



Common Blue

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Dear Peebles Community Trust

Purchase of Eshiels Long Wood

I am writing on behalf of the East Scotland branch of Butterfly Conservation; the branch area includes all of the Scottish Borders as well as regions further north.

We are fully supportive of the initiative of Peebles Community Trust in their Community Assets Transfer Scheme proposal for purchasing Eshiels Long Wood. The wood is the **only** known site in Scotland with a living population of the Currant Shoot Borer moth (*Lampronia capitella*), the colony of which was documented and verified in 2017. Across the UK this moth has greatly declined and is now rare, resulting in its being a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Therefore we think it is very exciting and a great opportunity to bring the wood into community management, especially with the development of a management plan that includes an explicit objective of conserving the moth through protecting and promoting its favoured habitat.

The discovery of the Currant Shoot Borer by one of our volunteer members is of national importance and the on-going involvement of local Butterfly Conservation members will contribute to the success of the management plan and especially work to improve the prospects for this moth.

We very much look forward to hearing a positive response to your purchase proposal.

Yours sincerely

Dr Barry Prater
Butterfly Conservation East Scotland