

DENGE WOODS PROJECT

Part of Butterfly Conservation's South East Woodlands Project

As winter approaches, and the buzz of chainsaws fills our woods, here's the latest from the project area...

English Woodland Grant Scheme

Over thirty blocks of woodland in the project area are being coppiced, having new rides or glades created or extended using assistance from Forestry Commission's enhanced (80%) Woodland Improvement Grant. Over £100,000 of enhanced grant has already been allocated in the Denge Woods Project area and the grant has recently been made available to owners for an additional fourth year (2011). If you're interested in grants, please contact Fran.



Work at Denge Woods

BIFFAWARD has given over £45,000 for extensions to existing rides, coppicing, and glade creation across Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust land at Denge Woods.

Butterfly Conservation secured the funding to provide more, higher quality, better connected

habitats for the benefit of, among others, the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and Drab Looper moth. The work complements other woodland management taking place on both public and private land in the surrounding area.

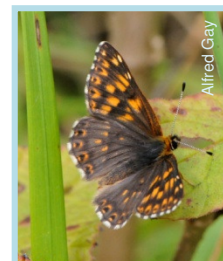


investing in the environment

Duke of Burgundy – help!

With Duke of Burgundy recorded now from 7 sites (compared with 2 in 2007), we are looking for volunteers to help undertake 1-2 visits to each known Duke of Burgundy site during May 2010, with a view to an annual survey for this species. If you can help, please be in touch. We hope the information will be used to help prevent this species disappearing from Kent.

Alfred Gay spotted two fresh Duke of Burgundy butterflies at Denge Woods on the 13th August 2009. Second brood "Dukes" are a rarity in this country, though a regular occurrence in southern Europe.



Moths Update

Moths of note, recorded in 2009, included *Anania funebris*, the Red Data Book species' Olive Crescent, Triangle and Sub-angled Wave and the Rannoch Looper, normally found only in Scotland.

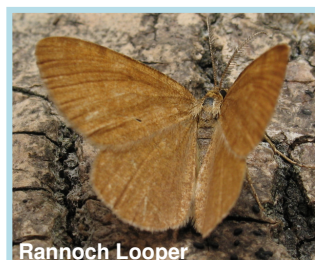
Searches for Olive Crescent in 2008 and 2009 have found five previously unknown woodlands to be supporting this rare species, whose larvae feed on dead and dying leaves of Oak, Beech and Sweet Chestnut.



Anania funebris



Olive Crescent



Rannoch Looper



Triangle

For up-to-date information on the Denge Woods Project, please visit:

www.dengewoods.org

A big thank you to those of you who have taken part in the project so far! Volunteers have made this project possible, and to date have spent over 250 days worth of time helping the project, including collecting a whopping 8000 butterfly and moth records, running workshops and events, and much, much more.

In order to allow your records to be passed onto landowners, help determine management and be included in the 2005-2009 national monitoring scheme atlas, **please send in any outstanding 2009 survey records as soon as you can.**

Lend a helping hand... and help carry out important practical work to improve butterfly and moth habitats at Bonsai Bank, Denge Woods.



Saturday 5th December, 10am – 4pm

Sunday 7th February, 10am – 4pm

No experience necessary! We need your

help!



Drab Looper

Julian Russell



Duke of Burgundy

John Bogie



Dingy Skipper

Fran Thompson



Anania funebris

Nigel Jarman

Meet at Denge Woods, southernmost entrance on Pennypot Lane (TR099501). Please bring a packed lunch and drink, wear warm, outdoor clothing, strong footwear (steel toe capped boots if you have them), work gloves and waterproofs in case of rain. Ensure your tetanus immunisation is up to date. Under 16s are permitted if accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

It is very helpful to know in advance if you plan on coming along; so please call Fran beforehand.

Work will help Dingy Skipper, Duke of Burgundy, Drab Looper, *Anania funebris* and many more species.

Kent Wildlife Trust run regular Wednesday and Sunday work parties at various wonderful sites for wildlife in the East Kent Downs, for details see www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/east-kent/ for details.

Events



Butterfly Walk at Wye Festival



Moth Trapping at Yockletts Bank



Moth morning with Wye School



Butterfly walk at Godmersham Park (Kent Downs Countryside Day)

We continued to hold many enjoyable events through the summer; butterfly walks and talks, school visits, ID workshops with BTCV and new volunteers, and the popular roving moth trapping sessions.

The 2010 programme of events will be available before the spring.



For all enquiries contact Fran Thompson, Denge Woods Project Officer
01303 815171 or 07918 767634 or email ftompson@butterfly-conservation.org

