



PRESS RELEASE

20 April 2011

THE RETURN OF THE COMMA

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is asking the public to help track the expansion of the Comma butterfly in Scotland.

The Comma butterfly is making a comeback in Scotland. The distinctive orange and brown butterfly has ragged wing edges and a white comma-shaped marking on its underwings, making it easy to identify. It can be found in gardens and woodlands from April through to September, as it hibernates overwinter as an adult butterfly and has two broods a year.

Commas have been spotted as far north as Aberdeenshire to date and it seems to be spreading faster up the east coast than the west, where it is as far north as Motherwell. Last year, the discovery of Comma caterpillars feeding on elm in Bridge of Allan, confirmed that the Comma is successfully breeding in the central belt.

Sightings can be returned on special Comma postcards or online by going to www.butterfly-conservation.org/scottishcommasurvey

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Contacts

Alex Hogg, Community Participation Officer, Butterfly Conservation Scotland
ahogg@butterfly-conservation.org
Tel: 01786 447753

Paul Kirkland, Director, Butterfly Conservation Scotland,
pkirkland@butterfly-conservation.org
Tel: 01786 447753 Mobile: 07770 732825

Images

Image of Comma postcard (photo by Jim Asher)

More images are available from pkirkland@butterfly-conservation.org or ahogg@butterfly-conservation.org

Notes for Editors

- Butterfly Conservation is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with 15,000 members in the UK, and over 1,000 in Scotland. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. Further information www.butterfly-conservation.org

- In Scotland Butterfly Conservation receives grant-aid from Scottish Natural Heritage to support volunteers who collect data, provide advice to landowners and others, and promote the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats.
www.butterflyconservation.org/scotland

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Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP.
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