



Update April 2008

DENGE WOODS PROJECT

Part of Butterfly Conservation's South East Woodlands Project



Public Meeting, Petham, 28th February

Thank you... to all of you who have been involved in the project so far, after a fantastic turnout at the open session in Petham in February, we've enjoyed continued local interest and support for the project.

The **project website** is now up and running, so for more information on the project, upcoming events and information on target species, visit:

www.dengewoods.org

Survey season is here... many of you will have seen Peacocks and Brimstones come out of hibernation, and Orange Tips emerging, with the arrival of warmer weather. First of our woodland target species to emerge are the Grizzled and Dingy Skippers expected any day now. Last year the Duke of Burgundy was recorded as early as the 21st April, and our **next event** is a walk at Denge Woods looking for this species on 4th May.

Surveyors needed... With lots of woodlands in the project area identified for survey and many landowners generously agreeing to allow access to their land for this purpose, the project needs your help to look for and record butterflies and moths, and assess habitat suitability across the project area... if you're interested in helping, or if you already record in the area, please get in touch.

If you are a beginner or feeling a bit rusty, please book on to the following **free sessions** looking at the basics in ID and survey techniques for butterflies and moths:

- **Sunday 18th May, 10:30am – Butterfly & Day-flying Moths; Denge Wood, near Wye**
- **Friday 30th May, 20:30 – Moths; Covert Wood, near Bridge**

Records... the species seen, date, recorder's name and 6-figure grid reference are the basics to a useful record. We are interested in all records of butterflies and moths in the project area, as well as the rarer woodland species. Please submit sightings, including garden records, in the project area to Fran directly. All records submitted to the project will be passed to county recorders.



Grizzled Skipper (John Bogle)

Group moth surveying sessions... a program of dates will be posted on the website shortly for group moth surveying sessions across the project area; providing opportunities to get valuable records for the project but also for folk interested in moths to access different and new sites, hopefully pick up new species and visit sites with the project officer and other local enthusiasts. If weather conditions are bad, 24 hours notice will be given on the website for session cancellation.

In the woods... earlier this month, Steve McCarthy and Steve Peters, Forestry Commission Forester and Wildlife Ranger, and Clive Steward from the Woodland Trust shared their experiences with local woodland managers on creating and maintaining open space within woods at the first of the project's woodland workshops.



Woodland Managers' Workshop, 2nd April

Works undertaken for the benefit of wildlife, including Kent's only population of Duke of Burgundy butterflies, provided the basis of discussion which included methods, timing, scale of works and issues with management planning, local markets and unsociable behaviour.

A number of local woodland owners have entered into Forestry Commission's **higher rate Woodland Improvement Grant scheme** for 2008/2009 to undertake ride widening and coppicing in the project area, so look out for spaces opening up in your local woodlands, as well as the wildlife that follows!

For any questions, landowner or volunteer interest in the project, or to book onto project events, please contact:

Fran Thompson
Denge Woods Project Officer

ftompson@butterfly-conservation.org

Telephone 01303 815171 or mobile 07918 767634



White Admiral caterpillar (Peter Kirby)



Links

Who are Butterfly Conservation, what we do and how to join?

www.butterfly-conservation.org

Learn about Kent's butterflies and moths and events across the county at Butterfly Conservation's local branch websites

www.kentbutterflies.org or www.kentmoths.org

Information on Forestry Commission's **English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)** can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs. By following the links to EWGS documents you can find Forestry Commission's Operational Notes Number 11, a useful report describing the basic principles of managing woodland open space for wildlife.