

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 05-Jan-20 06:30 PM GMT

8th June 2019 Taynish NNR Argyll and Bute.

Quick resume on the rest of my year.

My fascination for the butterfly populations on the West coast of Scotland was still inspiring me to get up there. Marsh Fritillaries was my intended goal for this trip, Mountain Ringlet and Large Heath were also on the radar.

Drove up over night to arrive in Knapdale sometime around midday to glorious conditions. We stayed in Tayvallich, just a brisk stroll from the entrance to Taynish NNR. Taynish is a place I have always wanted to go, I knew there were Marsh Fritillaries here but that was about it, just some record of good numbers somewhere on the reserve, which I'd completely underestimated the size of....nethertheless after pitching the tent and making sure wifey was comfortable I was off.

Followed the track straight into the reserve, past the car park and started looking, plenty of suitable habitat for Marshies, kept following this track for about a mile, scouring the rough heath/bog either side but not much flying. Near perfect conditions, if anything was here I would see it. It wasn't until I hit a bit of higher ground with oaks and birch's around me that I found my first butterflies of the trip and joy Small Pearl-bordered's, a few just gliding up and down a short cleared ride in the oaks. Occasionally scooting down the bog and the end of the ride to nectar on the Ragged Robin that was growing there. That was fun, and booties 😊



Taynish NNR



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered



Taynish NNR Woodland ride.



Taynish NNR Bog at end of ride



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered 2



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered 3
Also the odd Small Heath and one of those cool click beetles



Taynish NNR Small Heath



Taynish NNR Click Beetle

No Marsh Fritillaries here but those SPB's done me just fine.
The weather close in the next day,so was unable to resume my hunt.

Cheers

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 05-Jan-20 07:56 PM GMT

10th June 2019 Taynish NNR Argyll and Bute

Missed a day when it rained most of it.....but the next day all was bright and lovely again, if a bit blustery.

We walked up over the hill-top on the reserve today which afforded fabulous views of the surrounding area from it.A clear top just with banks of Bracken, but too windy to see if there were any butterflies around.



A top Taynish

Back down to the lower,sheltered,parts of the reserve and checked in on the SPB's again where this time a barely flowering Knapweed was centre of attention,just a case of waiting for them to arrive.



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary 2

Carried on down the track which ends at a big Estate House I think, never got that far!, A small meadow appeared out of the trees and this went all the way down to loch, Marsh Fritillaries?, after a good look round in lovely conditions I could only locate one Small Copper.



Taynish NNR Small Copper

Then followed a cattle track out to the coastal strip of pasture here, about 30 yards wide and 100 yds long, quite unique I would think. Bordered between the Oak forest and the Loch. Then my first Marsh Fritillary took to the wing in front of me, I followed it along the strip until it settles in a more sheltered location.



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary habitat.



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary.



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary habitat.

Counted about 8 in all, not many but good. They were just over their prime but lovely all the same, the habitat though, immense.



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary.2



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary.3
Also Green veined White here



Taynish NNR Green Veined White
Some of those Rhagium Longhorns around.



Taynish Rhagium
But the Marshies stole the show for today



Taynish NNR Marsh fritillary.4
An angry Whitethroat saw me off, too close to the nest methinks.



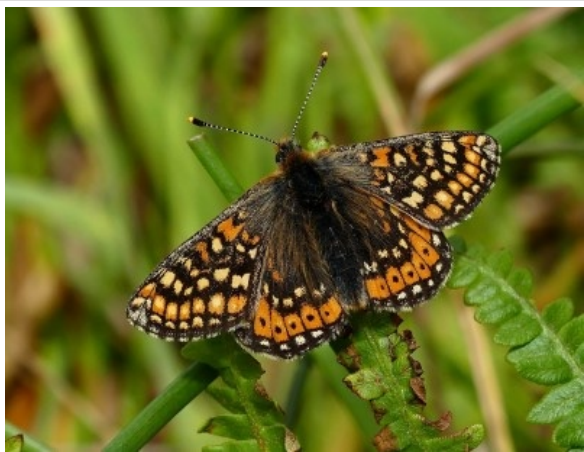
Taynish NNR Whitethroat
Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

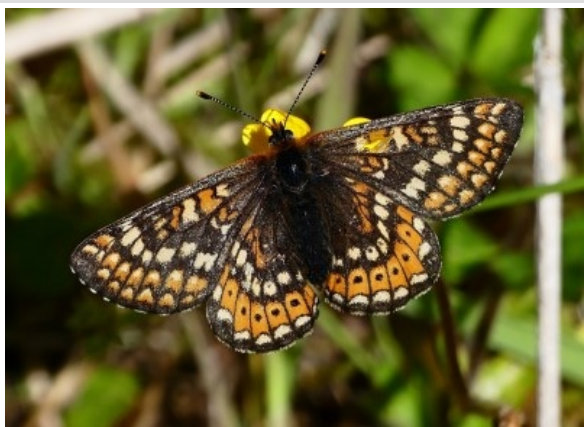
by Buchan Boy, 05-Jan-20 09:07 PM GMT

11th June 2019 Taynish NNR Argyll and Bute

Today, in limited light I had a good scour around the rest of the reserve, deeply wooded cliffs, open areas of heath and rough pasture and coastal salt marsh/meadows but was unable to locate anymore Marsh Fritillaries in any other area, my time was limited. However I did go back to colony I knew just to see if I could see any newer individuals, a couple more to add to the diary. Beautifully marked up here.



Taynish NNR Marsh Fritillary



Taynish NNR Marsh Fritillary 2
Another Small Copper



Taynish NNR Small Copper

I said my thanks and headed back into the heart of the reserve and the Small Pearl-bordered's were beginning to show up in other areas, and in the sun/shower pattern of the weather, roost/fly, roost fly, just keeping an eye on them when the clouds obscured the sun, they do disappear quick. Got the shots. These are also amazingly marked.



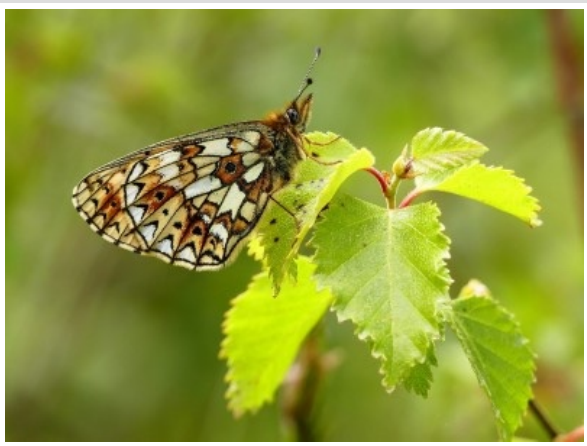
Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary2



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary3



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary4
Any lingering doubts over ID were cleared up with the underside shots.



Taynish NNR Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary5
Also it was nature art time here with some rather strange artworks around the site, this one nearly made me jump as I stumbled my way around, good stuff.



Taynish art.

Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 05-Jan-20 10:31 PM GMT

A cracking set of images Dave – those Marshies have a noticeably darker ground colour, they look almost black with the chequered markings and those Small Pearls are lush – there's one in there with reduced spotting that I reckon could be good for an aberrant 😊🇬🇧🇬🇧 Aren't the Scottish Small Pearls a separate race and is that not the case for the Marshies as well (or am I getting confused with eh Irish Marshies?)? Either way they're great to see in the cold dark of winter 😊😄🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 12-Jan-20 10:30 AM GMT

It's a beautiful part of Britain when the sun is shining, that's for sure, Dave. Even better when it contains Small Pearl Bordered and Marsh Fritillaries like those.

Wonderful sequence. The scenery is quite stunning.