



Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society

Promoting the Study of Insects in the North West

Founded - 1877

Charities Registration No.: 508729



Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

June 2007
Number 1019

The newsletter is available to download in colour from the NWMoths group pages at www.yahoo.com

Welcome!

Well, the middle of the year is with us and hopefully everyone is out doing what we all enjoy – recording and studying insects. Mind you the late May Bank Holiday has lived up to tradition and as I write this it is bitterly cold, raining and blowing hard. More like Mid October! As always a plea – the newsletter is always short of material. While you are out and about this year give a thought to writing up some of your activities and sending it to me for future publication. All contributions gratefully received!

Adrian Wander

Diary Dates

Dates for the 2007 Indoor Programme are

- Tue 16 Oct** Reviews of the 2007 season—Lepidoptera.
- Tue 20 Nov** Reviews of the 2007 season—Other orders.
- Tue 18 Dec** Slides (Photographic) and Christmas Social, refreshments provided by members.

All meetings are held in the Frodsham Community Centre and open to the public. Guests are very welcome to attend. It looks like a very interesting and varied programme and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to these meetings.

The Dragonfly Atlas Project for Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Merseyside

An interesting new project has been developed which will be of interest to many members of the LCES, especially those like myself with an interest in Odonata. The Dragonfly Atlas Project for Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Merseyside held its first meeting to gauge interest at the Lancashire Wildlife Trust's HQ in Cuerden Valley Park, Chorley at 13.00 on Saturday 20 January.

Steve White and Graham Jones were in the chair with 33 interested parties attending.



At the meeting many topics relating to the recording and identification of Dragonflies in the Lancashire, GM and Merseyside areas were covered, with

Steve and Graham explaining a little of the historic position of recordings in the area and the obvious potential to vastly increase our local knowledge through this project.

The aims of the survey were stated as

To record the: -

- 1. Breeding distribution of all species.**
- 2. Abundance**
- 3. Flight periods.**
- 4. Records of migrants.**

To help volunteers, a website has been developed by Dr Richard Burkmar, North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager, which covers information on how to take part in the project, recording forms, news, links and a very useful section on identification aimed at the newcomer to the Order.

"THE DRAGONFLY ATLAS PROJECT FOR LANCASHIRE, GREATER MANCHESTER AND NORTH MERSEYSIDE IS NOW UP AND RUNNING UNTIL 2009 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE FAUNA SOCIETY AND GREATER MANCHESTER BIODIVERSITY PROJECT. THE AIM IS TO RECORD THE DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND BREEDING STATUS OF ALL DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES IN OUR REGION AND THEN PUBLISH A BOOK SUMMARISING THIS INFORMATION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ATLAS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN 2010."

(<http://www.dragonflies.org.uk>)

The website can be found at this address: - <http://www.dragonflies.org.uk>

I hope this report will encourage our members who record in the area concerned to participate in this worthwhile project.

Finally, I'd like to thank Steve and Graham for organising such an enjoyable meeting, and also thanks to the staff of LWT for the use of their facilities. It was amazing to see such a turn out, for what might be regarded by some as a niche interest within a less than optimum geographical area! It was heart-warming to see that so many people do not see Odonata recording around Lancashire and Greater Manchester as a "Trivial Pursuit".

Bob Letsche Hon. Sec.

LCES Web pages hosted by rECOrd-LRC (A New Forum Facility)



Background

For a few months now the LCES pages have been kindly hosted on the rECOrd-LRC website by Steve McWilliam and his team. With the help of Apirak Lunla (Luck) the original web pages were moved from the old host website to the new website and the change brought with it a new



bright format and clear look to the pages. Navigation throughout the Societies web pages has been greatly improved and members might also like to try some of the many facilities that have been built into the rECOrd website. Feedback from members who have already browsed around the pages has been very positive, and after a demonstration session with Luck to be instructed on how to maintain the Society's pages, I was mightily impressed too!

The host website can be found at this address: - <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>

To navigate to the LCES web pages use the menus under the MEMBERS tab to find HOSTING GROUPS and then LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY as shown here on the right. This will take you to the introduction page containing Background and History information.



This "Home" page has navigation buttons to take you to the Society's other web pages and all pages throughout the website have the Tabs to navigate around



other parts of the rECOrd website. The LCES buttons will take you to information pages on Membership, Meetings & Events, Meeting Minutes, Society Officers, County



Recorders, Short Papers, Newsletters, a Photo Gallery and to useful Links. The information contained in these pages is being updated as an on going project, with essential information generally already completed. Having the facility to update our own web pages has made it easier and quicker to add and change items and later this year other pages will be brought up to date and more information added.

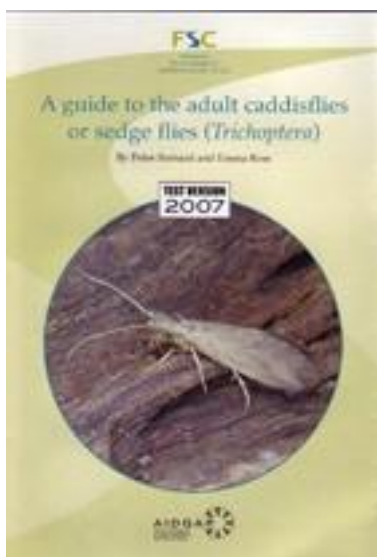
The Forum

At the April indoor meeting, Paul Hillyer suggested that a good addition to the website facilities would be an LCES “Bulletin Board” or “Discussion Forum” which would be mainly, although not necessarily exclusively, for LCES members’ use. Paul thought that this would be an ideal way for members to keep in touch over the summer and post sighting news. The forum was implemented in record(!) time by Luck and can be found from the NEWS TAB at the top of any page, then under BULLETIN BOARDS, you’ll find LCES at the end of the list.

I hope the members will find this useful and please note that guests may post messages too. Also, don’t forget that the rECORD-LRC website has many useful pages and a very well worked out on-line data input system “RODIS” to allow you to input your sightings easily. Have a good look around all the pages and contact me if you have any suggestions. Finally, a big thanks goes to Steve and Luck for building this for the Society.

Bob Letsche Hon. Sec.

Caddis – at last a reason not to discard them! Free guide to adult caddisflies available



Peter Barnard and Emma Ross of the Natural History Museum are in the final stages of preparation of a key to all species.

In the meantime, to encourage people to start looking at these neglected insects, they have produced a test version of “A guide to the adult caddisflies or sedge flies (Trichoptera)”, which includes a simplified key to adults at the family level, as well as colour photos of many of the common species.

After testing and amendment, this Guide will be published as a cheap and accessible way into the group. To get your free copy of the test version contact:- Publications, The Annexe, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1DU or

publications@field-studies-council.org

And...if you get really enthusiastic keep the material for the arrival of the species key in a year or so’s time - or if you can’t wait, then feel free to contact me to see how I can help you.

Ian Wallace, National Caddis Recording Scheme Organiser

COED NANT GAIN

(The Wood in the Glen of Princess Gain)

An Invite to Visit

Back at the April Indoor meeting, our guest, Iliff Simey, invited the members of the Society to visit his ancient woodland near Cilcain in the Clwydian Hills of North Wales Coed Nant Gain (SJ186651).

Here is some information below provided by Iliff, he has also provided a database (Access) of the fauna recorded on his site and an electronic copy of his leaflet. Anyone who wishes a copy (250 KB) of the database or the leaflet (200 KB) can email me.

Due to the problems of finding a day to suit all with decent weather, the Council decided to suggest that if you would like to arrange a visit to Coed Nant Gain then please contact Iliff directly and arrange a mutually convenient time.

Bob Letsche Hon. Sec.

From Iliff Simey

Woodland Interpretive Centre, Coed Nant Gain, Kilkyn Road, Pontnewydd, Mold CH7 5NJ WALES.

Tel/ Answerphone: 0 1352 741 039

email: iliff48@btopenworld.com

Pioneering Natural Forest Practice through the restoration of holistically healthy forests

Greetings. I have been giving some thought as to how a field visit by the LCES might be focused. To assist I attach a copy of my Fauna database that you may see just how under represented is the entomology... except for moths, butterflies and some two-winged species. It would be greatly appreciated if we could -a) map out the insect groups relevant to the woodland for my education; b) seek and record a selection of these, e.g. sawflies; c) correct/complete names of species already entered on the database; and d) discuss what I might do to further improve the diversity of the woodland insects.

I have very limited shelter here for inclement weather (at present). There is however a beautiful woodland campfire amphitheatre with logs for seats where we can sit round. I can provide a limited number of cups of tea and as your group may be a bit large for my catering perhaps people might like to bring a thermos and cake type contribution to lay out. I will in any case light the fire as the smoke is half the magic!

I am free anytime any day. Please choose a date that is best for yourselves and the insects. This is a SSSI and has just about every designation going except National Nature Reserve. It tends not to have great rarities but rather is typical of what was once common here. Being on limestone with water it is quite species rich and diverse with quite a high count. I would welcome the opportunity to show you how I am pioneering (in this country) the restoration of the holistically healthy forest, that is the trees as part of the forest community. I really need to understand a bit more about the role of the insects in this and so if anyone can contribute relevant articles, essays, references (especially internet), etc pertaining to holistic approach, I'd be very grateful.

Do not underestimate how long it takes to explore this place- including beetle houses, artificial hollow trees and hugely increasing the amount of dead and decaying wood. I would like to suggest - on arrival I lead a short introductory tour of the valley, we then have coffee round the fire followed by each person going off to the place they have best identified for recording, returning to the fire for lunch and reporting what they found?? In the afternoon (sliding time scale) we could visit the church in Cilcain village (1 mile away cross country) which has a truly magnificent mediaeval roof, graphically demonstrating how rather more productive the local woodlands must have been to supply the considerable number of oak trees required. It could not now be done... such is the disastrous state of our woods and forests.

Best wishes, iliff

PS: If you care to contribute something, sunshine is greatly appreciated. Likewise, if the group feels able, a contribution for Tree Aid is most welcome - www.treeaid.org.uk

Contacts and Web Sites

- The Lancashire and Cheshire Entomology Society (LCES) can be found at: <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces>
- Lancs. & Chesh. Ent. Soc. can be contacted through The Gen. Sec., Bob Letsche, 46 Rossett Road, Crosby, Merseyside, L23 3AW, Tel: 0151 931 4376, email: bob.letsche@blueyonder.co.uk or, for subscriptions and membership, through The Acting Hon. Treasurer Adrian Wander, 16 Bramhalls Park, Anderton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6AH or at aw371@yahoo.co.uk
- **rECOrd** – The Local Records Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Runcorn, Warrington and the Wirral can be found at: <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>
- All records of macro and micro moths for Cheshire (VC58) should be submitted to the Cheshire County Macromoth Recorder, Shane Farrell shane.farrell@ntlworld.com or via post to 15 Westover, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 3ER
- Records of micros in Cheshire can also be sent to Steve Hind by e-mail to: steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk
- Lancashire Microlepidoptera Recorder and LMG Newsletter Editor: Steve Palmer, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR4 0AH. 01772 861570 or so.palmer12@btopenworld.com
Any enquiries about field meetings and other events, offers of articles for the Moth Group Newsletter etc can also be directed to the above address.
- Lancashire Macro moth Recorder Chris Darbyshire, 48 Tennyson Drive, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7EJ. 01695 622079
Lancashire Moth Records can be sent to either of the above. Please send Mapmate files to Steve (CUK is 1b8). If recorders would like a written reply acknowledging receipt of their records or other correspondence, a stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated by both Chris and Steve
- Records from Shropshire should be sent to Peter Boardman, 7 High Street, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, SY10 7RP or e-mail at peperouda@btinternet.com
- Submission of all biological records can be made to **rECOrd** at: manager@record-lrc.co.uk
- Butterfly Conservation can be found at: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>

- The Lancashire Moth Group has a web page at <http://www.lancashire-moths.org>
- The Cheshire Moth Group also has a web page at <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/cm/cmg.htm>
- I can be contacted regarding field trips, items for the next newsletter etc. at: a.wander@dl.ac.uk or by post to 16 Bramhalls Park, Anderton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6AH