North East England Branch

President Sir David Attenborough CH. FRS

DEDICATED TO SAVING WILD BUTTERFLIES AND THEIR HABITATS

Newsletter No 27. April 2013

Butterfly Conservation
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. Our new members might like to know that there are two Newsletters each year and we are always delighted to include any articles, letters, photos or drawings that any member cares to submit.

If you have a question or observation on a butterfly or moth related subject, how about writing to our LETTERS PAGE; or if you are electronic, send an e-mail.

Copy dates are unquestionably:

1st March.....April Edition
1st September.....November Edition

Contributions should be sent to the Editor at this address:
21 West Acres, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2QA
E-mail *jacquelinebeaven@btinternet.com*

The Committee of North East England Branch would be very interested to hear from any Members who have ideas and suggestions for site visits, conservation opportunities or anything of interest within the Branch area.

Any Member of the Branch who has a particular skill to offer, and feels able to give their services, would also be welcomed.

A list of Committee members can be found on the back page of this Newsletter.

Cover Photograph of a Painted Lady by Jaci Beaven ©

Chairman's Report Peter Webb

For all of us with a passion for Butterflies and Moths, spring is a particularly exciting time of the year. The sight of the first Orange Tip, or a moth trap containing Quakers, Drabs and Characters is always both exciting and a promise of what is to come for the rest of the year. I joined Butterfly Conservation because going out and looking at butterflies and moths is something I love to do. The knowledge that our sightings can not only be useful in improving our understanding of butterflies and moths, but can also assist in their conservation, is an added bonus.

Our branch of Butterfly Conservation currently has close to three hundred members ranging from professional experts to total beginners. Like me, many of you will be somewhere between the two, a well meaning amateur with an interest first stimulated in childhood, and a level of expertise which means I still have a lot to learn. This wide range of expertise in the branch makes it difficult for the committee to decide what activities are of interest to members and how best to organise events. To this end we have included a short survey in the newsletter and would welcome comments. The easiest way to complete the survey is by going to the local website www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk

The vital work done by transect recorders is often reported in this newsletter. In the Northeast thirty-seven transects were recorded in 2012. A number of transect recorders have volunteered to lead small groups on a walk round their transect. This would be an opportunity to visit a northeast locality, and an interesting introduction to butterfly identification and recording. Further details of this opportunity are included in the newsletter.

At our last committee meeting we took the decision that as from spring 2014 we would produce the newsletter and annual butterfly

report electronically making a paper copy available to those who specifically request one. These will be available to download from the website or will be emailed to all members who provide us with their email address on the survey form or by contacting our membership secretary jacquelinebeaven@btinternet.com .

Call for Photographs Jonathan Wallace

We are in the process of preparing a new Atlas of the Butterflies of North East England to appear in the second half of 2014 and it is our intention that this will be illustrated with small colour photographs of each regularly occurring species. We would like to invite keen photographers to submit images that they think may be suitable for this purpose (and to go out and take new ones!). The purpose of the images is not to act as an identification guide so they do not necessarily need to be of butterflies with wings spread – any interesting, well composed images will be considered and the greater the variety we can get to choose from the better. Of course the owners of all images used in the Atlas will be acknowledged.

Photographs can be sent by e-mail to me at jonathan@cherryburn.com. As they will be printed (albeit not a large size) it is important that they should not be compressed to ensure that image quality is satisfactory in the final document.

As always, members are requested to take care when photographing butterflies to avoid damage to habitats through careless trampling of vegetation.

Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Job Descriptions Jaci Beaven

As you will have read in the previous Newsletter, I am resigning from North East England Committee as of the next AGM. Here is a brief resume of the duties of the officers. The two posts do not necessarily

go together – please do not panic! Neither are particularly time consuming, or arduous, although the Newsletter can be frustrating at times.

Membership Secretary

Monthly in winter and fortnightly in summer, Butterfly Conservation HQ post details of new members, changes of address and lapsed members to the Membership Secretary. There are not large numbers.

On receipt: Name, address, telephone number, membership number, type of membership, and date of enrolment are added to an Excel spreadsheet.

Any lapsed or cancelled memberships are removed to a separate worksheet. This will save time, if and when a lapsed member renews membership. Dates are added.

Names and addresses are added to a word document of address labels, although not in strict alphabetical order.

A letter of welcome is printed, with recipient's name, address etc. and then signed.

A current newsletter, a recording form (either for County Durham or Northumberland, depending on address), and a leaflet for bequests, together with the welcome letter are posted to the new member.

A copy of the address label document is sent to whoever sends out the Butterfly Report and also to the Newsletter Editor for posting the relevant articles.

Please contact me (details on the back cover) if you would like to hear more.

Newsletter Editor

Twice a year in April and November the Branch Newsletter is sent to all current members, other NGOs and Local Government Departments.

Articles are requested with deadlines set for pieces and the Newsletter is built for publication as soon after the first of the month as practical.

It is hoped that the vast majority of Newsletters, after 2014, will be electronic and sent by e-mail or downloaded from the Branch Website.

This will save on printing costs and more importantly, on postage.

A good working knowledge of basic computer technique is recommended, although mine is not up to current standards, neither is the softwear that I use.
When the Newsletter is ready for printing it should be turned into a pdf and sent to a reliable printer. At present, I am using Azure Printers at Pegswood, Morpeth but whoever assumes the editor's hat will have their own ideas.
There are certain things that remain permanent in each Newsletter, Front cover details, then contacts, recording information for both Moths and Butterflies and safety advice are always at the end of each edition. A list of new members is always appreciated and incorporated somewhere. Otherwise, it will be up to the new editor how the Newsletter will appear. There are people out there with far better skills than I, please think about having a go at this.
The hardest part of the position is to persuade people to send in articles for publication, although the Committee can usually be threatened into providing copy.
Again – please contact me (details on the back cover) if you would like to discuss any aspect of being the Newsletter Editor.

How to raise more money for Butterfly Conservation

Jonathan Wallace

When we become members of Butterfly Conservation we are making an important contribution to efforts to secure the future of the butterflies and moths that are a vital part of the fauna of our countryside and to combat the various threats that put these fascinating insects at risk. Up and down the country Butterfly Conservation is carrying out some great projects but it is important to recognise that such projects are expensive, funding from one year to the next is not always guaranteed and that there are no doubt many more ways in which the organisation

could help the long term survival of butterflies and moths if it had the resources to do so. It follows that any additional source of funding that can be provided is of great value in helping BC to fulfil its mission so members may be interested to learn of one way in which they can contribute additional funds at no cost to themselves.

If you ever shop on-line you can sign up with a scheme called Give as You Live (www.giveasyoulive.com) and a small donation is made for every purchase that you make with participating companies. When you sign up with the scheme (which is quite simple to do by going to the web-site indicated above and following the instructions on screen) you nominate the charity of your choice (a wide range of other charities are available as well Butterfly Conservation) and donations generated by your purchases will be paid to that charity. A wide range of companies participate in the scheme including well known retailers of books, groceries, electronic goods, travel, hotels and many more. When you visit the web-site of one of these companies a banner at the top of the page indicates that it has recognised you are a participant in the scheme and in some cases it is necessary to click on this banner to activate it. If you make a purchase a donation will be made to your charity at no cost to you and you will then receive an e-mail indicating the amount of the donation and the total raised by you to date. Each donation may only be a small fraction of the value of your purchase but collectively they can add up to significant amounts of money and in the fight to protect our butterflies and moths every pound counts!

What does a county butterfly recorder do?

Roger Norman

After around ten years as County Recorder for butterflies for Northumberland, I am planning to step down after collecting the 2013 records. As the Branch committee is looking for my replacement, it seems a good idea to explain what is involved in being recorder.

During the spring and summer, there is little to do, apart from odd emails or occasional phone calls from people who have seen something exciting. Once October arrives and the action outdoors winds down, observers turn to writing up their records and contributions start to trickle in. Most contributions are electronic in the form of spreadsheets which generally follow the layout in the back cover of the annual report and the newsletters. Sorting the electronic contributions involves checking them for grid reference errors, and other odds and ends. Unusual species, dates, places or numbers seen need checking – we have a small Records Committee to help with that, not that they were bothered much last year! Once the spreadsheets are edited, they can be loaded straight into the database, this takes only a few mouse clicks. The small number of paper record forms need to be entered by hand, last year there were only thirteen contributors who sent records in on paper.

The contributions are usually all in by Christmas and the parallel database compiled for Durham is added to the Northumberland one. The Northeast's contribution for the year is then sent off as a zipped file to the national recorder by the end of March. The job needs enthusiasm to collect records, see what everyone else is finding, and some fairly basic computer literacy over the winter. This is a separate job from helping edit the Annual Butterfly Summary.

Being an editor for the Annual Butterfly Summary

Roger Norman

Helping to edit the Annual Butterfly Summary is a separate job from that of being County Recorder, although I have been doing both for the last few years. Once the records for the whole region are submitted by observers and processed into the database, the records for each species can be sent out to the species-writers, of whom we have about a dozen for our thirty-three species. The information they receive is a couple of maps, a list of all records, some statistics and a histogram of when individual butterflies were seen.

The maps are produced by the database at the click of a mouse, the list of records are created by exporting the records from the database into a spreadsheet. Copying and pasting some simple excel calculations generates the statistics and the histogram follows very rapidly. Once the species-writers return their contributions, in mid-February, they can be assembled into the annual report which is a Word file. A couple of tables of dates, some weather info etc, and some photographs are added. Writing the Recorders' Review is the last item to do and then the file is saved as a pdf. Going electronic in 2014 will eliminate the process of printing and posting, apart from saving money.

Winter Work Parties

David Stebbings

Last winter we had two work parties at a site very close to the centre of Newcastle. Paradise SNCI is a nature reserve that runs parallel to Scotswood Road in the west end of Newcastle. It is about half a mile long but very narrow, as you might expect, as it is the course of a long abandoned railway. The site is very good for Wall Brown and Small Copper but especially for Dingy Skipper. The whole site was starting to

scrub over with self seeded Buddleia and Birch and there was a danger that the exposed areas of track bed would become too shady for the Dingy Skipper. So an intrepid group of BC volunteers spent two Sundays chopping back the invading scrub. This will allow more sunlight to reach the ground and encourage the flowers, vital to the butterflies, to flourish again. I would like to thank the BC members who gave up their time to help in the task.

Northern Brown Argus Project — Mike Harris

About the project

This is a project that the NE Branch committee intends to run for the foreseeable future and is intended to build on the previous work in 2007 of BC project officers, Dr Sam Ellis and Dr Dave Wainwright. In the summer months, as many of the previously known 43 sites where Northern Brown Argus (NBA) occurred, will be surveyed for its presence and abundance. At the same time the condition of the habitat will be assessed and sites will be prioritised for habitat management during the winter months.

Why is the project necessary?

The NBA is a distinct race found in only two small geographical areas of Northern England, on limestone grassland in the west and east of

the country. Here in the North East, it is restricted to a small area mainly on the eastern side of County Durham between Hastings Hill (Sunderland) to the north and Hartlepool in the south. Its larval food plant is restricted to rock rose which occurs only on thin, limestone soils, a relatively restricted habitat. This makes the butterfly susceptible to the loss of habitat and to its deterioration through the growth of rank vegetation which out-competes the rock rose. The combination of monitoring with habitat management will ensure that we know how the butterfly is performing and make habitat improvements to support the spread of rock rose and ultimately increase butterfly abundance.

How you can help

If you would like to help monitor the sites in the summer and/or help with habitat management work parties in the winter, then please get in touch. We already have expressions of interest from 10 branch members but the more the merrier. Once final numbers are known, the intention will be to divide the group into pairs and assign a small number of sites for summer monitoring and then come together as a group in the winter for habitat work.

You don't need to be an expert at butterfly ID or be an expert at wielding a machete, just sympathetic to the project objectives and willing to make a difference. Please drop me an email if you would like to get involved michaelsharris@talktalk.net.

Transect Report for 2012 — Brian Denham

Like the rest of the butterfly recording in the North East and the remainder of the UK, the results have been very poor due to the appalling weather. The total number of butterflies recorded on all the north East transects during the last four years will give you an idea of how bad things have been.

2009 – approx. 22000 butterflies recorded

2010 – approx.. 23000 butterflies recorded
2011 – approx. 15500 butterflies recorded
2102 – approx.. 12000 butterflies recorded.

The number of transects recorded was thirty-eight, including three new ones. five transects were not recorded in 2012 due to due to losses in manpower on a number of council run sites.
We are always willing to accept new Transects so if you know of a good butterfly area in your locality which you think may be suitable for a transect please contact me and I will provide you with the necessary information. Details on the back of the Newsletter.

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2012 Report

Brian Denham

2012 was the fourth year of the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey which is going from strength to strength, even considering the terrible weather we had. Over the whole of the UK 648 recorders have walked over 3000km, made 1548 visits to 771 one km squares, counting 64,452 butterflies. This is an increase 114 squares over 2011.

The purpose of the WCBS is to get a better overall picture of butterfly distribution by surveying randomly allocated one km squares rather than the butterfly hotspots which are usually surveyed by transect recorders. A fully detailed report for 2012 can be seen on Butterfly Conservation's web site

Unfortunately in 2012 the North East produced rather poor results due mainly to the weather condition but also to lack of volunteers. Of the 26 one kilometer squares allocated to the North East only 6 were allocated to individuals and only five were fully recorded. It would be great if we could improve on these figures for 2013. Please read the

WCBS detailed surveying procedure in Butterfly Conservation Web Site and decide if you can help us by surveying a square

The requirements are neither arduous or time consuming. You first of all request allocation (from me) of one of the one kilometer squares listed below. If no one else has been allocated the square it will be allocated to you. You then create two walks of one kilometer, approx. quarter of a kilometer in from opposite sides of your one kilometer square, and then on two occasion, during the season, walk the two walks and record all the butterflies seen.

Available Squares
NT9222, NT9935, NY6662, NY6859, NY6869, NY7189, NPPROX.Y7482, NY8583, NY8974, NY9085, NY9796, NY9971, NZ0825, NZ2075, NZ2159, NZ4234, NY8063, NY8961, NY9582, NZ0393, NZ2712 & NZ0934

Hope you will be able to help.

Painted Lady Migration Secrets Unveiled from HQ

One of the longest standing mysteries of migration has finally been solved after scientists discovered where the UK's Painted Lady butterfly population goes each autumn.

The butterfly, a common immigrant, migrates from the continent each summer to UK shores in varying numbers but up until now scientists did not know if the Painted Lady made the return journey at the end of the summer, like the closely related Red Admiral, or simply died in the UK.

In one of the largest citizen science projects ever conducted, scientists from Butterfly Conservation, the NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

and Rothamsted Research amongst others, have discovered exactly what happens to Painted Ladies each autumn.

More than sixty thousand public sightings of the butterfly during 2009 were collected across Europe, including radar images, tracking butterfly movements across southern England with 10,000 British observers taking part. Scientists discovered that the Painted Lady did indeed migrate south each autumn but made this return journey at high altitude out of view of butterfly observers on the ground. Radar records revealed that Painted Ladies fly at an average altitude of over five hundred metres on their southbound trip and can clock up speeds of thirty mph by selecting favourable conditions.

The findings also revealed that the species undertakes a phenomenal nine thousand mile round trip from tropical Africa to the Arctic Circle – almost double the length of the famous migrations undertaken by Monarch butterflies in North America. The whole journey is not undertaken by individual butterflies but is a series of steps by up to six successive generations so Painted Ladies returning to Africa in the autumn are several generations removed from their ancestors who left Africa earlier in the year.

Richard Fox, Surveys Manager at Butterfly Conservation, was one of the report authors. He said: "The extent of the annual journey undertaken by the Painted Lady butterfly is astonishing. This tiny creature weighing less than a gram with a brain the size of a pinhead and no opportunity to learn from older, experienced individuals, undertakes an epic intercontinental migration in order to find plants for its caterpillars to eat. "Once thought to be blindly led, at the mercy of the wind, into an evolutionary dead end in the lethal British winter, this amazing combination of mass-participation citizen science and cutting edge technology has shown Painted Ladies to be sophisticated travellers."

"We are extremely grateful to the many thousands of members of the public who reported Painted Lady sightings and contributed to this

extraordinary discovery." Radar in Hampshire operated by Rothamsted Research revealed that around eleven million high-flying Painted Ladies entered the UK in spring 2009 with twenty-six million departing in autumn.

Dr Jason Chapman, a researcher at Rothamsted Research, who led the radar studies of Painted Ladies, said: "The apparent lack of a return migration of the late-summer generation of Painted Lady butterflies was one of the greatest enigmas in insect migration ecology, but, through a combination of traditional monitoring by butterfly enthusiasts and new radar techniques, we have finally solved this long-standing puzzle. Migrant insects continue to amaze the public and research community alike as they are capable of carrying out the most remarkable journeys."

CONTACTS

Butterfly Conservation press office on 01929 406 005 or Richard Fox, Butterfly Conservation Surveys Manager 07711 657 322

Rothamsted Research Jason.chapman@rothamsted.ac.uk

Small Blue in the North East — Roger Norman

The branch's first recorder, Ian Waller, included four records of Small Blue, *Cupido minimus*, in the database for 1994. After trawling through the branch's archives in ten large box files, I recently found a fifth record, for 1995, lurking in a printout from the East of Scotland database. These records, together with a couple more recent reports that lacked supporting documentation, started me wondering whether Small Blue was still present in the region.

Robson[1] reports that the only 19th century records for Northumberland were a reference in the introduction to Selby's Twizell list and a single specimen in the Twizell Collection. In Durham, Robson knew it from

several places and thought it could be found almost anywhere Kidney vetch, *Anthyllis vulneraria,* grew. Sites listed included Marsden, Witton-le Wear, Castle Eden Dene and Blackhall rocks. In the 20th century, Dunn & Parrack[2] report a record from Davidson's Lynn for 24 July 1948. This site is at the head of the Usway Burn between Windy Gyle and Bloody Bush Edge. A second site was reported during the 1939-45 war and, although the exact location was never precisely divulged, was thought to be in the vicinity of Cocklawburn nature reserve on the coast just south of Berwick. The 1995 record was for the mouth of the Carey Burn in the Harthope Valley in the Cheviots.

Of the records in our database, none fall in the right period, of mid to late May through June. Late July and August sightings, which are all we have in the database, must be considered somewhat dubious. Unfortunately, the Carey Burn record turned out to be a mistaken entry, this was discovered when I located the observer after two fruitless trips to the site!

Robson reports that it should be sought for in the last week of June or the first in July. The Cumbrian website[3] shows that the peak flight time is earlier, in week twenty-three (about 10 June-17 June). This also agrees with the figures given in the Butterfly Atlas of the Scottish Borders[4], which shows a peak of records in early June for the now extinct site in Hawick. Small Blue was recently rediscovered by Iain Cowe on the coast just north of the Scottish Border in 2007, this was also in early June. These dates throw doubt on the recent records we hold, and two more recent, 21st century claims, since they have all been significantly later in the year, at the end of July and into early / mid August. Despite the poor weather last year, and a cold, misty morning, I attended a field trip to the Burnmouth site at Whit Sunday and had an excellent day as the weather improved and the temperature climbed by midday with lots of Small Blue in the air and on the ground.

The southern England population has a first generation in late May – late June and a partial second generation in late July / early August, but there is no evidence that this second generation occurs for the Cumbrian population at Workington or that the Hawick colony had a second generation. The Butterfly Conservation factsheet[5] suggests that the Small Blue relies on habitats that have a very specific combination of shelter to provide a warm microclimate and early successional conditions where Kidney Vetch can flourish. Suggested sites include chalk and limestone grassland, coastal grassland and dunes, river gravels, quarries, gravel pits and disused railways.

The exact extent of the range of the butterfly on the coast in Berwickshire is actively being explored and the exciting find last year was the discovery of a breeding female only 1 mile north of the border. We have lots of the food plant, Kidney Vetch along the coast south from the border, through Cocklawburn and south to Holy Island. Another suggested area is the old railway line running west from Berwick through Tillmouth and Norham. Is the butterfly lurking in one of these areas?

This is a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. I would like to urge everyone to search any substantial areas of Kidney Vetch in mid to late May and through June for this easily overlooked butterfly. It would be a tremendous discovery if we could add it to our list of north-east species.

If anyone does discover it, could they let the recorders know straight away? To support the sighting, we would strongly suggest that notes are made of the sighting and photographs taken if at all possible.
For anyone interested in searching, I can forward Iain Cowe's excellent 2012 report on the current state of play just over the border in Berwickshire.

Small Blue. Photograph courtesy of Jim Asher.

References

1 Robson, John E., *A Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon-Tyne.* Part 1, Vol. XII of the Natural History Transactions of The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club. 1902.

2 Dunn, T. C., & Parrack, J.D., *The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham, Part 1, Macrolepidoptera.* The Vasculum, (Supplement No. 2), published by the Northern Naturalists' Union, 1986. ISSN 0049-5891.

3 www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk

4 Mercer, J., Buckland, R., Kirkland, P. & Waddell, J. *Butterfly Atlas of the Scottish Borders.* Atropos Publishing, 2009. ISBN 0-9551086-2-4.

5 Butterfly Conservation, *Factsheet: Small Blue, (Cupido Minimus).*

Butterfly Walks Peter Webb

During this year there are opportunities to join a transect recorder on a transect walk .

Transect recorders walk a fixed route once a week throughout the summer recording the number of each type of butterfly seen. (A transect is a fixed walk of between 0 -5 to 2km which is divided into 5 to 14 sections. Each week, if possible from the 1st of April, each transect is walked and the butterflies seen in each section are recorded. At the end of September the records are sent to Butterfly Conservation and the North East area recorder)

Walks are being offered for the following sites:

Bishop Middleham Quarry (NZ332327) 11.00am Saturday 20 April 2013

Raisby Hill Grassland (NZ333354) 1.00pm Wednesday 20 June 2013

North Gare(NZ535285) a Monday during July or August-date to be fixed

Weetslade Country Park (NZ254724) Date to be fixed for the summer.

West Park, Darlington (NZ268166) 1-00pm Wednesday 17 July 2013

Walks should last for about two hours.

Please contact Peter Webb (apwebb@uwclub.net or 01833650772) for more information no later than 1 May 2013. It may be necessary to cancel/rearrange walks at short notice so emails or telephone numbers are essential.

If you are interested in going on a transect walk at some other time we will possibly be able to arrange something for you so please contact Peter.

Please Read the Butterfly Conservation safety note at the back of this newsletter before any Butterfly Conservation activity.

Beginners Perspective: Magic in a Name Alan Brannon

As a relative newcomer to the delights of butterflies, it struck me that most have very prosaic English names. Large White, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, to name but a few. Then standing out from the others you find the ***Duke of Burgundy***. This was one butterfly I just had to see. Only trouble was it turns out to be one of our rarest, with a limited flight period, doesn't occur in the North East, and in the north only in small colonies. A trip in search of the Duke was called for. All of which is a long winded way of explaining why I found myself very early on a sunny May morning driving down a winding lane in North Lancashire looking for the entrance to Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve, only to find I wasn't the first there! Surely no other butterfly enthusiast was going to be out and about at such an ungodly hour.

Wandering around the surreal limestone pavement of the reserve, exploring the maze of paths, I finally bumped into my mystery car owners. It turned out that they were even nuttier about butterflies than me. They hailed from Southampton and having got a sunny weather forecast the afternoon before had phoned the reserve manager to confirm that ***Duke of Burgundy*** butterflies were on the wing and had driven up overnight. Combining forces, a cunning plan of campaign was hatched and off we set.

Natural England uses a system of temporary exclusion areas and signing to encourage visitors to respect the habitat while still enabling opportunities for viewing and photography.

Pointing visitors towards likely areas for viewing is not the same as actually seeing something though. And so the search began. It might have helped if *The Duke* was big and showy fluttering along wooded rides saying, "here I am". No, we were looking for a small butterfly, whose males, though distinctively marked, tended to keep to their own territory. Only stirring to fight off rivals or pounce on a passing female.

The SAS couldn't have managed a better effort of hiding in full sight. After a couple of fleeting glimpses of something disappearing behind a bush and a sighting of what turned out on inspection to be a Grizzled Skipper it was nearing 8.30 when a shout went up "***Duke of Burgundy***!" And there it was no more than a couple of feet away.

Matthew Oates describes the male as "pugnacious." Like a bantam weight boxer it stands its ground and says "I might be small but don't mess with me!" And its true that's just the feeling you get watching it. It also reminded me of a Crufts Champion standing on the show bench with the proud and haughty look of a true champion. We didn't have to wait long to see a male battling an intruder as they flew upwards. We seemed to spend an age just sitting and watching before heading off happy that our trip had been worth while.

Other Gait Barrows delights during the visit were Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Brimstone plus the very rare Ladies Slipper Orchid. All in all a very rewarding trip in what turned out to be a mostly rain soaked 2012.

Pearl Bordered Fritillary

Lady's Slipper Orchid

Please note that due to the sensitivity of the habitats on this reserve access is by permit only.

To request a permit, please contact Rob Petley-Jones,
email rob.petley-jones@naturalengland.org.uk Tel: 07747 852905

Derelict Land – a Haven for Moths
Dave Wainwright, BC Northern England Regional Officer

I have now worked for Butterfly Conservation for ten years. My first job with the organisation was that of a Project Officer. My remit was to co-ordinate re-surveying of the region's Dingy Skipper colonies on the basis that we had little knowledge of how the species was faring locally. Nationally, the species was (and still is) undergoing a steep decline. At that time, most colony extinctions were occurring on brownfield sites, largely because planning authorities and developers alike were keen for such land to be restored to economic usefulness. Projects on brownfield sites tend to be far less contentious than those situated elsewhere – a fact not lost on local and national politicians.

Anyway, back to my first BC post. A desk study, involving the transferral of casual records held in spreadsheet onto maps, revealed

there to be slightly in excess of 100 known Dingy Skipper sites in north-east England. Further research revealed that, surprisingly, around two-thirds were located on brownfield sites (for purposes of this article I include abandoned quarries within the brownfield definition); the remainder were, almost entirely, on sites where Magnesian limestone forms an important component of the substrate.

So why are brownfield sites so important to the species? Firstly its principal larval foodplant, Common Birds's-foot Trefoil often grows abundantly in this type of habitat. Being a legume, it is able to assimilate its own supply of nitrate meaning that it is able to colonise much more quickly than most other plants, many of which depend upon richer soils. Rudimentary topsoil further inhibits the growth of tall vegetation due to its propensity to dry out rapidly, thus ensuring that the vegetation cover of many brownfield sites comprises a mosaic of short, sparse, species-rich vegetation interspersed with patches of bare ground - perfect for Dingy Skippers.

A select band of volunteers was then recruited to undertake surveys. Butterfly numbers were recorded in the form of timed counts; areas of breeding habitat were mapped; a series of variables relating to habitat condition, such as vegetation height, percentage cover of bird's-foot trefoil, percentage cover of bare ground etc., were recorded and any perceived threats to the site were noted. Surveyors were also asked to record all other butterfly and moth species that they encountered. And it was the latter information category that really provided an insight of the importance of brownfield sites to many other butterflies and moths.

Inevitably, recorders encountered a wide variety of butterflies including Small Heath, Small Copper, Grayling, occasional Green Hairstreak, Wall Brown, plus all the other widespread species that you might expect. But it was the moths, mainly day-flying species, that provided some real surprises. As might have been anticipated, surveyors recorded routinely both the Narrow-bordered Five-spot and Six-spot Burnets. But other species, such as Mother Shipton, Silver-

ground Carpet, Yellow Shell and Common Carpet were also seen frequently. Garden Tiger, Elephant Hawkmoth and Mullein larvae were encountered; Silver Y was found nectaring, as was the more exciting Humming-bird Hawkmoth. Treble-bar, a striking and beautiful moth, was found at sites extending from the Tees Valley to mid-Northumberland. One volunteer, Mike Hunter, was lucky enough to find the UK BAP-listed Forester and the locally scarce Burnet Companion at sites in and around Darlington. (Actually, I do Mike a disservice here; his finds were entirely down to extreme perseverance rather than luck). Other surveyors recorded charming micros of the *Pyrausta* genus, the rather bulkier Ruby Tiger and the brilliantly-coloured Cinnibar.

The Dingy Skipper was found to be thriving then, as indeed it does now, on many of our region's brownfield sites. So too, no doubt, do all the moths mentioned above plus many others. When spring arrives, why not make a point of taking a look round a patch of derelict land - you might be surprised by what you find there!

Sallow Bushes in the Spring: Peter Webb (on a snowy day in March)

Spring is one of the best times of the year to find moths on a natural food source. Any mild night when it's reasonably cloudy is the time to go "sallowing" - one of the classic techniques used before the advent of M.V.bulbs.

One of my first and most exciting "mothing" experiences was to go out on a mild spring night with a paraffin lantern, spread a white sheet under a large flowering sallow bush and to shake the bush so that anything feeding on the catkins would fall onto the sheet. On that occasion hundreds of moths covered the sheet but perhaps today, in this area, we may only see dozens. But walking around a bush armed with a camera, shining a torch on the catkins and picking out the

moths by light reflecting from their eyes is well worth the few minutes it takes and something I do every Spring.

Pink-barred Salllow caterpillars Feed on sallow catknins in the Spring

Common Quaker: a moth commonly found feeding on Sallow catkins

Sallow catkins are an important early spring food source for many animals including a number of moth species, such as the Pink-barred Sallow, which laid their eggs on the sallow bush in the autumn. When the caterpillars hatch in the spring they first feed on the catkins.

For anyone interested in breeding moths it is a worthwhile exercise to collect sallow catkins which have fallen on the ground. Many will contain larvae, including those of the Sallow, Pink-barred Sallow and Pale-lemon Sallow. One suggested way to check the catkins is very easy. Spread them onto white kitchen roll in seed trays or similar and keep checking for “droppings” (frass) which will appear under occupied catkins. Move these to a lidded container where you can keep an eye on them, adding fresh catkins and when they appear, sallow leaves. The caterpillars of the “Sallow Moths” will feed on a variety of low growing plants which is what they normally do when the catkins have fallen onto the ground.

County Durham VC66 Moth Review For 2012
Keith Dover

2012 proved to a very disappointing year for our moths, or least our records. I am sure you are all now very well aware of the wettest year ever experienced in England. After a warm start in early February and March which did give us the unexpected discovery of a species considered extinct in England, Acrolepiopsis betulella, a full report on this moth follows later. It seemed to rain heavily week after week ruining all attempts of organising any trapping away from our gardens and therefore having a great effect on the variety recorded.

The numbers of common moths recorded were well down on previous years, notable among these were Clouded Drab *Orthosia incerta*, Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*, Shuttle-shaped Dart *Agrotis puta,* and most notably Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri* towards the end of the year.

However there were increased numbers of certain species, notably, Angle Shades *Phlogophora meticulosa,* Plain Golden Y *Autographa jota* and Light Arches *Apamea monoglypha.*

Out of the gloom came eight new County Records as follows :-

1st County (confirmed modern) record

1680 *Cyclophora punctaria* Maiden's Blush - Garden Trap, Holmlands, Chester-le-Street.

K. Dover - Adult - 16/08/2012

1st County Record

0074 *Stigmella assimilella* – Rainton Meadows – Vacated Mine on Aspen – T.J. Barker – 15/10/2012

1st County Record

0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* – Framwellgate Moor – Adult – T.J. Barker – 08/09/2012

1st County Record

0736 *Monochroa lucidella* – Harehope Quarry – Adult – T.J. Barker/K. Dover – 21/07/2012 A public trapping session organised by Dave Wainwright and Andy Lees

1st County Record

0877 *Strathmopoda pedella* – Framwellgate Moor – Adult – T.J. Barker – 24/07/2012

This well marked little moth with it's curious resting posture was " first discovered " in the North East in a small colony at Havannah Nature Reserve, Hazelrigg near Newcastle

by Tom Tams in 2007, beaten out of Grey Alder *Alnus incana*.

An introduced species, Grey Alder is now widely planted on reclaimed industrial sites and it is possible the moth was introduced accidently with these planting schemes and is worth searching for this otherwise Southern species wherever Alder/Grey Alder occurs.

1st County Record

1287 *Dichrorampha aeratana* – Wingate Quarry – T.J. Tams – 05/07/12

1288

1st County Record

0287 *Caloptilia robustella* – Stockton – A. Jones – 01/09/2012 – Gendet by Jon Clifton

There is a record of 0450 *Scythropia crataegella* Hawthorn Moth from Marsden which I am awaiting further details. There are still records to be submitted for 2012, hopefully soon and this report can then be completed.

Guidelines for submitting records

The most important part of submitting records is correct identification. To keep the database accurate, certain moths will be queried especially first, scarce and difficult species in the county. If you have a moth that you are struggling to identify or are unsure about then please email a photograph to Keith or Tim or post a picture on the North East Moth Forum. If possible, retain the specimen and pass it onto the county recorder, who will confirm identification, otherwise the record may not be accepted. A few specimens can only be identified by genitalia determination

We are still pursuing a VC66 website on the lines of Tom Tams excellent Northumberland Moths so that our moth recording details can be shared online.

Additional notable records for 2012

3rd County Record

0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* – Pow Hill CP – Leaf mine – T.J. Barker – 24/07/2012
3rd County Record
0065 *Stigmella speciosa* – Durham City – Leaf mine – T.J. Barker – 20/09/2012
4th County Record
0275 *Bucculatrix bechsteinella* – Lamesley Pasture – Leaf mine – T.J. Barker – 23/07/2012
3rd County Record
0363 *Phyllonorycter platanoidella* – Aykley Heads – Leaf mine vacated – T.J. Barker – 20/09/2012
5th County Record
368 *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* – Framwellgate Moor – Adult – T.J. Barker – 25/07/2012
5th County Record
0788 *Bryotropha politella* – Chester-le-Street – Adult – K. Dover – 23/07/2012
3rd County Record
941 *Aethes hartmanniana* – Wingate Quarry – Adult – Netted by T. Tams – 05/07/2012
2nd County Record
1170 *Gypsonoma oppressana* – Chester-le-Street – Adult – K. Dover – 24/07/2012 – Gen-det J. Clifton
2nd County Record
1245 *Grapholita janthinana* – Chester-le-Street – Adult – K. Dover – 16/08/2012 – Determiner T. Tams
4th County Record
1268 *Cydia coniferana* – Chester-le-Street – Adult – K. Dover – 24/07/2012 – Gen-det T. Tams
4th County Record
1457 *Hypochalcia ahenella* – Thrislington Quarry NNR – Adult – Barker/Dover – 30/06/2012
2nd and 3rd County Record

1508e *Stenoptilia scabiodactylus* – Wingate Quarry – Adult – T. Tams – 03/07/2012
and – High Moorsley – Adult – T.J. Barker – 14/07/2012
5th County Record
2029 *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* Brown-tail – Stockton – Adult – A. Jones – 28/08/2012 – Photograph seen by K. Dover

Below is the account of the *Acrolepiopsis betulella* caught at Coombe Bridges 12/03/2012
Acrolepiopsis betulella (Curtis, 1838) Rediscovered in Co Durham
by T. J. Tams
Introduction
Acrolepiopsis betulella is a moth of the Acrolepiinae in the Yponomeutidae family. It was previously known from a few counties in northern England but has not been reported since 1878 and presumed extinct in England.
Univoltine, a species probably overlooked as the adults are seldom seen, flight period August and (after hibernation) March to May. The larvae should be searched for in May and June amongst the flowers and seed heads of Ramson's *Allium ursinum.*
History
This species was first discovered on birch trees in Castle Eden Dene, Co Durham (VC66) on 4 August 1837 by Mr J.C. Dale, and was described and figured by his friend Curtis in 1838. Mr Sang regularly took it there and he also found it at High Force, Upper Teesdale, though scarce in both localities. There is also a Sang record from Richmond, Yorkshire. Mr Sang's last capture was in the year 1878 but no details are given
Circumstances
K. Dover and I decided on a last minute trapping session at a site that we occasionally use at Coombe Bridges, Co Durham (VC66) on the 12 March 2012. As usual, I set up a 125mv light over a white sheet on top of my trailer, and from 19.00hrs a steady stream of moths kept us

fairly busy; the temperature dropped down to 6c but it felt much colder.

At approximately 20.40hrs a small micro moth appeared at the light which I promptly potted, it had both of us quite puzzled as to what species it was so I retained the specimen for identification. The following morning in good light I was able to photograph the moth and looking through all the available literature to hand, I managed to narrow it down to an *Acrolepia* species with two in mind *A. betulella* or *A. autumnitella.* The former was presumed extinct in England but the images I took fitted the description of this moth ruling out *A. autumnitella*. With this in mind I decided to forward an image to J.R. Langmaid stating that I thought it was an *Acrolepia* species, he replied very quickly confirming that it was indeed *Acrolepiopsis betulella*.

The specimen is now in the A.J. & R. Fairclough collection.

Description

Labial palpus, dark brown. Antenna pale, ringed dark. Head and thorax brown. Forewing brown, marbled darker with a white triangular patch on dorsum, distal part of wing with a scattering of white spots. Legs brown pale on joints. Wingspan 13mm

Site

Coombe Bridges is nestled in an ancient steeply wooded valley with Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Birch *Betula pendula*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Oak *Quercus* and Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. Various waterside plants including Ramson's *Allium ursinum* can be found here. The Hisehope Burn runs through the valley and joins the River Derwent.

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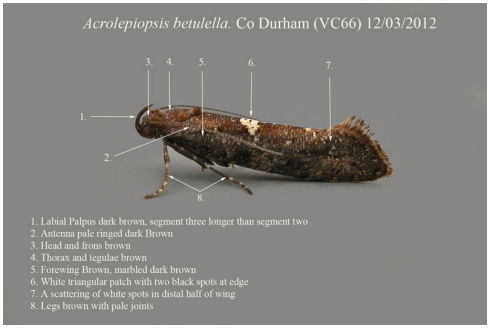
Acrolepiopsis betulella Coombe Bridges, Co Durham, 12 March 2012 (Photo: T.J. Tams).

Acrolepiopsis betulella Coombe Bridges, Co Durham, 12 March 2012 (Photo: T.J. Tams).



Acrolepiopsis betulella Coombe Bridges, Co Durham, 12 March 2012 (Photo: T.J. Tams).

The trap site, Coombe Bridges, Co Durham, 19 March 2012 (Photo: K. Dover).

2013 National Moth Recorders Conference – Jonathan Wallace

On 26 January, Tom Tams, Keith Dover and I travelled down to Birmingham to attend the National Moth Recorders Conference held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. We joined around 170 delegates who had struggled through the snow (which we somehow managed to avoid entirely) to hear an interesting assortment of speakers talking about various aspects of moth distribution, abundance and behaviour, some of the highlights of which I shall summarise here.

As might be expected a number of talks focussed on the status of moth populations and the most important of these was Richard Fox's preview of the new State of Britain's Larger Moths Report. His message was unfortunately rather gloomy; nationally we have witnessed a 28% decline in abundance of moths over the period 1965 – 2010, with 2/3 of the species in the analysis (based on 337 'common and widespread species') having declined. The figures for some species were startling with V Moth the worst affected (99% decline) and Grey Chi (86% down), Mouse Moth (85% down) and August Thorn (85% down) also seriously declining. These were the national figures, though, and Richard showed that when the country is divided into northern and southern parts (around the York – Lancaster line) the picture changes somewhat with the south showing a much worse decline than the overall national figure (40% decline across all species) whilst the north shows no clear trend. The causes of the decline in the south were not discussed in detail (although Fox does discuss this in a recently published paper[1]) but are likely to include habitat loss and degradation and, perhaps, climate change. At the moment the moth populations in our part of the Country appear to be holding up but we should not be complacent as these threats are certainly present in our region.

John Bebbington reflected the picture at a more local level in his talk about moth recording in Somerset. As well as giving an overview of the activities of the Somerset Moth Recording Group, he highlighted some of the problems moths face in his County including loss of habitat due to development and urbanisation. Favourite mothing sites adjacent to his own house were examples of this problem which, he informed us, also affected many other parts of the County. He also talked about the impact of the extremely wet weather in 2012. Somerset was one of the worst affected areas with substantial areas of

[1] Fox, R. (2013). The decline of moths in Great Britain: a review of possible causes. Insect Conservation and Diversity 6: 5 – 19.

land under water and, he told us, expected to remain so until at least June this year. It is likely that countless soil dwelling moth larvae will have drowned in flooded or water-logged ground across Somerset and the rest of the country and it is likely that we will see significant falls in abundance of various species for the next year or two as a consequence. John illustrated the impact of the floods with a rather poignant photograph of a clump of grass emerging above the water with an astonishing assemblage of invertebrates marooned on it including snails, beetles and caterpillars.

Tom Prescott focussed on the status of a single species in the Inverness area, the Pine Tree Lappet *Dendrolimus pini*. This species, which is widespread on the Continent, was discovered in Scotland quite recently, causing alarm amongst foresters who saw it as an exotic species that threatened potential devastation to the region's Scots Pine. It is not clear how the species came to be in the Inverness area and the possibility that it is a previously undiscovered native cannot be ruled out, but the studies carried out so far by Forest Research, Butterfly Conservation and others seem to have shown that the initial Armageddon scenario envisaged was not justified. Indeed aerial surveys of forests in the area failed to find evidence of extensive defoliation by the moth but did find evidence of significant damage by a mite whose proliferation had been facilitated by the lack of tree thinning operations resulting from the timber movement controls that had been imposed as a measure to prevent the spread of the moth! The timber movement controls have now been reduced in scale to permit foresters to carry out normal management operations to maintain the health of the trees. Whilst it seems that the species does not presently represent a significant threat to forestry in northern Scotland, the population will continue to be monitored so that an appropriate risk-based approach can be taken to its management. Moth recorders interested in travelling to the Beauly catchment area in June and 'ticking' a new species are welcome to participate in this

monitoring and should contact Tom Prescott (via Butterfly Conservation Scotland) for details as to how, where and when.

Much of the effort expended by moth enthusiasts is directed at recording the presence of species in a particular location through light trapping and other sampling techniques but we should remember that this is only one aspect of the study of these fascinating insects and there is much else of interest to consider. Nick Picozzi demonstrated this with an excellent talk about his studies of the breeding behaviour of Ghost Moths and Gold Swifts. Through careful observation and the use of a basic point and shoot camera he has gained many insights into the biology of these two species and, amongst other things, showed how behaviour and morphology combine to ensure that females are attracted to the males for mating. He also showed that the illustration of the Gold Swift in Waring and Townsend incorrectly portrays males as having three full pairs of legs. In fact the third (hindmost) pair of legs is highly modified with the tarsus missing or vestigial and the tibia modified to carry extravagant brush like scent organs from which the pheromone is emitted. These structures are difficult to see in the hand as they are folded away in an abdominal groove when the moth is not displaying but they can be revealed by dissection and were clearly shown in Nick's photographs of the moths displaying in flight.

Anyone concerned about the long term future of the study of moths would have had some cause to worry about the demographic make-up of the audience at the conference. Overwhelmingly we were male and many of the delegates were either approaching or past retirement age. Clearly it is important that we recruit young people into the study of moths if it is not to die out over the next few decades. The entertaining talk given by Michael Pocock on Conker Tree Science was therefore very encouraging. He described how 'citizen science' had been harnessed to study the spread of the Horse-Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella* across the Country from the south-east where it was first discovered in Britain. Around 8,000 people, including many

school children, have contributed records and helped test hypotheses about the spread of the species and the role of parasitoids in controlling it. It is clear that as well as providing a huge amount of scientifically valuable data the study has also engaged large numbers of people in the study of natural history. Hopefully some of them will have been truly bitten by the bug and in years to come will still be actively studying moths and other wildlife. A 'Conker Tree Science' web-site has been established for those wishing to know more about the project and how to become involved.
All in all it was an interesting and enjoyable conference and, of course, as well as the talks it provided an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to other moth recorders from all over the UK.

KEITH DOVER – k.dover879@btinternet.com
TIM BARKER – tim@tapandspile.co.uk
CURRENT TOTAL RECORDS ON THE VC66 DATABASE 309,836

Membership Matters — Jaci Beaven

Welcome to the following new Members as notified by Butterfly Conservation Head Quarters as of the end on March.

Mr B and Mrs J Bailey	Darlington
Mr A Barron	Chester-le-Street
Mrs S Dark	Hexham
Mrs S E Duncan	Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Mrs R Hepburn	Durham
Mr T Kell	Durham
Miss J Lancaster	Alnwick
Mrs K Willans	Newcastle-upon-Tyne

I hope you enjoy this rather full Newsletter and I hope 2013 will be a better year for our beleaguered butterflies and moths.

Northumberland Lepidoptera Review 2012 T.J. Tams

Introduction

It was a bag of mixed fortunes for our moths in 2012 with one of the wettest years on record. We experienced an exceptionally warm February and March and then the cold and wet months that followed throughout the year meant far fewer moth species were recorded than previous years. In addition many of the commoner and expected species were trapped in much lower numbers. The records received in the table below highlights a few examples.

Species	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Heart and Dart	126	150	290	503	368
Clouded Drab	66	117	212	320	233
Rosy Rustic	48	108	208	274	175
Marbled Beauty	70	99	191	231	152
Shuttle-shaped Dart	41	55	227	333	111
Powdered Quaker	11	35	96	155	89
Flame Shoulder	44	60	90	136	76
Antler Moth	29	48	111	156	69
Double-striped Pug	28	45	104	166	64
Red-line Quaker	11	34	105	114	50
Blair's Shoulder-knot	27	42	104	135	44
Frosted Orange	8	25	76	114	40

Conversely a number of species showed pleasing increases and the records in the next table also highlight a few examples.

Species	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Light Brown Apple Moth	211	210	353	357	458
Silver Y	146	221	300	293	382
Burnished Brass	102	155	169	187	264
Angle Shades	102	114	127	140	252
Poplar Hawk-moth	96	122	181	184	241
Plain Golden Y	36	81	136	167	220
Light Arches	30	36	59	84	114
Lesser Swallow Prominent	32	33	74	86	110

It should be borne in mind that the majority of moth trapping in the county occurs in garden habitats and the true situation in the wider countryside may be different. Fieldwork carried out by a few dedicated recorders in suitable habitats and concentrating mainly on the microlepidoptera yielded impressive results with the discovery of tenanted leaf mines and pupal cases, not previously recorded in our area.

Thirteen new species were added to the Northumberland fauna and numerous new vice county records including eight species not recorded for over one hundred years. Two specimens of the Satin Stowaway *Antichloris viridis* were discovered in local supermarkets, having been imported in crates of bananas from Columbia

A combined total of 28134 records were submitted during the year, from single record observations to lists from visitors on holiday to our region, but the vast majority were from our regular moth trappers, fourteen in VC67 and four in VC68.

Two Rothamsted traps are currently in operation at Kielder and Kirkwhelpington

New species recorded in 2012

0092 Rose Leaf Miner *Stigmella anomalella*
0093 Stigmella centifoliella
0291 *Caloptilia hemidactylella*
0343 Phyllonorycter esperella 0363 Phyllonorycter platanoidella
0510 Coleophora juncicolella
0517a Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora frischella*
0568 Coleophora versurella
0621 Elachista subalbidella
0904 Spuleria flavicaput
1233 Pammene aurita
1287 Dichrorampha aeratana
2073 Satin Stowaway *Antichloris viridis*

New VC 67/68 species recorded in 2012

0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella*
0009 *Eriocrania sparrmannella*
0011 *Eriocrania cicatricella* 0
326 *Phyllonorycter blancardella*
0333 *Phyllonorycter salictella*
0435 *Zelleria hepariella*
0563 *Coleophora argentula*
1057 *Acleris rufana*
1079 *Piniphila bifasciana*
1182 *Epiblema turbidana*
1192 *Eucosma conterminana*
1241 *Grapholita compositella*
1268 *Cydia coniferana*
1281 *Dichrorampha simpliciana*
1341 *Eudonia lineola*
1357 *Evergestis extimalis*
1789 Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulate*
2391 Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus*

Detailed List:

New vice-county records are shown with the VC number both **underlined** and in **bold** type.

ERIOCRANIIDAE

0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* (Zett.) – Gosforth Park NR NZ259699 (**67**) tenanted mine on *Betula* sp. 20.v.2012, conf. R.D. Edmunds – T.J. Tams

0009 *Eriocrania sparrmannella* (Bosc.) – Harthope Valley NT964236 (**68**) four tenanted mines on *Betula* sp. 01.vii.2012 – T.J. Tams

0011 *Eriocrania cicatricella* (Zett.) – Longhorsley Moor NZ163927 (**67**) forty tenanted mines on *Betula sp.* 29.v.2012, conf. R.D. Edmunds – T.J. Tams

NEPTICULIDAE

0092 *Stigmella anomalella* (Goez.) – Druridge Bay NZ276965 (**67**) bred ex leaf mines in Burnet Rose *R. pimpinellifolia.* 03.v.2012 – A.J. Fairclough 0093 *Stigmella centifoliella* (Zell.) – Druridge Bay NZ276965 (**67**) bred ex leaf mines in Burnet Rose *R. pimpinellifolia*. 06.v.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

Stigmella anomalella

Stigmella centifoliella

GRACILLARIIDAE

0291 *Caloptilia hemidactylella* (D. & S.) – Howick NU258178 (**68**) 31.viii.2012, male genitalia det. J. Clifton – S. Sexton

0326 *Phyllonorycter blancardella* (Fab.) – Vyners Park, Swarland NU164037 (**68**) bred ex leaf mines on Crab Apple *M. sylvestris* 26.iv.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

0333 *Phyllonorycter salictella* (Zell.) – Hadston Village NU268003 (**67**) five bred ex leaf mines on *Osier.* 02-05.v.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

0343 *Phyllonoructer esperalla* (Goez.) – The Alnwick Garden NU192132 (**68**) Twenty-six mines on Hornbeam Carpinus betulus. 01.xi.2013 – A.J.Fairclough 0363 *Phyllonorycter platanoidella* (Joan.) – Heaton NZ278662 (**67**) mine on Norway Maple Acer platanoides. 21.x.2012 – C. Fletcher

Caloptilia hemidactylella

Phyllonorycter salictella

Phyllonorycter esperella

Phyllonorycter platanoidella

YPONOMEUTIDAE

0435 *Zelleria hepariella* (Staint.) – Swarland NU165035 (**68**) 22.v.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – A.J. Fairclough 0467 *Rhigognostis annulatella* (Curt.) – Seaton Sluice NZ339767 (67) 17.vii.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough

Rhigignostis annulatella

COLEOPHORIDAE

0504 *Coleophora lusciniaepennella* (Treit.) – Holystone Common NT941020 (67) thirteen cases from Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale*. 27.ix.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough

0510 *Coleophora juncicolella* (Staint.) – Longhorsley Moor NZ163927 (**67**) four cases swept from Heather *Calluna*. 28.iv.2012 – A.J. Fairclough; Debden Estate NU064035 (**68**) two cases swept from Heather *Calluna*. 02.v.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

0517a *Coleophora frischella* (Linn.) – Howick Hall Gardens NU248175 (**68**) 05.vi.2012, female genitalia det. J. Clifton – T.C. Sexton

0563 *Coleophora argentula* (Steph.) – Birling Links, Warkworth NU255064 (**68**) sixteen cases on Yarrow seedheads. 28.ii.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – A.J. Fairclough 0568 *Coleophora versurella* (Zell.) – Monkseaton NZ338723 (**67**) 07.vii.2012, male genitalia det. T.J. Tams, conf. B. Goodey – M.S. Hodgson; Howick NU258178 (**68**) 07.vii.2012, male genitalia det. T.J. Tams – S. Sexton *

Coleophora lusciniaepennella

Coleophora juncicolella

Coleophora frischella

Coleophora versurella

ELACHISTIDAE

0608 *Elachista rufocinerea* (Haw.) – Swarland NU165035 (68) 22.v.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough
0621 *Elachista subalbidella* (Schl.) – Longhorsley Moor NZ163927 (**67**) 27.v.2012, seven at MV light – I. Fisher & K.W. Regan

GELECHIIDAE
0735 *Monochroa tenebrella* (Hübn.) – Kyloe Hills NU045393 (68) 19.vi.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough
0843 *Aproaerema anthyllidella* (Hübn.) – Birling Links, Warkworth NU255064 (68) 07.viii.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough


Monochroa tenbrella

COSMOPTERIGIDAE
0904 *Spuleria flavicaput* (Haw.) – Big Waters NZ229734 (**67**) 05.vi.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – J. Wallace


Spuleria flavicaput

TORTRICIDAE

0924 *Hysterophora maculosana* (Haw.) – Swarland Wood (south) NU155026 (68) 19.v.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough

1057 *Acleris rufana* (D. & S.) – Holystone Burn Wood NT950025 (**67**) 27.iii.2012 – T.J.Tams 1079 *Piniphila bifasciana* (Haw.) – Seghill NZ291745 (**67**) 04.viii.2012 – I. Fisher

1179 *Epiblema incarnatana* (Hübn.) – Birling Links, Warkworth NU255064 (68) 27.vii.2012, two bred from spinnings on Burnet Rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia* collected in June, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough

1182 *Epiblema turbidana* (Treit.) – Felton Village NU188007 (68) 16.vii.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J. Fairclough; West Thirston NU187003 (**67**) 16.vii.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

1192 *Eucosma conterminana* (Guen.) – 2 Widow's Row, Howick NU258178 (**68)** 13.viii.2012 – S. Sexton 1233 *Pammene aurita* (Razo.) – Newburn NZ167653 (**67**) 25.viii.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – R.G. Waugh 1241 *Grapholita compositella* (Fabr.) – Buston Links NU247099 (**68**) 25.vi.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – A.J. Fairclough 1268 *Cydia coniferana* (Ratz.) – Harehope NU085205 (**68**) 13.vi.2012, male genitalia det. T.J. Tams – A.J. Fairclough

1281 *Dichrorampha simpliciana* (Haw.) – Birling Links, Warkworth NU255064 (**68**) 07.viii.2012, male genitalia det. T.J. Tams – A.J. Fairclough

1287 *Dichrorampha aeratana* (P. & M.) – Berwick-Upon-Tweed NT991536 (**68**) 23.v.2012, male genitalia det. T.J. Tams – M. & F. Aungier

Hysterophora maculosana

Acleris rufana

Epiblema incarnatana

Epiblema turbidana

Pammene aurita

Grapholita compositella

Cydia coniferana

Dichrorompha aeratana

PYRALIDAE

1341 *Eudonia lineola* (Curt.) – Tynemouth NZ363704 (**67**) 17.vii.2012, female genitalia det – T.J. Tams 1357 *Evergestis extimalis* (Scop.) – Howick NU258178 (**68**) 17.viii.2012, conf. T.J. Tams – S. Sexton

PTEROPHORIDAE

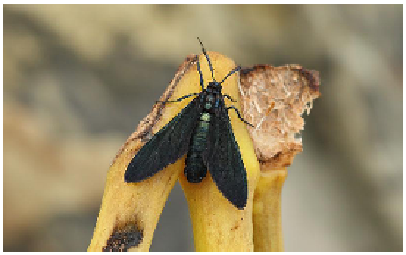
1517 *Adaina microdactyla* (Hübn.) – Cullernose Point NU259187 (68) Three bred from Hemp-agrimony stems collected on 29.xi.2011. 08-11.vi.2012, first VC record for over 100 years – A.J Fairclough & T.J. Tams

Adaina microdactyla

CTENUCHIDAE

2073 Satin Stowaway *Antichloris viridis* (Druce.) – Sainsbury's Foodstore, Alnwick NU194119 (**68**) 19.i.2012 – A.J Fairclough; Sainsbury's Foodstore, Throckley NZ158666 (**67**) 27.ix.2012 – J. Wallace

Antichloris viridis (Male)



Antichloris viridis (female)

GEOMETRIDAE

1789 Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulate* (Linn.) – Swarland NU165035 (**68**) 01.viii.2012 – A.J. Fairclough

NOCTUIDAE

2391 Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (Taus.) – East Chevington NR. NZ271991 (**67**) 08.viii.2012, eight at MV light – T.J. Tams et al

Silky Wainscot

Silky Wainscot

The following list comprises the more notable records of the season

0001	*Micropterix tunbergella*	Felton	24.v.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0009	*Eriocrania sparrmannella*	Felton	04.viii.2012	2nd VC68record	AJF
0012	*Eriocrania sangii*	Swarland	26.iii.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0034	*Ectoedemia occultella*	Wooler	01.vii.2012	5th VC68 record	TJT
0067	*Stigmella plagicolella*	Howick	01.xi.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0117	*Stigmella confusella*	Acton	01.viii.2012	5th VC68 record	AJF
0136	*Lampronia corticella*	Holystone	26.vi.2012	5th VC67 record	AJF
0148	*Nemophora degeerella*	Wooler	01.vii.2012	5th VC68 record	TJT
0153	*Adela fibulella*	Kyloe	19.vi.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0154	*Heliozela sericiella*	Gosforth	20.v.2012	4th VC67 record	TJT
0229	*Monopis obviella*	Wideopen	27.vi.2012	2nd VC67record	TJT
0236	*Tineola bisselliella*	Seghill	06.ix.2012	2nd VC67record	IF
0342	*Phyllonorycter coryli*	Fenwick	04.x.2012	5th VC68 record	AJF
0348	*Phyllonorycter quinqueguttella*	Chevington	18.x.2012	2nd VC67 record	AJF
0354	*Phyllonorycter emberizaepenella*	Seghill	18.viii.2012	2nd VC67 record	IF
0363	*Phyllonorycter platanoidella*	Bedlington	05.xi.2012	4th VC67 record	TJT
0368	*Phyllocnistis unipunctella*	Seghill	23.vii.2012	4th VC67 record	IF
0413	*Argyresthia sorbiella*	Swarland	04.vii.2012	4th VC68 record	AJF
0443	*Cedestis subfasciella*	Seghill	01.viii.2012	5th VC67 record	IF
0455	*Ypsolopha scabrella*	Swarland	03.ix.2012	2nd VC68record	AJF
0491	*Coleophora gryphipennella*	Amble	05.x.2012	5th VC67 record	AJF
0504	*Coleophora lusciniaepennella*	Holystone	20.x.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0522	*Coleophora*	Tynemouth	30.vii.2012	3rd VC67record	TJT

	lineolea				
0541	*Coleophora pyrrhulipennella*	Holystone	21.v.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0541	*Coleophora pyrrhulipennella*	Rothbury	02.v.2012	2nd VC68record	AJF
0553	*Coleophora striatipennella*	Tynemouth	08.vii.2012	4th VC67 record	TJT
0553	*Coleophora striatipennella*	Berwick	03.viii.2012	3rd VC68record	F&MA
0559	*Coleophora peribenanderi*	Tynemouth	28.vi.2012	4th VC67 record	TJT
0563	*Coleophora argentula*	Chevington	07.x.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0563	*Coleophora argentula*	Newton	15.x.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0568	*Coleophora versurella*	Tynemouth	27.vii.2012	3rd VC67record	TJT
0581	*Coleophora taeniipennella*	Druridge	12.xi.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0584	*Coleophora alticolella*	Longframlington	17.i.2012	2nd VC68record	AJF
0636	*Denisia similella*	Holystone	26.vi.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0636	*Denisia similella*	Swarland	07.viii.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0649	*Esperia sulphurella*	Kyloe	19.vi.2012	5th VC68 record	AJF
0664	*Diurnea lipsiella*	Swarland	21.x.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
0674	*Depressaria badiella*	Tynemouth	28.viii.2012	2nd VC67record	TJT
0729	*Isophrictis striatella*	Newcastle	28.vii.2012	4th VC67 record	JW
0747	*Chrysoesthia sexguttella*	Beal	03.vii.2012	2nd VC68record	AJF
0763	*Xenolechia aethiops*	Swarland	28.iii.2012	5th VC68 record	AJF
0830	*Caryocolum fraternella*	Howick	02.viii.2012	4th VC68 record	SS
0964	*Cochylis dubitana*	Warkworth	07.viii.2012	3rd VC67record	AJF
0998	*Epiphyas postvittana*	Berwick	21.x.2012	4th VC68 record	F&MA
1013	*Olindia schumacherana*	Swarland	13.vii.2012	4th VC68 record	AJF

1067	*Celypha cespitana*	Long Nanny	25.vi.2012	5th VC68 record	IF
1104	*Endothenia quadrimaculana*	Howick	07.vii.2012	3rd VC68record	SS
1108	*Lobesia abscisana*	Howick	18/.viii.2012	3rd VC68record	SS
1162	*Rhopobota myrtillana*	Ridsdale	28.v.2012	5th VC67 record	IF
1167	*Gypsonoma aceriana*	Seghill	03.ix.2012	3rd VC67record	IF
1184a	*Epiblema cirsiana*	Warkworth	18.vi.2012	3rd VC68record	AJF
1208	*Pseudococcyx posticana*	Brunswick	05.vi.2012	2nd VC67record	JW
1241	*Grapholita compositella*	Duddo	05.vii.2012	2nd VC68record	F&MA
1242	*Grapholita internana*	Wallsend	18.vi.2012	5th VC67 record	TJT
1274	*Dichrorampha alpinana*	Tynemouth	09.viii.2012	5th VC67 record	TJT
1331	*Acentria ephemerella*	Swarland	01.viii.2012	4th VC68 record	AJF
1336	*Eudonia pallida*	Chevington	08.viii.2012	4th VC67 record	TJT
1357	*Evergestis extimalis*	Tynemouth	08.viii.2012	3rd VC67record	TJT
1432	*Anerastia lotella*	Tynemouth	20.vi.2012	5th VC67 record	TJT
1433	*Cryptoblabes bistriga*	Eshott	04.vii.2012	3rd VC67 record	MSH
1518	*Ovendenia lienigianus*	North Shields	03.viii.2012	5th VC67 record	TJT
1868	Lesser Treble-bar	Shilbottle	29.viii.2012	2nd VC68 record	JWR
1951	Grey Birch	Swarland	23.v.2012	3rd VC68 record	AJF
1979	Lime Hawk-moth	Newcastle	17.vii.2012	3rd VC67 record	CD
2159	Dog's Tooth	Holy Island	25.vi.2012	4th VC68 record	TJT
2185	Lead-coloured Drab	Hauxley	30.iii.2012	2nd VC67 record	IF
2197	Southern Wainscot	Chevington	08.viii.2012	5th VC67 record	TJT
2221	Mullein	Buston	25.vi.2012	4th VC68 record	AJF
2227	Sprawler	Swarland	08.xi.2012	3rd VC68 record	AJF
2421	Scarce Silver-lines	Seghill	08.viii.2012	2nd VC67 record	IF

Migrant summary for year

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Individuals
0464	Diamond-back Moth	*Plutella xylostella*	491
1368	*Loxostege sticticalis*		1
1398	Rush Veneer	*Nomophila noctuella*	22
1972	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	*Agrius convolvuli*	2
1984	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	*Macroglossum stellatarum*	1
1987	Bedstraw Hawk-moth	*Hyles gallii*	1
2091	Dark Sword-grass	*Agrotis ipsilon*	18
2119	Pearly Underwing	*Peridroma saucia*	3
2441	Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*	1648

Top twenty moths recorded this year

1. Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*
2. Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana*
3. Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha*
4. Lesser Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*
5. Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner *Cameraria ohridella*
6. Hebrew Character *Orthosia gothica*
7. Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthe*
8. Garden Grass-veneer *Chrysoteuchia culmella*
9. Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*
10. Common Quaker *Orthosia cerasi*
11. Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
12. *Blastobasis adustella*
13. *Neofaculta ericetella*
14. Smoky Wainscot *Mythimna impura*
15. *Udea lutealis*
16. Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala*
17. Small Quaker *Orthosia cruda*
18. *Agriphila straminella*
19. Silver-ground Carpet *Xanthorhoe montanata*
20. Garden Carpet *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*

The 2012 records in this report, and contributors to the database, have come from the following recorders, each indicated by his or her initials

M & F. Aungier, T. Barker, C. Barlow, G. Beckwith, T. Bird, V. Carnell, K. Charman, M. Coates, M.J. Cook, A.J. Davis, C. Dunn, D. Elliot, A.J. Fairclough, D. Feige, I. Fisher, C. Fletcher, I.C. Hancock, B. Harle, P & P. Heathcote, M.S. Hodgson, A.S. Jack, D. Kipling, B. Lee, S. Leeming, J. Lister, C. Maddison, R. McBeath, M. Anderson & L. Naughton, J. Patient, D & M. Penton, S.P. Phelps & L.N. Butt, J.W. Philipson, M. Richardson, S. Ronayne, J.W. Rutter, W.J. Scott, S. Sexton, T.C. Sexton, R. Smith, A.M. Smout, D. Stebbings, T.J. Tams, A. Taylor, A. Tindale, N & M. Tuck, I.D & B. Wallace, J. Wallace, R.G. Waugh, T. Wiffen .For information on Northumberland moths, distribution maps & foodplants see: www.northumberlandmoths.org

For full Moth Reports from both County Durham and Northumberland with proper colour photographs please go to the branch Web Site at:

www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk

Important Notice

You will have read in the last Newsletter, and earlier in this one, that the Branch Committee are looking to the publication of the Annual Butterfly Report and the Branch Newsletter by e-mail and by downloads from the Web Site from 2014 onwards.

It is important that the Committee have your response to this. Those wishing to receive the publications by e-mail must respond to the Newsletter Editor with their electronic address.

Anyone who requires that a printed version should be supplied must also respond to that effect.

It will be assumed that, if there is no response by the end of 2013, Members will read or download the publications from the Web Site.

Butterfly Conservation Safety Note

As with any other activity, there are hazards in the countryside and everyone taking part in a Field Trip or Working Party has a responsibility, for their own safety and that of others. We always ensure that our events present no greater hazard than any other walk in the countryside, but please note and act on the following:

The leader will provide a briefing on the trip before setting out, with details of any known hazards, and will give advice on what to do in an emergency. Please listen carefully.
At the briefing, let the leader know if a) you have a mobile telephone and are able to take it with you on the walk, and b) if you have a first aid qualification.
Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Stout shoes are a minimum requirement for any walk.
In sunny weather take a hat, use sun cream or protection for exposed skin. Make sure that you have adequate food and liquid to drink with you.
When on a walk, look out for any hazards – rabbit holes, fallen or hanging branches, barbed wire, boggy areas etc.
Children are welcome on our walks, but if under the age of 16 must be accompanied by at least one adult for two children. It is the responsibility of the accompanying adult(s) to ensure that the trip is within the children's capability.
Dogs are normally welcome on our walks, but must be kept under control.
If you are uncertain about any details of the trip, ring the leader/contact in advance. If you decide to leave the trip early, please tell the leader.
Take care at all times and above all ENJOY YOURSELF.

How to Submit Moth Records

Over 1200 species of moth have been recorded in our region, some common and widespread, others represented by very few, or in some cases, only a single record. Submitting records of moths helps to improve our understanding of the distribution and abundance of these fascinating insects and to enable potential problems they may be experiencing to be detected. Separate databases are maintained for Durham and Northumberland and records should be submitted to the appropriate recorder depending on where they are made.

In all cases the following information should be recorded:

Species name:	Please indicate scientific and (where there is one) common names.
Location:	Where the moth was recorded.
Grid reference:	Ideally a six-figure grid reference for the location.
Vice County:	66 for Durham, 67 for South Northumberland and 68 for North Northumberland.
Date :	For light trapping records the convention is that the date should be that of the evening when the trap is set rather than the morning when it is emptied.
Recorder:	Name of the person who caught/observed the moth(s).
Determiner:	The name of the person who identified the moth(s) (if different to the recorder)
Life cycle stage:	i.e. adult, pupa, caterpillar or egg.
Quantity:	The number of each species recorded.
Method:	Type of trap, field record, or how the moth was caught.

Durham (Vice County 66)

Records should be submitted to either of the joint moth recorders for Durham:

Keith Dover
4 Lindisfarne Avenue
Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham
e-mail: k.dover879@btinternet .com

Tim Barker
Tap and Spike, 27 Front Street
Framwellgate Moor, Durham
e-mail: tim@tapandspile.co.uk

A spreadsheet for the submission of moth records for County Durham can be downloaded from www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk/recording

Northumberlanad (Vice County 67 and Vice County 68)

Records should be submitted to **Tom Tams,** the moth recorder for Northumberland**,**
191 Links Road, Tynemouth, Northumberland. Tel: 0191 272 8499
e-mail: tomsphotos@hotmail.co.uk or recorder@northumberlansmoths.org.uk
Full details for submitting records in Northumberland, including a downloadable spreadsheet are given at www.northumberlandmoths.org.uk.

Validation

It is important that records are accurate and based on correct identifications and one of the responsibilities of the County Recorders is to scrutinise submitted records and check that this is the case. For any records of rare species, easily confused species or records of species that are outside their usual geographic range or flight period they may ask for supporting evidence to be supplied before the record is accepted. Suitable evidence may include good quality photographs, or sight of the actual specimen (moths can be kept captive for a day or two in a pot in a cool place without being harmed).

Submitting Butterfly Records in 2013

Records are the bedrock of conservation and the North East Branch welcomes records of all species, for all dates and places, and of course for all forms.

From 2010 there will be two ways of sending your records in. For those without a home computer, the existing yellow paper casual record sheets will continue unchanged. However, if you have a PC, the Branch would urge you to send in your records using a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel. Each record should occupy one line and the format of the spreadsheet should look something like the following example:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ274423	Palace Green, Durham City	22-Aug-2012	Large White	7	
2	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ196858	Morpeth (riverside)	24-Sep-2012	Peacock	2	Very worn
3	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ2514	Baydale Beck Darlington	1-Jul-2012	Comma	1	*Hutchinsoni* form

Column A – Recorder/s names.
Column B - Grid reference, which should be two letters, (NT, NU, NY or NZ), followed by four or six numbers. The first two (or three) numbers are the Easting, read from the top or bottom of OS maps, the last two, (or three) numbers represent the Northing, read from either side of the map.
Column C - Site name. For obscure place names please include a nearby town or village.
Column D – Date (please try to follow the format shown)
Column E - The name of the species seen.
Column F - The number seen. The actual number is preferred rather than the letter system. For larva (L), ova (O), pupa (P) or mating (M) records, please use the code letter provided, optionally adding numbers seen.
Column G - For any comments you may wish to add.
Optionally, you can add a habitat code to column H if you wish.

A blank spreadsheet, with the date formatted, is available by contacting the recorders. Electronic records are most easily sent as an email attachment. However, you can also send them in by post on CD or memory stick. The deadline for records to be included, and credited, in the 2013 Annual Report is 30 November 2013. Depending on where you live, please send records to:

DURHAM
Steve Le Fleming
7 Albert Street
Durham,
DH1 4RL
☎ 0191 386 7309
: lsklef@aol.com

NORTHUMBERLAND
Roger Norman
1 Prestwick Gardens, Kenton
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
NE3 3DN
☎ 0191 2858314
: roger@norman784.plus.com

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www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION