

All the Moor Butterflies

May 2017



Welcome to the All the Moor Butterflies Project!



This three year Heritage Lottery Funded project aims to conserve some of the UK's most threatened butterfly and moth species across the famous landscapes of Dartmoor, Exmoor, and Bodmin Moor.

These species include the Marsh fritillary, Heath fritillary, High Brown fritillary, Pearl-bordered fritillary, Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth and Small Pearl-bordered fritillary.

Working closely with landowners and partner organisations we hope to restore and reconnect suitable breeding habitats for these species, as well as raise awareness and create opportunities for local people and members of the public to see, learn about and enjoy these beautiful creatures.



Figure 1: ATMB Team: Simon Phelps (Conservation Officer) and Megan Lowe (Community Engagement Officer)

Introducing the Project Officers



Two Project Officers have been employed by Butterfly Conservation to lead the project across all three landscapes.

Conservation Officer, Simon Phelps, will be primarily responsible for landowner liaison, providing management advice, and coordinating species & habitat monitoring.

Community Engagement Officer, Megan Lowe, will be responsible for training & supporting volunteers, leading public events, and providing opportunities for local schools and community groups to learn more about Moorland butterflies and moths.

In addition to the two project staff, we have also taken on a highly experienced community engagement contractor to provide additional events and support on Bodmin Moor. Jo Poland has already built up a great volunteer capacity for the Cornwall Branch of Butterfly Conservation so we are very pleased that she will be working with us to reach out to new audiences in the Bodmin Moor area. This landscape is relatively new to Butterfly Conservation so we are excited to start meeting landowners and develop a better picture of where the butterfly habitats are, how they connect, and how the populations are doing.

'On the Wing'

Now is the time to try and spot the elusive Pearl-bordered fritillary. They can be seen on sites across Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. These butterflies have suffered huge declines in recent years seeing a 95% reduction in their distribution (1976 – 2014), probably due to a combination of factors including habitat loss and change of land use.

On the Moors they are found on south facing bracken slopes where their larval foodplant, Common dog violet, grows.

Small Pearl-bordered fritillary are also on the wing. They live in a similar habitat to Pearl-bordered but can cope with slightly wetter conditions so are also found in the valley bottoms in damp grassland where they feed on Marsh violet.



Figure 2: Pearl-bordered fritillary © Megan Lowe

Upcoming Events

Here is a list of some of our upcoming events. All of our events are advertised on the Butterfly Conservation website, just select 'Events' at the bottom of our webpage: butterfly-conservation.org/allthemoor

BODMIN MOOR

All events are free but spaces may be limited so **booking is essential** to avoid disappointment. To find out more or book on to an event on Bodmin Moor please contact Jo Poland jogreenp@gmail.com / 01872 540371

Friday 19th May (11 – 4pm): [Pearl-bordered Fritillary Search](#), St Breward Join in with the annual search for Pearl-bordered fritillary on four local sites. No experience or knowledge required as you will learn about the ecology and identification of these butterflies on the day. Meet at the lay by near Gam Bridge, Tuckingmill, PL30 4PQ (SX090778).

Tuesday 6th June (11 – 3.30pm): [Marsh Fritillary Training Workshop](#), Higher Langdon Farm
This workshop is aimed at those who would like to learn more about Marsh Fritillary and are interested in assisting with the annual monitoring of the species. Come along and learn about the Marsh fritillary, its lifecycle, habitat requirements, and monitoring techniques. Beginners very welcome! Meeting at Higher Langdon Farm, Liskeard, PL14 6SD (SX206732).

Various dates (11 – 3.30pm): [Marsh Fritillary Search, Bodmin Moor](#) A chance to join in with the annual survey for Marsh fritillary on beautiful sites on Bodmin Moor. No experience or knowledge required as you will learn all you need to know on the day.

Various dates: **Thursday 1st June, Monday 12th June, Wednesday 14th June, Tuesday 20th June, Monday 26th June, Wednesday 28th June** – Meet at South Penquite Farm, Blisland, PL30 4LH
Thursday 22nd June – Meet at Higher Langdon Farm, Liskeard, PL14 6SD

DARTMOOR

All events are free, unless stated, but spaces may be limited so **booking is essential** to avoid disappointment. To find out more or to book please contact Megan Lowe mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org / 07827 460767

Wednesday 24th May (10.30 – 3pm): LIMITED SPACES LEFT [Marsh fritillary and Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth training workshop](#), meeting at Higher Trendlebere car park This workshop is aimed at those interested in assisting with the annual monitoring of these species. You will learn everything you need to know to be able to survey for Marsh fritillary and Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth. This is a very practical day outdoors so please bring warm clothes and wear sturdy waterproof boots.

Saturday 3rd June (11am – 1pm): [Guided walk to see Marsh Fritillary](#), Langaford Farm Charitable Trust Join us for a guided walk around the private grounds of Langaford Farm. We hope to spot Marsh fritillary amongst other butterfly species. There is the opportunity to stay on for a wild flower walk in the afternoon.

Wednesday 2nd August (2 – 4pm): [National Play Day](#), Piddledown Common (Castle Drogo) Butterfly Conservation will be joining the National Trust to celebrate National Play Day at Castle Drogo. Come along for an afternoon of fun, games and some butterfly spotting on Piddledown Common. Learn how to identify butterflies and take part in the Big Butterfly Count.



EXMOOR

All events are free, unless stated, but spaces may be limited so **booking is essential** to avoid disappointment. To find out more or to book please contact Megan Lowe mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org / 07827 460767

Thursday 8th June (11 – 1pm): [Guided walk to see Heath fritillary](#), Horner car park, TA24 8HY (SS898455) Join Butterfly Conservation and The National Trust for a walk over Halse Combe to view the rare Heath fritillary. Learn about their ecology and the habitat management works going on to reverse their fortunes.

Saturday 10th - 11th June (4pm – 11am): [Horner Family Camp Out](#), Horner Wood, Horner, TA24 8HY Come along and camp in some of the most amazing locations on Exmoor. Set your camp, cook your dinner and enjoy the communal campfire, storytelling, and a night walk. Butterfly Conservation will be running moth traps overnight so do stay to meet the moths Sunday morning. Charges apply for camping.

Saturday 16th – 17th September (4pm – 11am): [Wild Family Camp Out](#), Heddon's Mouth, EX31 4PY Come along and camp in some of the most amazing locations on Exmoor. Set your camp, cook your dinner and enjoy the communal campfire, storytelling, and a night walk. Butterfly Conservation will

be running moth traps overnight so do stay to meet the moths Sunday morning. Charges apply for camping.



Other Opportunities

Butterfly Surveys

Can you spare a day or more to count butterflies in the sunshine?! With well over 100 sites across the Moors to survey between May – July we are on the lookout for more surveyors. Training & support will be provided! You will need to be relatively fit and willing and able to walk over uneven terrain. If interested, Simon would love to hear from you sphelps@butterfly-conservation.org

Practical Conservation Days

We run regular work parties in the Autumn/winter and occasional ones throughout the summer. In the winter months we mainly cut down excess bramble, gorse and saplings to increase or connect butterfly habitats. A typical work party in the summer may see us making paths in bracken to create structure and areas for foodplants to thrive. All training, tools and guidance will be provided. Please check our [website](#) for news of a work party near you or get in touch if you would like to be added to the volunteer mailing list.

Educational Events

We can offer bespoke experiences for local schools and community groups to learn more about moorland butterflies and moths. If you know a group or school that would like to get involved please contact Megan Lowe on mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org

www.butterfly-conservation.org/allthemoor

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