will allow our volunteers to help analyse results from this both the summer and winter monitoring.

- Juniper – carried out surveys with newly trained volunteers at both Juniper Hill and Painswick Beacon in Oct-Dec 2019 to create inventories of all Juniper bushes and seedlings across each site. Final part of Painswick Beacon to be finished off this winter.
- Rugged Oil Beetle – following the 2019 training workshop, a total of 21 surveys were carried out over winter 2019-2020 by myself and volunteers with a number of good results and two new sites added to the list. The 2020 volunteer workshop with Buglife was held over Zoom this October. A total of 44 people attended and over four nights since I have taken 20 people out in small groups to Painswick Beacon to show them beetles prior to starting surveys. Over the course of these visits we found totals of 85, 132 and 143 beetles on successive nights beating our previous record of 59 beetles at this site! This shows quite how important Painswick Beacon is as a stronghold for this rare species. A further 9 surveys have also taken place so far with a another new site (Badger's Mount) already added to the list for this year. Many more surveys are planned for winter 2020-21 with new and existing volunteer surveyors.

## 2. Landowner/land manager training workshops

- Greater Horseshoe Bat land management workshop led by BCT and the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project held in Nov 2019 Woodchester Mansion/Park. 13 landowners/land managers attended and learnt how best to manage their land for Greater Horseshoe Bats and bats in general.
- Managing Your Grassland for Wildlife workshops (x2) planned for August with BCT, Plantlife, BBCT, Buglife and Natural England both cancelled.

## 3. Additional events

- Bat and moth events – 6 bat and moth nights/events at Rococo Garden and Woodchester Park had to be cancelled in May and September this year. However, I was able to attend a bat and moth event at Tortworth Arboretum this October where myself and Matt Brierley ran a total of 4 bat walks (for groups of up to 6) around the arboretum. Approx. 24 people attended.
- Community events – all larger community events such as Minchinhampton Marking Day, Stroud Festival of Nature, Prinknash Butterfly Garden open days, Big Butterfly Count event at the Museum in the Park all cancelled. Our Wild Writing workshop was also cancelled.
- Guided walks – walks planned with Stroud Valleys Project and several others around local sites also cancelled.





- Talks – in person talks cancelled however a Zoom talk for the Field Studies Council on Rugged Oil Beetles (part of their Virtual Meet Ups programme) had over 90 people attend and has since had over 140 views on the FSC YouTube channel. I also gave a talk on bumblebees to people local to Cranham and Painswick also over Zoom as requested by a local volunteer keen to enthuse other villagers to make their gardens bumblebee friendly.

#### 4. School visits

- Planned visit to Rough Bank with Kingshill School Eco Club and to Rodborough Common with Gastrells Primary School cancelled.

#### 5. Misc

- Factsheets on our target bat, plant, bumblebee and beetle species all completed (written by our various partner organisations) and now available to download from the Limestone's Living Legacies page of the Back from the Brink website <https://naturebftb.co.uk/the-projects/limestones-living-legacies/>.
- Participated in BC's Top Traps video for schools during lockdown – can be viewed on BC's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14oH73MVm1g&t=1s>.
- Volunteer Thank You event cancelled in March, held over Zoom in April

#### To end Sept 2020:

- **343** individual volunteers have volunteered with our project – includes 127 survey volunteers, 130 non-survey volunteers (e.g. practical or event volunteers) and 86 additional people trained on workshops.
- **976.5** days have been worked by volunteers
- **473** different people have learnt skills directly through workshops/practical work parties
- **3885** different people have been engaged with directly through the project

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### **“Limestone's Living Legacies”- BftB project update for the period 26/10/2019 to 24/10/2020 (Julian Bendle)**

Please note: The following only includes work on butterflies and moths and does not include any work which has been carried out in this period for our other project target species which include plants, beetles, bumblebees, bats and reptiles.

- **Large Blue Butterfly**

With the last confirmed sighting of Large Blue at Rodborough Common [last years' reintroduction site] in 1870, it was a magical occasion when on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, the first Large Blue for 150 years to be seen flying at the site was recorded by Helen Taylor and her son Alasdair. A small number of dedicated branch members then went on to carry out 23 surveys, with the highest single visit count of 32 and a total of 220 individuals sighted.

Unfortunately, Large Blues at Painswick Beacon didn't fair quite so well this year. Disappointingly, only nine individuals were recorded, despite nearly 20 surveys being carried out. Again, this was only possible with the help of branch members. Egg counts were also lower this year, though far more were found in the more sheltered southern section, where perhaps the Wild Thyme wasn't so affected by the drought as on the exposed ramparts in the north.



A successful bid to the national BftB team for additional funding allowed the Large Blue to be reintroduced to a further two new sites this summer, with 621 larvae being released. This now means that of the six sites in the county where Large Blue is currently present, four of these are as a result of reintroductions funded and supported by our BftB project.

Following the reintroductions as part of the BftB project, to maintain these sites in favourable condition for the larvae, adults and host ants, targeted paddock grazing using temporary electric fencing was funded and organised at the reintroduction sites. In addition, with Scheduled Monument consent, the Cotswolds Voluntary wardens helped plant 377 Wild Thyme and Marjoram plants into the Iron-Age ramparts at Painswick Beacon. Contractors installed some 300 metres of water pipe at the site to allow two new troughs to be installed. This has allowed better control of the grazing at the site this year for species with very different needs like the Large Blue and Duke of Burgundy, as well as some of our project plant and beetle species.

- **Duke of Burgundy Butterfly**

Targeted paddock grazing using temporary electric fencing has been funded and organised at 6 Duke sites.

Natural England's Hebridean sheep have been grazing at Huddinknoll Hill and Juniper Hill, where two volunteer work parties were held to clear the route and install the electric fenced paddocks, as well as carry out more scrub clearance work.

Unfortunately, both the adult and larval feeding damage ID volunteer workshops had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. As a result, we were unable to provide refresher training to our newer volunteers, so numbers carrying out surveys was greatly reduced. By the time we were allowed out on site, both Jen and I had lost most of the flight period. I did manage to carry out larval feeding damage surveys at Painswick Beacon and Huddinknoll Hill BC Key Sites and in total 1,117 plants were examined. At Huddinknoll there were signs of possible feeding damage in one area and at Painswick in three separate distinct locations. At one of the Painswick sites eggshells and one tiny caterpillar were found to positively confirm the presence of Duke.

- **Marsh Fritillary**

Marsh Fritillary is confined now to just two permanent sites in Gloucestershire, south-east of Stroud, at Strawberry Banks and Westley Farm, both of which are privately owned.

Strawberry Banks: [Glos BC Key Site 162]

By the beginning of March this year 15 larval webs had been found, possibly containing around 1,000 larvae. This compares to eight webs the previous year and seven in 2018. During the flight period the peak season count was 71, compared to 18 last year and 31 in 2018. This August 25 larval webs were recorded, compared to 14 last year and 11 in 2018; so "hopefully" numbers are beginning to slowly pick back up following the crash in 2017.

Westley Farm: [Glos BC Key Site 163]

At the beginning of March one web was found, with about 50 larvae, confirming that Marsh Fritillary is still breeding at this site. One volunteer work party was carried out in March in preparation for the permanent fencing to be carried out which is part funded by the Countryside Stewardship agreement. A number of subsequent work parties had been organised to carry out the fencing in the following months, ready for grazing in the autumn, but Covid-19 wrecked these plans! Work parties resumed in August, though socially distanced and restricted to six people. The volunteers are trying their best, but if the permanent fencing isn't completed in time, temporary electric fencing will be used to allow grazing with cattle this winter. Nearly 3,000 Devils-bit Scabious seeds will be





collected at the end of this month and supplied to a commercial plant nursery so that they can be grown on into plug plants. These will be planted by contractors next autumn to provide an additional 3ha of Marsh Fritillary habitat.

In addition to Strawberry Banks and Westley Farm, unusually Marsh Fritillaries were seen this year at seven other sites in Gloucestershire, including both BC reserves! Dr Dan Hoare, BC's Director of UK Conservation, reckoned that it might be because of the anticyclonic conditions we had this spring, which tend to make Fritillaries at least go up into the air column and therefore travel much longer distances than normal.

- **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**

Led two groups of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to carry out coppicing and clearance work at the Cirencester Park Estate in an area where a number of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were recorded last year. In total 17 volunteers provided more than 100 hours of help.

- **Landowner/manager habitat management site advice visits**

Carried out 11 site advice visits to discuss habitat management for butterflies and moths including specific species like Large Blue, Duke of Burgundy, Marsh Fritillary and Grizzled Skipper.

- **Organised and funded contractor works:**

Construction of 10 electric fenced paddocks, installation of two livestock drinking troughs, scrub removal, ruderal control and soil scrape creations at a number of sites across the Cotswolds to specifically benefit Large Blue, Duke of Burgundy, Marsh Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper and Small Blue butterflies as well as other butterfly and moth species.

- **Volunteer habitat management work parties**

Organised and led 16 volunteer habitat management work parties [842 hours] planting larval food-plants, removing scrub, clearing ruderals, electric and permanent fencing, coppicing and ride clearance. This work was to benefit Large Blue, Duke of Burgundy, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Small Blue butterflies.

In addition to the habitat management work parties, 24 butterfly surveys were carried out by volunteers.

**Glos BC Key Butterfly Sites:** [In addition to those already mentioned]

**Glos BC Key Site 78 Breakheart Hill:**

Advised and persuaded the owner to create a soil scrape whilst constructing a new access track and alter timing of grazing at this important Grizzled Skipper and Chalkhill Blue site.

**Glos BC Key Site 79 Breakheart Quarry:**

Led a volunteer work party to clear scrub encroaching into the main quarry. Have organised contractors this winter to clear scrub encroachment in key Grizzled Skipper areas.

**Glos BC Key Site 81 Stinchcombe Hill:**

Organised and funded contractors to clear scrub and cut/remove grass in a number of areas. This work was primarily to benefit the Rock-rose Pot Beetle, though should benefit many of the sites butterfly species.

**Glos BC Key Sites 121,122,123,124,125,126 Rodborough Common:**

Organised and funded erection of temporary electric fencing to allow targeted paddock grazing. Liaised with Commoners to provide grazing.



Glos BC Key Site 139 Juniper Hill:

Organised and led the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens to clear the routes for the two temporary electric fenced paddocks to allow rotational grazing of the site.

Glos BC Key Site 152 Painswick Beacon:

Organised and funded the golf club green keepers to construct, move and maintain the electric fenced paddocks. The Dexter cattle are back grazing the site and the new troughs I had contractors install in January are allowing grazing to be more targeted this year.

Glos BC Key Site 160c Larkhill:

Led South District Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens to clear scrub at this Dark Green Fritillary and Dingy Skipper site.

Glos BC Key Site 181 Oakley Wood:

Organised and led the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens to re-coppice an area to benefit Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

Glos BC Key Site 277 Barton Larches:

Five of the old quarry pits re-excavated by contractors. This work is primarily to benefit Cotswolds Pennycress, but should benefit the Small Blue and Dingy Skipper if they are still present on site.

Glos BC Key Site 278b Nosehill Farm

Persuaded Breedon Quarry Group [owners] to scrape areas at the quarry base to create new bare ground/scree. This work is primarily to benefit Cotswolds Pennycress and Fine-leaved Sandwort, though should benefit many of the sites butterfly species.

Glos BC Key Site 293 Hornsleasow Quarry:

Secured permission from owners [Breedon Quarry Group] for Glos BC members to survey the site.