**Look out for butterflies at all points along the Trail - these may include Brimstone, Comma, Common Blue, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Orange-tip, Painted Lady, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White. Other species tend to prefer more specialised habitats, and these are mentioned in the text.**

**Photographs not to scale. L= Left R=Right**
**Numbers in red (1-11) refer to points on the map overleaf.**

**1** The Trail starts at the Eastern Esplanade car park. Walk eastwards along the Esplanade (this is also the Coastal Path). Between Wheelers Bay and Horseshoe Bay, look along the base of the cliffs for the GLANVILLE FRITILLARY. In April, 2010, CLOUDED YELLOW **1** was observed here. Continue along the Esplanade, ignoring the Coastal Path sign which points north up stone steps. **2** At the end of the Esplanade, keep to the northern edge of the shingle, then almost immediately go L up the slope along a rough path. This slope has a range of butterflies, including the WALL. **2** Keep straight on, ignoring paths to the L and R, but follow the path where it curves L slightly away from the coast, and the Coastal Path is soon rejoined. Approaching The Landslip, look for the SPECKLED WOOD **3**. **3** The "Bonchurch Shute" sign-post marks an area close to where can be seen the WHITE ADMIRAL **4**. Leave the Coastal Path at the next sign-post, heading L towards the Devil's Chimney. Climb the steps through the Undercliff. At the top, keep the wall on your R, then just before a stone shelter, turn L up steps into the garden of Smugglers Haven Cafe. Follow the southern edge of the garden and descend steps on the R, with a stone wall again on your R. Go past another stone shelter on the L. After a few metres, follow the path to the L as it veers away from the wall. Go through the car park and cross the main road. **4** Go through the gate and bear L along the lower slope of Nansen Hill, then through another gate onto Bonchurch Down, one of the best sites, not just on the IOW, but also in southern England, for the ADONIS BLUE. Other species to be seen are BROWN ARGUS **5**, CHALKHILL BLUE **6**, SMALL COPPER **7**, SMALL HEATH **8**, DINGY SKIPPER **9**, LARGE SKIPPER **10**. In 2010, after a lapse of several years, GRAYLING **11** was also recorded here. Continue west along the lower slope of Bonchurch Down, entering the holm oak woodland via the lower of 2 gates at **5**. The path descends through the trees. Look out for an indistinct path going L at an acute angle. This then turns sharply R, completing a zigzag manoeuvre (the main road is below to the L). Go through the gate at the back of a house, turn L then R into an open area known as Bishop's Acre (the lower slope of St. Boniface Down), another excellent place for butterflies, especially the MARBLED WHITE **12**. Follow the upper path where the main path divides then go through the gate, back into the holm oaks. Continue ahead (path slippery after rain) to where the path ends at Mitchell

# VENTNOR "BUTTERFLY TOWN" WALKING TRAIL

Ventnor is a special place. Its natural surroundings of coast, undercliff and chalk downland combine with a special micro-climate to produce a variety of different habitats, ideal for butterflies and moths. One of Britain's rarest butterflies, the Glanville Fritillary, is to be found here (adults between late April and June), together with important colonies of other species, such as the Adonis Blue (pictured).

The Trail follows public rights of way, and is approximately 9 miles (14.5 km) in length which can be divided into shorter sections. The Esplanade section is easy walking, and suitable for wheelchairs. Away from the Esplanade, there are steep climbs and slopes to contend with. Butterflies enjoy sunshine - a sunny day between March and November should prove rewarding. Take along a good butterfly identification book.

Look out also for the Hummingbird Hawkmoth *(Right)*, and another day-flying moth, the Jersey Tiger *(Left)*.

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For further information about butterflies and moths on the IOW, please email:
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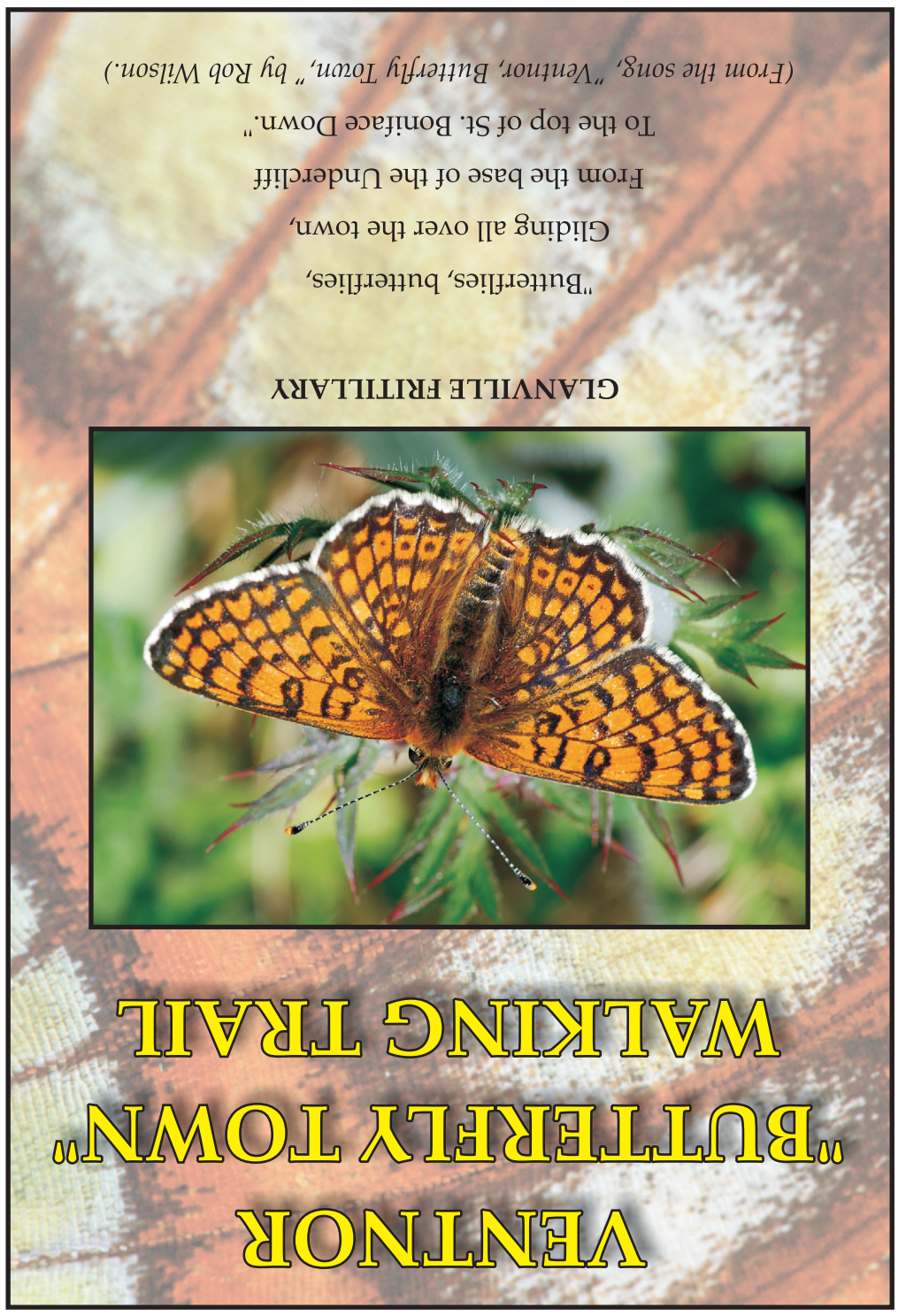
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Saving butterflies, moths and our environment