

Chequered Skipper Weekend 30 & 31 May 2009 at Glasdrum National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Chequered Skipper is a Priority Species and is the only UK butterfly species unique to Scotland since it went extinct in England in 1976. And it is a beautiful little butterfly full of character with its golden speckled wings and chubby body. The distribution of the Chequered Skipper is very limited being confined to the most northern parts of Argyll and parts of Lochaber around Fort William where it is generally found at the bottom of slopes near lochs and rivers. However, some individuals were seen at Glasdrum NNR at 300 m in 2008.

Glasdrum NNR is currently managed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for Chequered Skipper, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and other butterflies with regular scrub clearance along the lower wayleave and glades of various sizes on the lower slopes. To aid future woodland management at Glasdrum NNR and other Chequered Skipper sites, it would be useful to know the range of size of woodland glades Chequered Skipper uses and whether population density is dependent on woodland glade size and also to determine the altitude range of Chequered Skipper populations and how population density changes with altitude.

During the Chequered Skipper weekend, the position of each Chequered Skipper seen will be recorded with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices which will enable the data to be plotted on a map. Use of GPS is a good method of recording some of Scotland's rarer butterflies which have a limited distribution and training in the use of GPS to record butterflies will be provided at Glasdrum NNR on Saturday 30 May. Then participants will be split into groups to survey the different woodland glades at Glasdrum NNR and nearby Chequered Skipper sites. If you book accommodation overnight Saturday/Sunday 30/31 May in Oban, Glencoe, Fort William or at the Oban Camping & Caravan site at nearby Benderloch, then you can head off independently on the Sunday to search for Chequered Skipper at other historical sites.

The Chequered Skipper weekend is a great opportunity for branch members to participate in this research, see this rare and beautiful Scottish butterfly, meet other members and get out and about in Scotland's great scenery.

Saturday/Sunday 30/31 May

Chequered Skipper Weekend

[Glasdrum NNR](#), Loch Creran, Argyll between Appin & Benderloch
NN002455.

Emptying moth traps from 8am Saturday which is optional with the main event commencing at 10am with a talk about Chequered Skipper and how to use GPS to record butterflies before heading off to record Chequered Skipper about 10.30am. Recording on the Sunday is optional and needs to be organised by participants but a list of historical Chequered Skipper sites will be provided.

Bring waterproof clothing, stout footwear & packed lunch (portable GPS units will be provided but if you have one, please bring it along).

This is a free event but please contact SNH in advance if you intend to come along.

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