# European Conservation Action Network

# EuCAN Community Interest Company



**EuCAN Somerset Volunteers Group**

**Programme of tasks for spring 2017**

**Wednesday April 5th** Fencing at Lyons Gate

Today we will be building a new stretch of fencing adjacent to the road using chestnut posts and strainers. We need to do some preparation of the site by cutting back bramble and hazel, then dig holes for the strainers and bang in the posts before fixing the wire. Meet at Lyons Gate at 8.30am, bring lunch and a mug, and working gloves. It is a lovely site - and we are always assured of a warm welcome there (not to mention the cake!).

Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=1ibt8ISfCB-NZqdeMDtV58tVN7jw&ll=50.84773203805767%2C-2.4869548808426316&z=16>

**Tuesday April 11th** Construction day at Pollbridge Stables, Bishops Caundle. Today we are going to have a construction day in the new workshop at Pollbridge stables - putting together birdboxes and batboxes and creating benches for the site. There will also be the opportunity to have a go at creating items with the pole-lathe. All welcome.

There will also be gardening jobs to do if the weather allows.

Meet between 8.30 and 9.30, bring your packed lunch, work gloves and mug.

Map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=1yxk6XZVdqBVjkV4m6mmAC6jui1A&ll=50.91166538749364%2C-2.452080799999976&z=18

**Tuesdays April 18th and 25th** Montacute House (NT) Today we will be building tree guards to protect some of the ancient and veteran trees that the National Trust are responsible for at Montacute House. Meet at 9.15am in the grass overflow to the public carpark. Bring workgloves, packed lunch and a mug for refreshments.

Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&hl=en&authuser=0&authuser=0&mid=1ddXQ6CmKC9rK_jjgf-Uy7I_I0F4&ll=50.95030098628992%2C-2.715053725395137&z=18>

**Tuesday May 2nd** Charminster Community Field (just north of Dorchester)

Today we will be raking off and burning cut material from an area that we will resow with wildflower mix. Meet at 9am in the field at the southern end. Bring workgloves, packed lunch and a mug for refreshments.Please let me know if you can give a lift or need one.

Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=1GPkH1zOBoZcFJ1AK9inO6avRycA&ll=50.73890464026545%2C-2.457802000000015&z=18>

Ring 07981 776767 if you need further directions.

On Friday May 19th a group from the Dorset branch of Butterfly Conservation will be carrying out a wildflower and butterfly survey of the area - see <http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com/events/>

**Wednesday May 3rd** Barrington Hill - Green-winged Orchids.

The EuCAN Somerset group have carried out several work days at Barrington Hill National Nature Reserve during the last year, clearing blackthorn thickets, pollarding willows beside the pond, repairing fences and rebuilding a footbridge.

We will be helping Natural England with their annual count of the Green-winged Orchids at this National Nature Reserve. The day will start at 10am and continue into the afternoon, but join us at any time through the day. It would help us with the planning for the day if you could let us know if you hope to join in.

The visit will be led by Gwil Wren, one of the EuCAN directors who lives in Somerset and knows the site well. The meeting point will be the layby on the Horton to Bickenhall road at map reference: ST297168. Google Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=zBaxRqazHmEA.kPvlv30X466M>

It would help us with planning if you could let us know if you are aiming to join the walk. Contact:[gwil@eucan.org.uk](mailto:gwil@eucan.org.uk) .

**And dates further ahead for your diary:**

**Thursday May 25th**  Butterfly Walk on Cerne Downs north of Cerne Abbas. We did a lot of really good habitat management work here in the winter with our Cerne Valley group and it will be interesting to see if any of the target butterfly species can be found there. We shall be searching especially for scarce species like Marsh Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy as the habitat is ideal. We will meet in the carpark opposite the Village Hall in Cerne Abbas at 11am, have a picnic lunch and aim to finish around 3pm.

Please let me know if you would like your name added to the ‘sharing’ list for the EuCAN CIC Google Calendar.

Nigel Spring.

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