

Butterfly Conservation East Midlands Branch **Field Trip Programme 2022**

These field trips are a great way to learn about butterflies and their habitat, there will be help with identification available and there will also be photographic opportunities. Walks are open to anyone to attend. Please check weather conditions and come suitably prepared.

The following is very important.

All walks must be pre-booked with the leader of the walk. This is essential so the leader can inform you if the walk is cancelled for any reason. Also, all walks will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. If you arrive at a venue without booking, you could be turned away if the number of participants has reached its maximum.

Brown's Hill Quarry (LRWT) Reserve (Leicestershire)

Sunday 22 May

Meet: 11am Please park on the hard standing opposite the reserve. Limited parking and **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASSLAND AS THIS IS PRIVATELY OWNED GRAZING LAND.**

Location: SK742234. (Postcode for SatNav LE14 4SZ). Brown's Hill Quarry is part of the Holwell Nature Reserves in the heart of Leicestershire, about 5km north of Melton Mowbray on the edge of the Vale of Belvoir. It is part of a disused quarry and the ground is somewhat steep and uneven.

Stout footwear is recommended. It hosts a mixture of grassland, old tunnels and exposed rock faces, and supports an impressive range of flora and fauna.

Target Species: *Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak.*

After lunch there is an option to move onto **Stonesby Quarry**

N.B. Please bring your own refreshments and remember to avoid leaving litter.

Stonesby Quarry (LRWT) Nature Reserve (Leicestershire)

Meet: 2pm in the small lay-by opposite the reserve. **PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE FIELD ENTRANCE.**

Location: SK811252. (Postcode for SatNav LE14 4AB). Stonesby Quarry lies east of the village of Waltham on the Wolds. This tiny quarry boasts one of the best botanical sites in the county which, in turn, supports a diverse range of fauna.

Target Species: *Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper.*

Contact: Richard Jeffery 07803 599247

Ketton Quarry (LRWT) Nature Reserve (Rutland)

Wednesday 25 May

Meet at 10.00am.

Parking in Pit Lane, Ketton, Stamford PE9 3SZ. GR SK 979053 (Sheet 141)

Ketton Quarry is located in eastern Rutland. From the A47 take the A6121 towards Stamford. This road passes through Ketton, but just before leaving the village turn left into Pit Lane. The entrance to the reserve is on the left about 400m further on just after the roundabout. The reserve is accessed via steps. Stout footwear is recommended.

After lunch (bring a packed lunch) there is an option to move onto **Bloody Oaks Quarry (LRWT) Reserve**. 3 miles away.

This diverse quarry is located just south of the A1 in Rutland. From the A606, turn into Empingham Village and take Grantham Lane for about 3km heading north-east towards the A1. The reserve is on your righthand side, east of the road, at the northern edge of a woodland.
Post Code PE9 4AG GR SK 970108 (Sheet 130)

Most of this tiny reserve is species-rich limestone grassland, which is rare in the two counties, making it a real gem for Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Cars should be parked on the wide roadside verge opposite the reserve entrance. **Please do not park across the gateway.**

Target Species: *Spring butterflies including, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, and Green Hairstreak.*

There are no facilities at either site.

Contact: Max Maughan 07484 881502

Bingham Linear Park (Nottinghamshire)

Sunday 29 May

Meet at 10.00am at the bridge on Tithby Road in Bingham (grid ref SK 701393). Approx NG13 8GP.

Target Species: *Spring butterflies - hopefully Grizzled Skipper.*

Wear stout walking boots or shoes as the ground is rough.
No toilets or facilities so bring your own drink or snack.
The walk is about 6 km and takes approx 2 hours.

Contact: Jenny Craig 07979 355413

**Longstone Edge
(Derbyshire)**

Sunday 5 June

Meet 10.30am at the big layby Grid Ref SK 199 730 on the single-track road that leaves Great Longstone on the left, just at the RHS bend in the village coming from Monsal Head. The St Crispin pub is just beyond this. If you see this you have gone too far! This is a meet suitable for those who have difficulty getting around as the walking is very short and easy. There are no conveniences.

Target Species: - We hope to see *Green Hairstreak* and *Wall Brown* if they are out, but also other *spring butterflies*.

Contact: John & Sylvia Green 07760 136369

**The Forge, Codnor Park
(Derbyshire)**

Friday 10 June

Meet 11am

Target Species: Dingy Skipper and other summer butterflies

For details of meeting point and parking please ring Jim Steele

Contact: Jim Steele 07850 194502

**Chambers Farm Wood
(Lincolnshire)**

Tuesday 21 June

Meet at 10.30am at the Car Park just past the Centre.

GR TF147740. Hoop Lane, Wragby, Lincs. LN8 5JR. From Wragby, take the B1202 southwards towards Bardney, through the village of Kingthorpe and turn first left (Hoop Lane) and first right along the track to the car park. If this is full, further parking is available further down the track.

Chambers Farm Wood is on the site of a medieval woodland and contains many ancient Limes and a wealth of Butterflies. There is also a Butterfly Garden managed by the Lincolnshire Branch of BC.

Target Species: *White admiral*, *Silver-washed Fritillary*, *summer Hairstreaks* and *Currant Clearwing*. *There will also be a good chance of Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth in the butterfly garden.*

There are toilets and a picnic area, but no cafe.

Contact: Melanie Penson 07495 612342

**Bevercotes
(Nottinghamshire)**

Saturday 2 July

This trip will be an extensive survey for six-belted clearwings across this very large site.

Meet 10am. The walk should finish about 2pm

From Ollerton, take the B6387 north eastwards towards the A1 (Retford), follow round the sharp bend at Haughton, cross over two rivers (Maun and Meden) and take the second right. Go over the railway bridge and **park under the mature trees on the roadside**. The entrance to the site is about 100m further on, on the left through a metal gate.

There are no facilities on this site.

Pheromone lures will be provided.

Contact: Melanie Penson 07495 612342

**Hoe Grange Quarry
(Longcliffe, Derbyshire – SK222560)**

Sunday 3 July

The 4th Open Day for Derbyshire's first Butterfly Reserve

From 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Members of Butterfly Conservation East Midlands, including Ray Walker (Hon Warden), Derek Brownlee (Hon Assistant Warden) together with Pat and Ken Orpe will be able to show visitors around this restored limestone quarry where already 29 species of butterflies have been recorded including Dark Green Fritillary and the Peak District version of the Brown Argus. It will also be possible to see the work that many volunteers have done to enhance the habitat so as to increase the biodiversity at the site.

Parking

Due to possible parking difficulties, final arrangements will be confirmed on the Hoe Grange Quarry webpage nearer the date of the Open Day, details can found at www.hoegrangquarry.co.uk

Contact: Ken Orpe ken@malaga.plus.com

**Prees Heath Common BC Reserve
(Shropshire)**

Tuesday 5 July

Meet: 11.00am at the site entrance which is on the A49 opposite the turning to Steel Heath. There is no signpost. The reserve is two miles south of Whitchurch.

Parking: There is limited parking on the side of a track opposite the road to Steel Heath. Please car share as much as possible.

Grid Ref: SJ 557363.

The Reserve was used as an airfield during the Second World War and was purchased in 2006 by Butterfly Conservation. An extensive re-creation project was required on the areas of former arable cultivation and continues today. Its acidic grassland provides suitable habitat for the Silver-Studded Blue and this walk, to be led by Prees Heath Warden, Stephen Lewis, is in conjunction with a proposed reintroduction of this butterfly in the East Midlands.

Strictly **limited** places for this walk and must be pre-booked.

Target Species: *Silver-Studded Blue*

If time allows we may carry on to another local Nature Reserve.

Contact: Jane Broomhead
malcsmonkeys@hotmail.com

**Aston Brickyards (LNR)
(Derbyshire)**

Sunday 10 July

Meet at 11.00am at the site entrance which is on Derby Road, Aston at Grid Reference SK413303 – ample parking is available just inside the site gates.

This 'brownfield' site of 3.5 hectares is the flagship Community Project for the site owners (Derbyshire County Council) and a local group known as FAB (Friends of Aston Brickyards) was set up in 2013 and subsequently the site has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). A butterfly transect has been carried out on site since the year 2000 and to date 25 species have been recorded on site, many of which are breeding there.

Target species on the day include *White Letter Hairstreak* (present), *Purple Hairstreak* (not yet recorded on the oaks), *Silver Washed Fritillary* (seen during the last 2 summers) and *Essex Skipper* (present).

Visitors will be able to see the conservation work that has been carried out including the butterfly bank, the planting of disease resistant elms and the creation of a new pond.

The visit should finish by 1.00pm.

Contact: Ken Orpe ken@malaga.plus.com

**Coombs Dale
(Derbyshire)**

Wednesday 20 July

Meet at 10.00am at the bottom of the Dale by the playing field where there is a parking area - SK 236751. It is on the A623 towards Stoney Middleton. There is also parking around Calver Crossroads.

Target species: *Dark-Green Fritillary, Brown Argus and other summer butterflies*

Morning walk finishes around 12.30pm. Facilities available in nearby pub and cafe.

Contact: John and Al Roberts 01142 306487, 07752 675363

**Cloud Wood (LRWT) Nature Reserve
(Leicestershire)**

Tuesday 26 July

Meet: 3.00pm in the lay-by opposite the reserve.

Location: SK417214. (Postcode for SatNav DE73 8BG). Cloud Wood lies in the N.W. of Leicestershire, 1.5km S.E. of Breedon-on-the-Hill on the road between Tonge and Griffydham. It is part of the site of an ancient woodland that was originally coppiced in the traditional way. Parts of the wood are still coppiced by the Wildlife Trust in rotation, and other areas are left to grow naturally. There is a diverse range of flora and fauna present.

Nearest toilets and facilities (lovely cafe) are in Staunton Harold Garden Centre (LE65 1RU).

Target Species: *Silver-washed Fritillary, White-letter Hairstreak and hopefully Purple Emperor.*

Contact: Richard Jeffery 07803 599247

**Pleasley Pit Country Park, Pleasley
(Derbyshire)**

Saturday 6 August

Meet at the Pit Café (open 10.00am – 2.00pm) at 10.45am, Post Code: NG19 7EY, Grid reference: SK49918 64418.

There are good facilities on sites and if members of the Pit Team are on site it might be possible for anyone interested to have a tour of the Pit Top and Winding Houses.
Also worth pointing out that if anyone takes a liking to the site there is Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group that is active and always on the lookout for new members, £7.00 annual membership fee.

The walk (weather permitting) should be easy going with two hours being the maximum time needed for the route.

Target species: Countryside Butterflies, that said there have been good numbers of Small Blues seen on site during the last two years.

Directions: From M1, Junction 29 take the A617 to Mansfield. There is only one roundabout on the route, approximately 3.5 miles from the Motorway, at the roundabout take the 4th exit, then take the first right up Pit Lane, drive past the first car park, go through the gate and turn right and drive up to the car park at the Pit. Approaching from Mansfield (A617), the roundabout is approximately 3.5 miles from Mansfield, at the roundabout take the first turn left, then following the instruction outlined above.

Contact: Willy Lane 07790 000770

**Chambers Farm Wood
(Lincolnshire)**

Sunday 7 August

Meet at 10.30am at the Car Park just past the Centre.

GR TF147740. Hoop Lane, Wragby, Lincs. LN8 5JR. From Wragby, take the B1202 southwards towards Bardney, through the village of Kingthorpe and turn first left (Hoop Lane) and first right along the track to the car park. If this is full, further parking is available further down the track.

Chambers Farm Wood is on the site of a medieval woodland and contains many ancient Limes and a wealth of Butterflies. There is also a Butterfly Garden managed by the Lincolnshire Branch of BC.

Target Species: *Brown and Purple Hairstreak, larval webs of Marsh Fritillary caterpillars.*

There are toilets and a picnic area, but no cafe.

Contact: Eliot Taylor 0116 2871677