

## Volunteer fieldworkers required to locate and record threatened butterfly

- *Would you like to take part in a survey of one of Merseyside's special butterflies?*
- *Can you give a few days of your time over July and August 2010?*

If the answer to both of these questions is yes, then read on because we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us look for this butterfly, and other special insects, as part of Merseyside BioBank's **Discovering Sefton's Grayling Butterfly** project.

Nationally, the Grayling is considered to be under threat because of habitat loss. Graylings love dry, dusty places and are especially fond of coastal habitats like sand dunes, salt-marshes, under-cliffs and cliff-tops. Inland they occur on heathland and other open, dry areas such as old quarries or former industrial sites. All of these habitats are being lost at worrying rates.

Conservationists are so concerned about the future of the Grayling that it is the subject of a UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the organisation *Butterfly Conservation* has given it a high conservation priority. In our area it has been singled out for special attention by the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan.



Photograph of Grayling © Diane Miller

You can play a part in securing the future of this butterfly (and other special invertebrates) on the Sefton Coast by helping us to pinpoint its whereabouts here.

### **Volunteers duties**

Volunteers will be asked to take part in the survey during July and August to coincide with the flying period of the Grayling. You will operate in teams of two, looking for the Grayling and a few other special insects – including the Northern Dune Tiger Beetle (a spectacular beetle), the Forester (a rare day-flying moth) and the Dark Green Fritillary (another special butterfly found on our coast) – recording their whereabouts according to a defined survey protocol.

Volunteers will be trained to identify the Grayling and other insects, use the survey protocol and equipment such as hand-held GPS units.

### **Interested?**

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Rich Burkmar at Merseyside BioBank.

**Email:** [rich.burkmar@merseysidebiobank.org.uk](mailto:rich.burkmar@merseysidebiobank.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 1051 7374153