



Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION – HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BRANCH

BRANCH STRATEGY

Version 2.0, August 2011

Introduction

This document defines the 5-year strategy of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation. Its primary purpose is to guide actions taken by the Branch (such as the approval of initiatives and funding) to ensure that they are in line with the strategy of the society as a whole.

A key input to the Branch strategy is the “2020 Vision” developed at a BC Chairmans’ meeting held in Birmingham in September 2010. Each of the sections below reiterates certain items from this 2020 vision (those that are relevant) and complements these with items that are relevant to the Branch.

| Conservation | | | |
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| Topic | 2020 Target | Rationale | Branch Strategy |
| Threatened Species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective conservation action to halt and reverse the decline of threatened species at local, regional and national levels. • High-profile species saved from extinction in the UK (e.g. High Brown Fritillary, Large Blue and Slender Scotch Burnet). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to focus on threatened species to achieve our charitable objective of saving butterflies and moths. • We need to be able to demonstrate success. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint and coordinate active and knowledgeable species champions for priority species. • Share species data with LRCs, planning authorities, partner organisations and other branches to guide planning and conservation initiatives. • Work with landowners and conservation partners to promote threatened species conservation measures. |
| Key landscapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable long term conservation established in a range of key landscapes for butterflies and moths across the UK. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most species need conservation at the landscape scale if we are to be successful in the long term. • We need this to be countrywide and aim to cover all key species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritise landscapes with greatest potential for Lepidoptera conservation. • Work with BC's Regional Officer to develop and implement a landscape-scale conservation initiative for the Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. • Work with the New Forest N.P. and South Downs N.P. to develop and promote landscape-scale strategies for Lepidoptera conservation. |
| Widespread species and urban habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a major influence on land use, agricultural and planning policies that affect widespread as well as threatened species. • Increase species diversity in urban areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is vital to conserve widespread species because they are accessible species that enrich people's lives. They can only be conserved successfully by influencing policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise landowners of agri-environment scheme options favourable to Lepidoptera. • Contribute to local planning policies, biodiversity actions, and other consultation processes. • Work with Southampton and Portsmouth city councils to promote greenspace |

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| | | | management initiatives that benefit butterflies and moths. |
| Evidence base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First class recording and monitoring schemes that make best use of latest technology to allow speedy data sharing. • Supporting and stimulating scientific research on species ecology and conservation. • Building an evidence and experience base on moth conservation. • Expert staff capable of delivering advice, research and running schemes. • Butterflies and moths used widely as indicators of biodiversity and a healthy environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot conserve species unless we know where they occur. We need clear evidence from monitoring schemes to assess trends, inform policies, and influence others. • Our conservation work is highly technical and needs a highly trained professional and volunteer workforce. • Having good indicators helps focus attention on our problems and influences policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance an already well established network of recorders. Further develop websites & electronic means of data submission. • As well as supporting BC national research and conservation initiatives, develop initiatives at local level (eg student projects). • Further develop the already well established moth recording network and innovative HantsMoths website. Increase emphasis on moth conservation initiatives at specific sites. • Recruit & develop volunteers. Increase skill base and experience to maintain Branch capacity to deliver advice, research and run schemes. • A selection of Hampshire BAP butterflies and moths are used by Hampshire County Council and local authorities as biodiversity indicators for the county. Provide necessary data annually in support of this. |
| Reserves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suite of reserves across the UK linked to our core landscapes, maintaining thriving colonies of threatened species and demonstrating best practice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves are popular amongst our members and serve important conservation and promotional functions. They need to be integrated with our other objectives on landscapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance our existing Branch reserves Focus on developing these further, especially in their wider landscape context and for educational and promotional |

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| | | and publicity. | <p>purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sufficient funding to employ Branch Reserves Officer. • Only acquire further reserves if exceptional opportunities arise. |
| Capacity for conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding for core teams (national, species, recording, monitoring, landscapes). • Network of Regional Officers that can support Branches. • Fully integrated staff and Branch/volunteer effort. • Strong partnerships with wildlife and land use organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to maintain effort in the long term and retain specialist staff if we are to be successful. • Volunteers are vital and we need staff and volunteers working closely together to be successful. • We can achieve more if we work with other organisations on shared objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity within the experienced volunteer base. • Develop a base of core skills, such as habitat management. • Strengthen relationships with partner organisations (e.g. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust; FC). • Secure funds to support both BC (national) and Branch initiatives relevant to Hampshire & Isle of Wight. |