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This newsletter will inform you about...

- Unusual insect records made this Summer
- New CBDC Publications and web pages
- Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Networks
- Solway Nature Network volunteers
- Beautiful Burial Grounds

September 2021



Dear Recorder

We hope you have enjoyed your summer recording. We have missed meeting you on our recording days and we are looking forward to our Summer 2022 programme. However, CBDC staff have not been sitting with their feet up. Moustafa has continued working on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy maps, whilst juggling data enquiries from consultants and creating new geological site maps for Cumbria GeoConservation. As well as processing 2020 data, Stuart has been busy with online and field based training events. From helping farmers to

identify flowers in the north, to exploring churchyards in the south with new recorders, and explaining Cumbria's biodiversity to trainee Blue Badge tourist guides.

CBDC would like to thank all of those that responded to the Recorder and Data User questionnaires sent out earlier this year. We had a good response. Overall CBDC seems to be getting most things right. However, as well as the compliments, we received many ideas on how to improve our services to you. So, over the coming months I will be drafting a new business plan incorporating your feedback.

We have also missed our office volunteers and are pleased that Tullie House Museum has recently confirmed that we can invite them back in. On that note, I am now off to tidy up the office to welcome their return.

Best wishes
Debs, CBDC Manager

Summer Fliers



Water Stick Insect – *Ranatra linearis*

Tabitha Turner sat and watched this unusual insect for half an hour at North Walney NNR on the 31 May 2020. There have only been 2 or 3 previous sightings of this true bug in Cumbria which are the most northerly UK records.

Blackneck - *Lygephila pastinum*

This Blackneck moth was recorded by new moth recorder Peter Ward at Thurstonfield on the 10th July. It is generally found on grassy habitats where the caterpillar feeds on Tufted Vetch. This is the most northerly record for Cumbria if not the UK. CBDC has received a few other records of Blackneck this year and has around 35 records of this species in its database (since 2000).

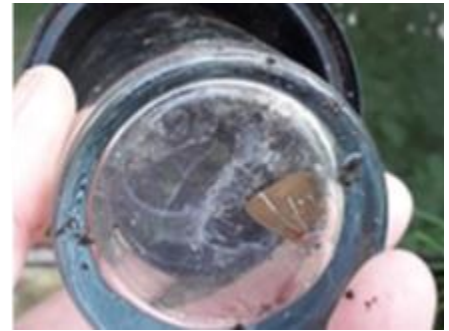


Red-tailed Cuckoo Bee - *Bombus rupestris*

Its never too late to send CBDC a record. Steve Daniels submitted this image taken near Cockermouth on 19 May 2019 to the Get Cumbria Buzzing project. The rare (Notable B) bee is a parasite of the red-tailed bumble bee. It is still an unusual species but becoming more common in the county.

White-letter Hairstreak – *Tanyptera astrata*

A White-letter Hairstreak was caught on 22 May at the Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange Over Sands, a new site for this of butterfly. It is difficult to record as it spends its time in the canopy of elm trees where the eggs are laid on the terminal bud and the caterpillars feed on the flower buds and new leaves. Thank you to Tony Saunders who sent us this image via the CBDC Facebook page showing the white W mark across the underside of its wings.



And finally...

We would like to thank Tullie House Curator Melanie Crosby who has been looking after a small colony of wasps that started building a nest in her house. Wisely she moved them to a shed but has continued to enjoy watching them and feed them an occasional teaspoon of jam.

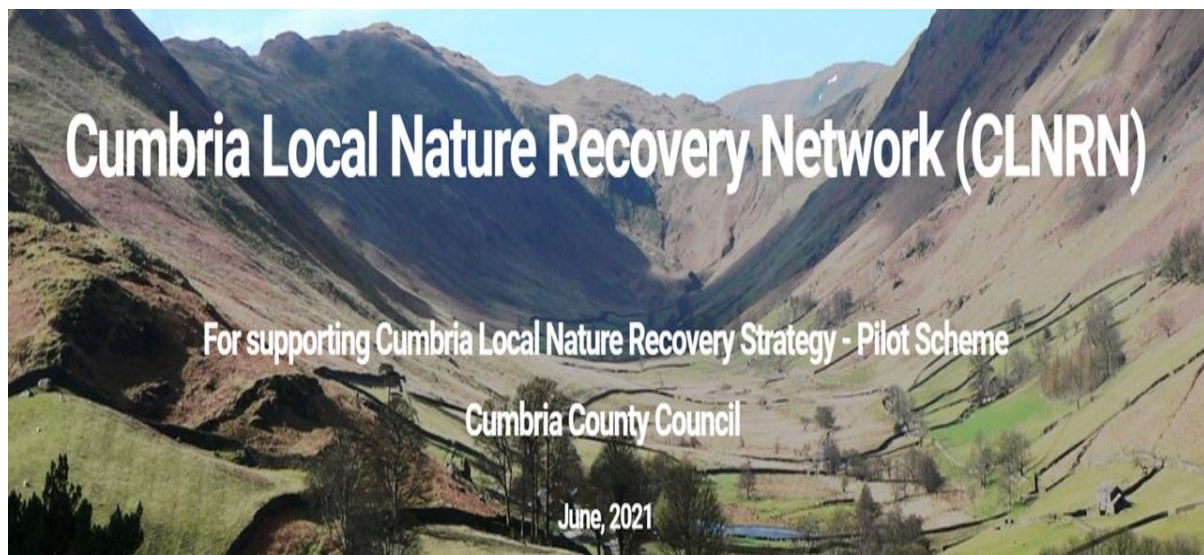


New: Publications and Wildlife Reports

CBDC has recently published 2 new Occasional publications. Visit our website for these and other [Occasional Publications](#).

- No 6. Beetles Check List
- No 7. List of Birds of Cumbria

Many of our readers will be aware that each year the Cumbria Bird Club publishes Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria. Sadly, due to limited space, not all Wildlife Reports make it to the printed edition. To make sure this valuable information is not lost CBDC has created a new page on its website where you will be able to find their reports. We look forward to receiving more reports from you. [Wildlife Reports](#).



Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Last year CBDC informed you about the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (CLNRS) pilot. Working alongside the members of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership data group, Moustafa Eweda CBDC's Data Officer collated many habitat datasets and then modelled Cumbria's Nature Recovery Network maps. You can find out more about the work and explore the interactive maps by visiting the [CLNRS website](#).

The CLNRS process was designed to be habitat based. However, the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership identified short comings that had the potential to harm some protected species. To address this CBDC invited county verifiers and experts to get involved. Staff at DEFRA developing the national scheme have taken a keen interest in this approach and we would like to extend our thanks to all of the volunteers that gave their time to attend evening workshops, send in long species lists and reviewed LNRS outcome spreadsheets. This work is by no means finished but it is pleasing to CBDC and CLNP that your efforts could influence CLNRSs across the country.



Solway Nature Network - the end?

In 2018 CBDC received funding from Cumbria Community Foundation and the Robin Rigg Community Fund to train up volunteers to record the Solway coast and plain. CBDC ran a programme of 12 events, introducing the volunteers to different habitats and a range of plants and animals. Other than the birds and natterjack toads, the area is surprisingly under recorded. Through formal events and individual recording the volunteers added over 1,000 records to the CBDC database. Like so many events last year the end of project celebration was

cancelled. So, CBDC was pleased to catch up with some of the volunteers in August at the Maryport Coastal Park where their botany skills were tested by the habitat improvements being made for pollinators. This was very apt as some of the recorders have got involved in the Get Cumbria Buzzing project and everyone was pleased to see several small blue butterflies. As the project officially ended last year it was great to hear that the volunteers are still recording (Stuart reports that he has received a further 1,000+ records) and that they are keen to continue visiting sites in the area next year. Rather than an ending is this the beginning of a new recording group?



Beautiful Burial Grounds

The Beautiful Burial Ground Project is an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) that aims to inspire and support people to record the biodiversity and heritage of burial grounds. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund sessions are run around the country to encourage people to start to develop the skills to become recorders. On the 1st July Stuart Colgate from CBDC teamed up with the project to run two sessions in the churchyards of Ulverston and Osmotherley in south Cumbria looking at how to identify wild flowers and plants. Although not exhaustive surveys, species identified were recorded during the sessions which will be added via iRecord to the [NBN Burial Ground Portal](#) and help to inform future management of both sites for biodiversity. Ulverston Parish Church were busy marking out transects the following week with their new information to help them to decide on next summer's cutting plan.

The Beautiful Burial Ground Project would like to encourage all recorders to consider recording in burial grounds. In many cases they are the final remnants of ancient grassland in a landscape and can be home to species that are no longer common in our countryside. We are collecting records, including historic records, from all types of burial ground, churchyard, chapel yard and cemetery on all types of biodiversity. For details on how to submit your records to the project please [visit our webpage](#). If you would like to know more about the Beautiful Burial Project or the wider work of Caring for God's Acre please visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk.

Georgina Sharp, Community Coordinator, CfGA



Busy Bee Lockdown Recorders

The Covid 19 lockdown did not stop the Get Cumbria Buzzing Project getting people involved in recording Cumbria's pollinators. One of the aims of the project is to produce a Cumbria Pollinator Atlas at the end of the Project in 2022. In preparation Stuart Colgate CBDC's Recording Officer has been gathering together data on behalf of the project including data from Butterfly Conservation, Cumbria Moth group, iRecord and individual recorder spreadsheets. In the first year of the project CBDC collated 18,000 records. In 2020 the second year of the project, Stuart has collated 30,000 records. This is an amazing achievement and reflects the hard work of the Get Cumbria Buzzing team and volunteers and the fact that recorders kept themselves busy during CoVid-19 lockdown by doing what they love best – recording!