



## **2021 Autumn-Winter Work Parties.**

Following a summer without field trips, I'm sure there's an eagerness to meet up with branch friends and acquaintances for some chat, laughs, fresh air, exercise and the good feeling that comes from doing something useful for butterflies and moths.

Seven work parties have been arranged, for September, October and November, listed below in chronological order.

Since Covid-19 is still with us, safe distancing will be observed during work parties and the sharing of cake discouraged! Disinfectant will be provided for the cleaning of tools.

Although Covid-19 restrictions have eased, you will be aware that Covid-19 cases are currently rising and there is a chance that restrictions will be re-imposed. If you wish to attend any of these work parties, please register your interest with Pete Moore, e-mail [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com) or phone 07866 578079.

Regulars to our work parties will be wondering why Polmaily isn't on the list. Forest and Land Scotland, who own the site, are carrying out management work and so the site is out of bounds this winter. However, Tom Prescott informs me that the verges and adjacent steep bank where we have previously carried out our own management work will be safe. In addition, FLS have agreed to flail the remaining verge and bank and remove the resulting brash, mostly thick gorse, as well as lightly scrape the vegetation to aid the establishment of Bird's-foot Trefoil and violets. Tom and myself hope to visit the site after these operations to apply herbicide to cut stumps.

I look forward to seeing folk at these events. Get in touch with me if you have any queries.

Pete Moore (Chair)

### **DARK BORDERED BEAUTY BIRCH BASH, NEAR GRANTOWN.**

**Date:** Saturday 18th September

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** Due to the rarity of the moth and sensitivity of the site we do not publicise its location. However, if you want to attend then simply contact one of the leaders for directions.

**Description:** We will remove regenerating birch using handtools, (Treepoppers and loppers), to prevent it shading out aspen suckers, the foodplant of Dark Bordered Beauty moth. We will focus our efforts within exclosures which have been specifically erected to protect and encourage the establishment of aspen suckers.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves.

**Additional Info:** This is a joint event with the Rare Invertebrates in the Cairngorms project.

**Leader name:** Tom Prescott, Pete Moore & Gen Tompkins

**Tom – Tel:** 01540 661469 **Mob:** 07979 785665 **email:** [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Pete - Tel:** 01479 872261 **Mob:** 07866 578079 **email:** [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com)

**Gen – Mob:** 07812 738109 **email:** [Genevieve.Tompkins@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Genevieve.Tompkins@rspb.org.uk)

### **INSH MARSHES MID-WEEK BIRCH BASH (part 1).**

**Date:** Wednesday 22 September

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** RSPB Insh Marshes car park at NN 8366 9984 which lies on the B970 between Kingussie and Insh village, just east of Ruthven Barracks.

**Description:** We will remove regenerating birch which is shading out aspen suckers, the foodplant of Dark Bordered Beauty moth. This is one of only three sites for Dark Bordered Beauty in Scotland and the moth has not been seen at one of those sites for the last two years, so possibly now we are down to just two sites.

We will also remove small birch scrub from areas where Northern Brown Argus is found, to prevent its foodplant, rockrose, from being shaded out.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves.

**Leader name:** Pete Moore

Tel: 01479 872261 Mob: 07866 578079 email: [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com)

### **GLENFESHIE (WEST)**

**Date:** Saturday 16 October

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** Follow the minor road on the west side of Glenfeshie towards Glenfeshie Lodge, past Uath Lochans and Ballintean. Three miles up the glen, just as you leave the forest and enter an area of fields, look for a track on the right at NH 8401 0004 which will lead to the work site at NN 8366 9984. Hopefully, there will be BC signs showing the way off the minor road.

**Description:** We will remove small regenerating pines from an old quarry and encourage the establishment of kidney vetch (KV) and birdsfoot trefoil (BFT), the foodplants for Small Blue and Dingy Skipper respectively, by planting KV and BFT plugs and sowing BFT seed. We have had one work party at this site already, in winter 2020-21.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves and trowels for planting the plugs.

**Leader name:** Tom Prescott & Pete Moore

**Tom – Tel:** 01540 661469 **Mob:** 07979 785665 **email:** [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Pete – Tel:** 01479 872261 **Mob:** 07866 578079 **email:** [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com)

### **INSH MARSHES MID-WEEK BIRCH BASH (part 2).**

**Date:** Wednesday 20 October

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** RSPB Insh Marshes car park at NN 8366 9984 which lies on the B970 between Kingussie and Insh village, just east of Ruthven Barracks.

**Description:** We will remove regenerating birch which is shading out aspen suckers, the foodplant of Dark Bordered Beauty moth. This is one of only three sites for Dark Bordered Beauty in Scotland and the moth has not been seen at one of those sites for the last two years, so possibly now we are down to just two sites.

We will also remove small birch scrub from areas where Northern Brown Argus is found, to prevent its foodplant, rockrose, from being shaded out.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves.

**Leader name:** Pete Moore

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### **GLENFESHIE (EAST)**

**Date:** Saturday 30 October

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** Meet opposite the entrance to the Glenfeshie Gliding Club at NH 858032. From Feshiebridge, follow the minor road on the east side of Glenfeshie that leads to Achlean. The gliding club is a short way after Lagganlia Outdoor Centre.

**Description:** We will remove small regenerating pines from an old quarry and encourage the establishment of kidney vetch and birdsfoot trefoil, the foodplants for Small Blue and Dingy Skipper respectively, by planting KV and BFT plugs and sowing BFT seed.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves and trowels for planting kidney vetch plugs.

**Leader name:** Tom Prescott & Pete Moore

**Tom – Tel:** 01540 661469 **Mob:** 07979 785665 **email:** [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Pete – Tel:** 01479 872261 **Mob:** 07866 578079 **email:** [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com)

### **LOGIE QUARRY (part 1)**

**Date:** Saturday 6 November

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** The old entrance to the disused Logie quarry at NH 7739 7613. If travelling north up the A9 from Alness/Invergordon, turn left off the A9 about one mile north of Kildary. The quarry entrance is about one-third of a mile along the minor road.

If travelling south from Tain, turn right off the A9 one and a quarter miles after the turn-off to Arabella and Nigg.

**Description:** The sand and gravel substrate of this old quarry provides ideal growing conditions for Kidney Vetch, the foodplant of Small Blue. Unfortunately, over the years, most of the open areas loved by KV have been taken over by tree regeneration and the KV has been shaded out. We aim to remove small regenerating trees, by hand-pulling and using tree poppers, to encourage the re-establishment of KV.

**Approx duration:** Up to 6 hours, but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour you will still be very welcome.

**What's needed:** Bring lunch and wear old clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves

**Leader name:** Pete Moore & Tom Prescott

**Pete - Tel:** 01479 872261 **Mob:** 07866 578079 **email:** [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com)

**Tom - Tel:** 01540 661469 **Mob:** 07979 785665 **email:** [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

## **LOGIE QUARRY (part 2)**

**Date:** Saturday 20 November

**Time:** 10.00am

**Meeting place:** The old entrance to the disused Logie quarry at NH 7739 7613. If travelling north up the A9 from Alness/Invergordon, turn left off the A9 about one mile north of Kildary. The quarry entrance is about one-third of a mile along the minor road.

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