

Hairstreak

No 99

Summer 2017



Butterfly
Conservation



Upper Thames
Branch

Spring Moths



Wavy-barred Sable (*Pyrausta nigrata*)
Mick Jones



Green Carpet
Dave Morris



Herald
Steve Goddard



Pebble Prominent
Steve Goddard



Satellite
Adam Hartley



Pretty Chalk Carpet
Dave Wilton



Green Silver-lines
Dave Maunder

*Articles and photographs for inclusion in this newsletter are welcome.
Photographs should be sent as .jpg (or similar) files and not embedded in
a document or album.*

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1st April for Summer Issue
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Cover photo: Forester by Dave Wilton

Background: Otmoor and Oddington Church, Oxon

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

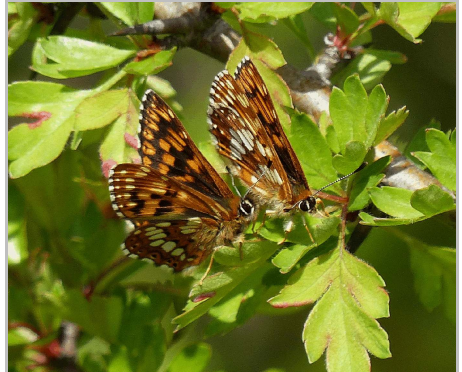
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When I took over the running of the Branch in November 2014, I wanted to see us achieving an even larger conservation effect. Thankfully, or to be more precise, to thank to you the UTB membership, we have really 'stepped up our game' and the records show us doing loads more now than previously.

Our work for the Duke of Burgundy has expanded onto two new private sites (additional to the two private sites we were already engaged with) and been maintained at both the former sites despite them both undergoing a change of owner. Our winter practical conservation work has continued, successfully, at the two long-term sites of Hotspur Bottom and Aston Upthorpe and we have added two new areas, around Milestone Wood (Reading) and on MOD land near Bicester. Work at both the new sites was achieved with the help of members whom we had never seen at practical conservation tasks before, alongside some experienced members.



Dukes of Burgundy
David Ferguson

We are also exploring an opportunity (drawn to our attention by Oxfordshire County Council) to conserve in some potentially great habitat near Didcot. Again this is private land and we are engaged in conversations about access to begin work. Then of course there is all the work our members do with organisations like BBOWT and many others across our three counties. The amazing impact we have is quite simply down to so many of you lending a hand.

Not everyone can help with conservation work parties. So, it has been pleasing to get emails recently from various members who couldn't, asking if instead, they can attend public events in the summer to explain about ways to conserve butterflies and moths to the public, or offering to grow plants in their gardens and allotments. Our biggest involvement in public events will be our return to the four day Countryfile Live event at Blenheim Palace (3-6 August). Members living close to the event will be personally invited to come and help (if they agreed to such communications) but all our members are welcome to lend a hand. Simply let me know and I'll feedback all the detail. Some lovely, proactive members, learning that B&Q are offering a space in-store to Butterfly Conservation members to hand out literature that explains which garden plants are preferable in an insect friendly garden, stepped up and arranged to work the Banbury store.

Another two members acted upon a suggestion I made over a year back and persuaded their local Waitrose that we should be one of the chosen charities that shoppers could support with tokens. After a long and often frustrating wait, both heard that they have been successful and the money will flow through by late summer. Wonderful stuff.

On the subject of plants and gardens, we suggest to those looking to grow plants, that they grow those which our rarer species need and which are becoming ever scarcer in the UK (like Horseshoe Vetch which is immensely expensive to buy as plug plants but relatively cheap as seed, and Dark Mullein which we shall need to grow and plant into the Holtspur valley for years to come). And, to help with our work in gardens, we have an enthusiastic new Garden Records Co-ordinator, so please note that a) there are new forms on the website and b) that as this season ends your records should be returned to Emma Turnbull, paper forms to: 1 Manor Hill Cottages, Windsor Great Park, Ascot, Berks SL5 7RY and electronic forms to: etmole@aol.com. It is of course equally helpful to have your records submitted to the National Garden recording scheme on-line at <http://www.gardenbutterflysurvey.org>. All records for the UTB area recorded there find their way back to us.

And don't forget that you can record any butterfly sightings in the garden or elsewhere on your smart phone with the free app *iRecord Butterflies*.

Emma is also taking on the Churchyard Records, so they too should be returned to her in the autumn. Emma's enthusiastic first steps in this role led to the new forms which we hope members will find easier to use; providing as they do, the choice of an Excel spreadsheet in addition to the paper and pen versions. Those paper versions were handled by Margaret Price (Gardens) and Helen Hyre (Churchyards) for many years and their reports to Hairstreak were always the first published indication from any recording scheme as to the performance of the UTB's butterflies in the preceding year. We thank them for years of careful collation and interpretation of your records.

Records underpin our work, highlighting the species and sites that need attention; so we organised and ran three training days (one in each of our three counties) for just under 50 people in the spring. These courses taught identification skills and recording techniques and will boost the number of active recorders from this summer. It is pleasing that whilst we offered these courses free of charge (due to some very sympathetic venues allowing us free usage) and at a cost to UTB funds of approx. £150, I see that some other organisations are charging up to £50 per head for similar training.

Recording effort will see a new departure this year. The National Trust declared a property in central Bucks to be one of the earliest 'nature-first vision' sites. The aim is to create one of the UK foremost insect conservation sites and who were the first people asked to come in and monitor the project? Yes, the UTB. Already members living close by have been invited to help survey, but all those keen to play a part in a new strategic departure of at least national and probably international importance, are welcome to join in.

Additional work by UTB members involved many meetings with those running major infrastructure schemes to help them achieve progress with least damage to our environment. Again your records make our input quite literally better than almost everyone else's. As a poignant example of what occurs without records, we were asked to help save 200m of an ancient hedge (from removal to allow additional residents' car parking). Despite the hedge being almost entirely made from living Elm trees, no-one in the whole village had ever entered a single butterfly or moth record into our database and we could not offer the type of fact based response that has proven effective elsewhere in similar cases. A single White-letter Hairstreak record would almost certainly have saved the hedge.

So, please record every butterfly and moth you see this summer (and report them of course). Check out the extensive series of walks we have planned, then note those where you can get to grips with some of our more elusive species. You might also keep an eye on the website, Facebook and Twitter pages for last minute additions, such as the various public events we will be taking our stall to this summer. Only this morning there are two emails in my inbox asking that the UTB attend summer fairs. All such invitations are flattering but all require volunteers to hand out our publicity material and almost all will arrive after this edition of *Hairstreak* is already published. Perhaps you will find an hour to lend a hand? I will be emailing members (who agreed to such communications and who live near the events) and asking for help.

So, I must end with a very humble thank you and a plea that our tremendous effort be maintained. No doubt, there are still some members thinking to help but unsure how. Quite simply, pick an UTB event near to you and come and join us. It's a great feeling to be part of a successful team and there is such a tremendous variety of tasks to help with that there really is something for everyone. And of course, you can always get in touch and ask what jobs need doing.

Campaign to save Butterfly World

John Horsfield

Many members will have visited Butterfly World at its excellent location near the M25 and M1 at Chiswell Green, St Albans. Sadly on the 15th December 2015 the 6,500 people on the Butterfly World mailing list received an email saying goodbye, as the project would not be reopening after its winter break.

Almost immediately a number of people who were shocked by the news started the fight to try and save Butterfly World. A group was opened on Facebook, letters went to local papers and two online petitions were launched. Regrettably there was some highly charged negative action on social media attacking the owners Breheny Construction. This has made life very difficult for those of us trying to save the project. Which is perhaps why we still have not met with them?

In January, 35 people met in the project's education room and Save Butterfly World was launched. We now have a membership of 55; a committee of 14; the support of numerous businesses and organisations; and the support of individuals including the Bishop of St Albans, the Dean of the Cathedral and all eleven Hertfordshire MPs. In June 2016 our charity 'Butterfly World 2.0' was registered just 18 days after we had filed the application. We have organised two successful Butterfly Fairs and the number of signatures on our Care 2 petition has just passed 65,000.

In November 2016 a spokesperson for Breheny Construction broke their silence and in response to our publicity contacted the *Herts Advertiser*. He stressed that the company were engineers and that they did not want readers to be disappointed but there was no way they would be reopening the project. He went on to say that no one had come forward offering money for the site and that Breheny's had no masterplan for the site.

We realised that there had probably been a major misunderstanding; they thought we wanted them to reopen the project whereas we want to acquire the land and run Butterfly World on a 52 week a year basis.

The planning consent on the land expired on the 31st December 2016 and sadly Breheny's cleared most of the structures from the site. This means if we do gain access to the site, we would start with a blank canvas; except of course for the fantastic Miriam Rothschild Meadow. This meadow was established on a bleak and previously barren site, but has become the home of 26 species of butterfly including the Small Blue. We are concerned about the future of this meadow which will deteriorate unless it gets proper management this year.

Our immediate objective is to try and talk with Breheny and discuss how we can take matters forward. Breheny's did a fantastic job saving the project (more than once), and in maintaining the meadow. They are a company with strong environmental principals including the following commitment from their environmental policy: to "Prevent or otherwise minimise disturbance of the local community, wildlife and natural features". We don't believe they would refuse to discuss sensible proposals to save it. Many of the contracts carried out by Breheny's have a strong environmental theme; these include creating a variety of wetland habitats rich in wildlife at Bowers Marsh and the 'Parks for People' project aimed to transform Wandle Park.



Small Blue
David Ferguson

As you can see the campaign goes on and you can play your part. Please visit our web site www.savebutterflyworld.org or email contact@savebutterflyworld.com

Wood White urgently requires your help

In the last five years the Wood White has retracted to just **three** north Buckinghamshire sites and might now not be breeding in any.

Could you walk the woods of north Buckinghamshire and south Northamptonshire to look of the Wood White there?

Wood White identification

Nick Bowles

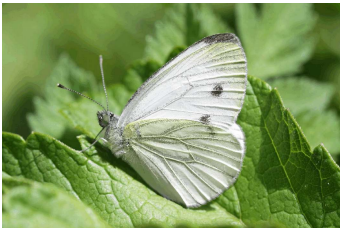
With its feeble flight and relatively long narrow forewings, the species can be separated from other 'white' butterflies in flight, but to be 100% certain note the following features on a resting individual.

Wood Whites always rest with wings closed, so if you can see the upperside it is some other species. Wood Whites fly between May and June and again from mid July to mid August.



Wood White. Note the long forewings and the way the grey smudges **cross** the wing veins.

The wing margins are unmarked as is the central portion of the forewing. The forewings of Small and Green-veined whites have central black spots.



Green-veined White. Note the more rounded wings and the grey markings along the forewing veins. Additionally, the forewing edge usually has tiny dark triangles at the veins' ends to about halfway down the length. This image shows a very light individual. The dark triangles are usually more obvious.



Small White. Note the very slightly pointy forewing tip and the yellow colour there. There are **no** dark triangles. None of the forewing veins have any dark smudges and the yellow colour on the tip extends only halfway down.

Elms for the White-letter Hairstreak - a project update

Peter Cuss

The Upper Thames Branch project to protect the White-letter Hairstreak by planting elm trees has continued over the winter months. Twenty-six disease resistant elms, 11 Wych elm and nine Small leaved limes (as a nectar source) have been planted so far, all close to WLH colonies across the three counties.

A major part of the planting scheme is taking place along the Berkshire/Oxfordshire border. The aim here is landscape scale conservation by planting elms next to an existing colony of the butterfly at Milestone Wood, near Caversham Park, and to continue the planting through connecting strips of woodland and hedgerows to join Milestone, Clayfield Copse, Blackhouse Woods and Caversham Lakes and eventually beyond. Planting will continue here for several years and should allow the WLH to slowly expand over a large area.

Another area to benefit was Maidenhead Thicket. Once a good site for WLH, sadly little elm now remains due to the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease. Five disease resistant trees have been planted here to support the small remaining population. Further planting took place in Buckinghamshire, at Langley Park and Swan Meadows aided by a grant from South Bucks District Council. Oxfordshire colonies of WLH at Chazey Heath, The Earth Trust at Little Wittenham and at Widmore Pond, Sonning Common received resistant elms too.

With the help of the charity Lindengate we are experimenting with taking cuttings from DED resistant elms growing on the Holtspur Reserve in the hope of producing a good stock of trees and as way of reducing the cost of the project.

We are very grateful to have received enthusiastic help from many landowners, councils, parish councils, The National Trust, park rangers, land managers and golf courses to name but a few. A lot of new areas have been identified as potential future sites and we will be approaching more landowners this summer in the hope of getting the same support to allow us to continue planting next winter and into the future.



A newly planted disease resistant elm at Langley Park with Head Ranger Steve Heywood

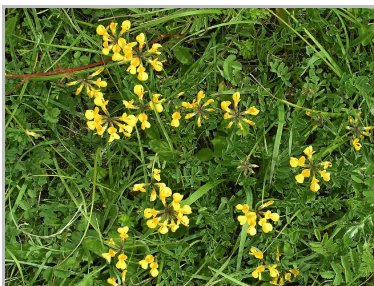
Identification of Two Rare Butterflies

David Ferguson

Adonis Blue

Where there are Adonis Blues there are Common Blues and Chalkhill Blues. With their overlapping flight periods, separating male Adonis and Common Blues and female Adonis and Chalkhill Blues needs some knowledge.

Habitat: Adonis and Chalkhill Blues favour the same habitat: flowery chalk or limestone grassland where the foodplant, Horseshoe Vetch, grows. It is a low growing, mat-forming plant that has the flowers arranged in a circle. Adonis Blues require a hotter soil temperature than Chalkhill Blues and thus have a more restricted range and more specialised habitat, often south-facing slopes. The butterflies form discrete colonies.



Horseshoe Vetch

Common Blues are found on all types of flowery grassland including waste ground and woodland rides. Their foodplant is Bird's-foot Trefoil, the common yellow vetch.

Range: Adonis and Chalkhill Blues are confined to the chalk and limestone hills of Southern England. The Adonis Blue's sole known Bucks site may be the most northerly in the UK. Chalkhill Blues occur as far north as Norfolk. Both species can be abundant in some favoured colonies.

Flight period: **Adonis Blue:** double-brooded, mid May to mid June then mid August to mid September.

Chalkhill Blue: single-brooded, mid July to early September.









Common Blue: double or triple-brooded, May to September.



Bird's Foot Trefoil

The identification problems occur in May when Adonis and Common Blues emerge together. In August the freshly emerged Adonis females are usually readily distinguished from the worn Chalkhill Blues – but not always!

Identification

Adonis Blue		Common/Chalkhill Blue	
<p>White wing margins interrupted with black veins.</p> <p>Clear sky blue.</p>	 <p>Male</p>	 <p>Male Common Blue</p>	<p>Uninterrupted white wing margins.</p> <p>Violet-tinged blue.</p>
<p>Semicircles near margins of hindwings pale blue.</p>	 <p>Female</p>	 <p>Female Chalkhill Blue</p>	<p>Semicircles near margins of hindwings white.</p> <p>The brown fades with age and is no use as an identification point.</p>
<p>Some spring female Adonis Blues can be dusted with varying amounts of blue.</p>			<p>An unusually blue female Common Blue.</p>
<p>Adonis and Chalkhill Blues are identical underneath.</p>			<p>Paired Common Blues. Note the uninterrupted white margins.</p>

Silver-spotted Skipper








The only UK butterfly that looks at all like the Silver-spotted Skipper is the Large Skipper but, until recently, their flight periods did not overlap. However, Silver-spotted Skippers are emerging earlier and a few Large Skippers are appearing in August which may lead to potential confusion.

Habitat: Silver-spotted Skippers are confined to chalk grassland where the grass is kept very short. Large skippers may be found anywhere it is sunny and has flowers.

Range: Silver-spotted Skippers are found discontinuously on the chalk grassland of Southern England where they form discrete colonies. The colonies on the Chiltern escarpment in Oxfordshire are some of the strongest in the UK. Large Skippers are found widely as far north as Southern Scotland.

Flight period: **Silver-spotted Skipper:** single brooded, mid July to mid September peaking in early August. **Large Skipper:** single or double brooded, mid May to late July peaking in early July with a possible second brood in August.

Flight: both species have a fast whirring flight which makes them difficult to follow but the Silver-spotted Skipper appears to be particularly adept at vanishing as it whizzes low over the short grass of its chosen habitat.

Silver-spotted Skipper		Large Skipper	
Outer half of upperside of forewings and hindwings dark red-brown.			Upperside of wings yellow-brown.
	Female	Female	
Males of both species are distinguished from females by the dark diagonal line across each forewing. 			These lines consist of androconia which contain sacs of pheromones that are used to attract females.
	Male	Male	
Underside of hindwings green with sharply-defined silver spots.			Underside of hindwings pale yellow-brown with yellowish spots.

This article is courtesy of the Butterfly Conservation European Interest Group (EIG). The European Interests Group is a branch of Butterfly Conservation like the county branches, but its focus is European butterflies rather than UK butterflies. Membership is open to all members of Butterfly Conservation at an additional cost of £10 a year. It is the branch to join if you want to learn how to identify butterflies that you see in Europe, to find out where best to see them, and to learn about conservation and survey projects. EIG circulates a newsletter to members twice a year, and the following article is reproduced from their May 2016 edition. For more information, for back issues of newsletters, and information on butterflies by country, please go to their website <http://www.bc-eig.org.uk>.

A butterfly holiday your partner will enjoy

Simon Spencer

I am very lucky that my wife loves looking at butterflies and really appreciates the great places that it takes us in Europe. Not everyone is quite so lucky and I suspect that there are also female butterfly watchers whose husbands are not that keen on walking up mountains but it is usually the other way round. Most British holiday makers head for the coast and are after sun and sea and a bit of relaxation.

If a compromise is to be had and a butterfly holiday is also to be enjoyed by the other half then with a little thought it can be arranged. Greece is a popular tourist destination and has some wonderful beaches but most tourists go to the islands or Crete where the butterfly fauna is limited. Crete only has 60 species but does have four endemics. Mainland Greece has a few resorts in the tourist brochures and has many more butterflies. There is Parga in the north west, Stoupa in the south of the Peloponnese and Pelion and Halkidiki in the north. One of our favourite resorts is Olympiada about an hour's drive east of Thessaloniki but it has very few Brits.

Timing

Timing is also very important. I favour September when the magnificent **Two-tailed Pasha** has its second flight period (the other one is in May). This is one of Europe's most spectacular butterflies and is a coastal specialist feeding as a larva on Strawberry trees (*Arbutus sp.*). It is the only European example of the genus *Charaxes* which is common in the tropics. September is also a good time to see another beautiful butterfly the **Plain Tiger**. This species is markedly coastal and does not tolerate cold or frost. It is a continuous breeder and we were amazed to see about 300 fresh specimens nectaring on some Tamarisk trees near Stoupa in September last year.



Plain Tigers, Stoupa, 25 Sept 2015

Anne Spencer

Eastern Aegean

With the current troubles in the Eastern Aegean one might think twice about going to Lesbos and Samos. The migrant crisis has probably ruined them as a tourist destination but they do have some good butterflies. Samos has its own Grayling (*Hipparchia mersina*) and the **Orange-banded Hairstreak** which is a bit of a climb as well as **Eastern Brown Argus**. It is also a good place to see **Southern Swallowtail**.



Southern Swallowtail, Samos

Nigel Peace

Mainland Greece

You will see a lot of the common Greek butterflies on or near the Greek coast. The **Southern Comma** is usually common and the **Southern White Admiral** with its single row of dots flies until September. Two skippers are decidedly coastal - **Pygmy Skipper** and **Mediterranean Skipper** but can also be found inland. **Pygmy Skipper** is more common and likes dry rocky places like dry river beds and beaches.



The widespread Southern White Admiral. The underside shows a single row of black dots.

Nigel Peace

From the coast of the mainland you can take a trip inland quite quickly and visit some of the more mountainous areas for the day. Depending on the time of year you will have a chance to see some of Greece's 230 species. In July and August it makes a welcome change from the 40°C or more on the coast. Archaeological sites are often good for butterflies and often have **Tree Grayling**. Roadside springs with their excellent drinking water often are good places to stop to see mud puddling blues. A good lunch in a taverna will give you the opportunity to spot **Geranium Bronze** on the potted geraniums and watch the **Scarce Swallowtail** drifting by.

Records

If you do go to Greece we have a useful recording form for Greece as an Excel spreadsheet on the www.bc-eig.org.uk website under 'countries' and Lazaros Pamperis our colleague in Greece will be glad of your records. For those that visit Greece regularly or live there part of the year Lazaros and I are planning an EIG initiative for butterfly monitoring in Greece in 2017 and we wish to engage with ex patriot communities there to encourage people to record butterflies. I can be contacted by email: Simon Spencer cerisyi@btinternet.com.

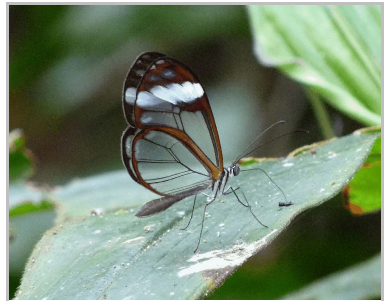
The Royal Academy's annual exhibition of 1832 saw JMW Turner's seascape *Helvoetsluys* and John Constable's *The Opening of Waterloo Bridge* hung next to each other. On Artists' Day, when the painters are allowed to apply finishing touches to their canvasses, Constable was applying vermilion to the flags in his painting. Turner noticed this and placed a spot of bright red paint onto his otherwise muted canvas, upon which Constable cried out 'He has been here and fired a gun!' Both artists knew that a spot of bright colour carefully placed on a quiet background could be more effective than acres of brilliance.

One of the most beautiful birds on the British list is an adult male Siberian Rubythroat. Yet this bird is 95% pale grey. It is the 5% that makes it stand out - a brilliantly iridescent ruby throat edged with white. The European Goldfinch is largely shades of brown yet it is one of our most attractive birds with its scarlet face and bright yellow stripe on the wings. The American Goldfinch, its exact counterpart in North America, is an overall bright yellow yet its brilliance is somehow less pleasing.

The butterflies that use the technique of patches of brilliant colour on a plain background most effectively are the Clearwings of South America. On transparent wings are edgings of red which cover perhaps 10% of the available surface.

This minimalist design is easily understood. So too are the black wing-tips of our Whites. Most gulls also have black wing-tips. The black pigment contains melanin which hardens the feathers and so reduces abrasion. Although the pigment is in the butterfly's scales and not the structure of the wing the same principle may well apply.

But other features are less comprehensible. On the leading edge of each forewing of the Small Tortoiseshell is a row of alternating black and yellow stripes. They are very small and serve no discernable purpose. Among the brilliant pattern of black, yellow and blue on an orange background these tiny stripes are far from obvious. They are also present on other related species so they have survived the demands of evolution and thus must serve a purpose, but what purpose? The small tails on some Hairstreaks and Blues, the orange dots on the upperside of a Black Hairstreak, a butterfly never rests with its wings open, why are they there? If anyone has some answers please let me know.



Victorine Clearwing



Garden Survey Report 2016

Margaret Price

My last year!

I cannot believe that another year has gone by since I was trawling through the garden butterfly records trying to pull out some information that might be of interest, but yes another recording year has gone by and for many it was not the best one. The words depressing, dreadful and disappointing were expressed by some and one recorder, perhaps in desperation, fled to South America where there were masses!

The weather, as we know, plays a huge role in determining whether butterflies and moths have a good year and 2016 proved this with a long cold spring which continued into the summer. Comparing the flight periods with 2015 this is certainly the case with 10 out of the 23 species listed appearing later. Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Copper and Common Blue were a month later. Only Whites and Holly Blues were recorded earlier. The autumn was warm and dry and eight species were seen later including Red Admiral and Comma which were six weeks later. Only five species had an earlier last appearance; in the case of Peacock it was two months.

Last summer there was an interesting programme on the television about the Painted Lady's northward migration from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and it was mentioned that 2016 was a bumper year. Well, certainly not in this area; yes it was seen by many but usually only one was recorded each week.

Most species were recorded in low numbers especially Gatekeepers, Peacocks, Common Blues, Commas and Ringlets. Silver-washed Fritillaries, Brown Argus and Small Heaths had been recorded in good numbers over several years but sadly 2016 was not to be the best for them. The exception to this was the Small Tortoiseshell which was seen in large numbers by several recorders. One recorder couldn't believe her eyes and had to double check when she saw 42, she is sure the stinging nettles nearby must have been the reason for such a high number. The main peak of this species was the last week of August and the first week of September.

Holly Blues had an excellent season and were seen from 25th March to 4th October. All recorders had a week or two of not seeing them but one noted them weekly from the 10th April to 11th September. They gradually increased through April then numbers really took off in May and the first week of June before falling away quite rapidly with lowest numbers during the last two weeks of June and first week of July. The number of sightings then increased quickly peaking during the last week of July and the first two weeks of August. It is interesting to note how numbers then fell. There were 35 sightings during the week of the 14th August, and subsequent weeks saw 24, 13, 8, 7, 0, 1 and 1.

Moth records were way down this year with only four recorders noting them in Berkshire, followed by Buckinghamshire with eleven and Oxfordshire twenty –

well done Oxfordshire recorders! I received 77 forms so the percentage recording moths was under 50%. Berkshire was the best county for Cinnabar moths, whilst Scarlet Tigers were mainly noted in Oxfordshire. Hummingbird Hawkmoths and Silver Ys were seen throughout the three counties.

I was worried when garden forms did not appear with the 2016 Spring Newsletter as I thought some recorders might not be motivated to record butterflies and moths. I did get one or two letters asking me why they had not been sent but on the whole everyone managed to go onto the UTB website to download one. With the cost of sending forms to all members and with only a very small percentage making use of them it has been decided not to send forms in the future with the Newsletter. So, *please* go on to the Upper Thames Branch of BC and download a form.

The poem attached to this report was sent anonymously to me a few months ago and although its content is amusing and I am sure we can all relate to it, it also made me rather sad to think that the writer and perhaps others are reluctant to record butterflies and moths because they do not feel they are sufficiently experienced. In many ways we are lucky in this country not to have too many butterfly species, for instance blues which sometimes can only be truly identified by their genitalia – for me this is going too far! When I first joined Upper Thames with only basic knowledge of butterfly identification I went on numerous field trips and gained so much from the leaders whose enthusiasm and keenness to pass on all that they knew gave me the confidence to start recording in my own garden and further afield. So if you would like to record but are afraid of misidentification do go on a field trip – always friendly and fun – or if possible take photos and send them to a UTB Committee member, they are there to help in whatever way they can. Don't give up, without records we will not know the state of British butterflies and which ones are in need of our help and please most of all don't sigh!

Garden records are no longer just sent via paper forms but electronically too and this time there have been three sources: (1) Forms sent to me, (2) Records extracted from files sent direct to Jim Asher and (3) BC on-line records. As the previous table for Garden Survey Data has been derived purely from garden forms I have decided not to include 2 and 3 this year. However, I have a table for each scenario and although the actual position for each species is either the same or very similar the notable exception is Holly Blue which as you can see is in 2nd place in the table but would be in 6th place if (2) and (3) were included.

Whatever size garden you have there are suitable nectaring plants to attract butterflies and moths from Marjoram to Buddleias. Two varieties of the latter, *davidii* 'Beijing' and 'Buzz' flower over a long period and a recorder noted on the 31st October that there were two Red Admirals, one Small Tortoiseshell and one Brimstone on a 'Buzz'. Cutting off dead flower heads helps to encourage side shoots to flower so prolonging the flowering period. Other notable plants are Valerian, single Dahlias, Phlox, Ivy, Scabious, Verbena bonariensis, Wallflower Bowles Mauve, Sedum, Nicotiana, Honeysuckle and Hemp Agrimony.

Once again I am extremely grateful to Julia Huggins for helping me by entering garden records onto a spreadsheet.

It is fourteen years since I started co-ordinating the garden records and I still have all the forms! At that time records were sent in using the alphabet system [a system allowing an estimate rather than the actual number seen (Ed)] but with the numbers of each species falling I decided it would make more sense to put the actual number of each species seen at any one time. It is sad to note that in those days numbers for each species were often in the B,C and D category whereas nowadays many are only recorded in ones. It is wonderful to see recorders names from when I started still recording now.

I have enjoyed being the co-ordinator and will greatly miss the contact I have had especially with those who have written and sent photos with their records; even the occasional poem has found its way to me. I feel fourteen years is long enough so have decided to step down and am passing on 'my baby' to Emma Turnbull who I know will be absolutely brilliant as the next co-ordinator.

The last three years have not been the best for many species but let's all be optimistic and look forward to a good 2017 season which I know for some started in the warm weather of February. Wherever you are, whatever size garden you have please keep on recording and sending those records in whichever way you would like and I look forward to reading the results next year.

Poem sent anonymously

As a new UTB member, I felt moved to write some words
Butterflies are so much harder to identify than birds!

To record is 'not on', if you haven't got a clue
When one lands on a flower with wings shut tight too!

Why don't they open, and help to identify
Before flitting off rapidly, into the sky?

Yes, there are books and pictures to help us all
But where is that one seen on the buddleia tall?

When one spots a small one and creep up very near
What's bound to happen it quickly gets into gear!

It flits and flies all over the place as one cranes one's neck in vain
Whatever was that flash of orange? Oh dear, what a pain!

Guessing is all well and good, but statistics won't be true
So recording is 'not on' or only for the few

Those who have had experience and with sharp eyesight
Make up the small percentage as they know they're right

How well I remember, on the South Downs, some 66 years before
Clouds of Chalkhill Blues in the sun, right at heaven's door

So remember, the enthusiasm is with us for our butterflies
But correct recording just makes so many sigh!

Garden survey data - percentage of recorders reporting species

Species	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Red Admiral	99	87	97	84	98	97	86	93	94	96
Holly Blue	96	91	63	88	87	96	81	81	96	99
Small White	95	86	96	96	92	94	86	96	94	92
Orange Tip	95	87	96	93	93	96	87	86	80	84
Brimstone	93	95	92	98	99	96	89	97	87	96
Large White	92	90	93	94	93	93	87	94	97	96
Gatekeeper	91	91	84	84	81	79	86	89	87	89
Small Tortoiseshell	88	91	97	94	84	78	81	93	61	79
Peacock	84	90	100	98	96	85	89	100	96	99
Meadow Brown	82	87	93	92	87	76	79	81	80	82
Comma	79	85	85	91	93	85	84	94	88	86
Green-veined White	74	69	71	79	62	75	74	73	64	70
Speckled Wood	74	76	86	77	71	84	74	84	77	70
Painted Lady	71	65	49	44	24	31	40	100	28	61
Ringlet	58	66	67	69	62	61	61	66	46	47
Common Blue	40	55	48	53	33	55	73	54	39	30
Marbled White	31	33	41	38	25	36	24	33	26	24
Small Skipper	29	48	48	44	26	25	31	31	20	32
Large Skipper	28	42	33	37	36	46	39	33	25	28
Small Copper	22	24	36	38	16	31	50	33	19	29
Essex Skipper	12	20	15	10	8	6	9	4	9	12
Silver-wash Fritillary	12	21	21	24	12	9	23	10	4	1
Brown Argus	8	16	14	13	8	18	30	20	7	9
Small Heath	7	9	12	17	15	19	10	7	12	13
Dark Green Fritillary	2	3	5	4	0	0	0	3	0	0
Clouded Yellow	2	2	5	7	0	0	0	6	0	1
Green Hairstreak	2	5	3	1	2	4	0	3	1	1
Small Blue	1	1	2	2	1	1	6	0	1	3
Purple Emperor	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
White Admiral	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	0	0	5
White-ltr Hairstreak	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	3
Brown Hairstreak	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Purple Hairstreak	0	2	0	4	1	4	4	1	1	0
Grizzled Skipper	0	3	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	3
Chalkhill Blue	0	2	2	5	1	1	4	3	0	1
Wall	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Grayling	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Silver Sp Skipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dingy Skipper	0	0	3	3	1	4	3	1	1	4

100 - 90%		89 - 70%		69 - 50%	
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Flight Periods 2016

Class	Species	Earliest record	Latest record week beginning
Hibernators	Brimstone	29 February	25 November
	Red Admiral	42807	*29 December
	Small Tortoiseshell	42762	2 November
	Peacock	42806	43029
	Comma	42815	43082
New Generation	Small Skipper	42906	31 August
	Essex Skipper	42919	42952
	Large Skipper	42902	42956
	Large White	42818	43023
	Small White	42810	23 October
	Green-veined White	42812	43008
	Orange Tip	31 March	42907
	Small Copper	42877	43022
	Common Blue	42874	43002
	Holly Blue	42818	43011
	Speckled Wood	42836	43018
	Marbled White	2 June	1 August
	Gatekeeper	26 June	42977
	Meadow Brown	42893	43017
	Ringlet	42904	42975
Small Heath	42891	42984	
Migrants	Clouded Yellow	**21 August	**21 August
	Painted Lady	42887	43035

* definite date

** during week beginning

There were 67 churchyards surveyed in 2016, of which seven were new sites. Berkshire: Upper Woolhampton. Oxfordshire: Binsey St Margaret, Checkendon SS Peter & Paul, North Hinksey, St Lawrence, Oxford St Frideswide, Oxford St Peter, Upper Wolvercote and South Hinksey, St Laurence.

Some sites were visited once, for example during 10km survey work. A good number of sites received four visits at the suggested times of year. There were mixed results in these surveys, due to adverse weather (especially in June), change of churchyard management, too much tidiness, or excess grass growth. Some churchyards had extra visits through the season, with Stanford-in-the-Vale most visited. Here a Privet Hawkmoth was seen, in addition to 17 butterfly species. Stone also had 17 species but this year's leader was Cholsey with 19.

The percentages in the survey chart show that 2016 was a poor year. The usual species have been seen, but in less churchyards and in far less numbers. Half of the churchyards had four species or less during the year. Sites with most species are, understandably, those where most visits took place during the year. In some places a dedicated band of volunteer grass cutters has grown older and is no longer able to care for their local churchyard, so contractors have had to be engaged instead. Weddings provide churches with useful income and managed areas of long grass and wild flowers are not always considered to be a suitable backdrop to wedding photos.

Despite all this, many people have taken part in the survey for many years. I'm grateful to you all, whether you are a longstanding contributor or a new arrival. Some records come from people's phones, others from spreadsheets, and some information is beautifully written on a paper form. Your enthusiasm and dedication, often over many years, has made this a key survey which shows the fortunes of the butterflies in our three counties over 10 years.

I have decided to hand over the survey as it might benefit from some new ideas – including how to incorporate smartphone records. Your new coordinator is Emma Turnbull. If you fancy doing a churchyard survey or you did one in the past, Emma can suggest sites which would be convenient for your home or for your lunchtime walk. Town, city or country sites are equally useful. Just four visits are needed during the period between May and August.

You might find that your local church serves teas on summer Sundays. It's a nice way to finish after a leisurely walk to look for butterflies.



St John's Church, Stone, Bucks
Michael Pitt-Payne

**Percentage of churchyards where species were seen in 2015,
and comparison with previous years**

Year	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
No. of Sites	67	59	69	68	50	54	45	36	36	40
Small White	57	68	65	87	60	74	76	75	69	80
Meadow Brown	57	63	78	81	66	56	56	78	81	70
Holly Blue	49	51	17	34	32	67	33	33	42	60
Orange-tip	42	37	39	37	32	52	33	42	22	28
Large White	39	58	45	81	32	67	60	89	75	60
Speckled Wood	33	44	62	54	26	46	47	72	69	55
Brimstone	31	39	42	34	22	30	29	33	22	45
Red Admiral	28	27	43	22	36	52	36	28	42	65
Ringlet	27	42	42	44	50	28	40	53	31	35
Small Tortoiseshell	27	41	61	47	14	22	29	44	11	25
Green-veined White	27	41	46	35	28	46	42	58	28	38
Peacock	24	41	42	43	12	19	24	44	36	38
Gatekeeper	22	47	58	54	42	39	36	36	44	65
Marbled White	13	19	16	16	10	13	13	8	14	18
Comma	10	24	42	40	22	20	27	44	42	35
Small Skipper	10	17	23	18	10	6	9	22	25	15
Large Skipper	9	14	12	15	6	9	16	14	6	8
Common Blue	7	20	20	22	4	22	36	31	17	5
Painted Lady	6	2	4	4	2	0	9	56	3	5
Essex Skipper	4	14	12	4	2	4	2	0	3	3
Small Copper	1	12	12	13	12	19	18	17	11	13
Brown Argus	1	10	6	4	2	17	2	8	3	0
Small Heath	1	5	3	4	4	0	2	0	0	0
Silver-washed Fritillary	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Purple Hairstreak	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Chalkhill Blue	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Small Blue	0	0	0	3	2	2	4	8	0	0

100 - 70%		69 - 50%		49 - 30%	
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Since the last newsletter 23 new members have joined and the membership is now over 1560. The more members we have the more we can achieve as a branch. Please encourage your friends to join Butterfly Conservation either on the website or by leaflet. Please let me know if you would like any membership leaflets to pass on.

A warm welcome to all the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter was published. All of you are welcome to join field meetings in the spring and summer.

BERKSHIRE

Mr & Mrs P Moorcroft	Earley, Reading
Mr & Mrs C Why	Crowthorne
Mrs W Horsey	Woolhampton, Reading
Mr R Evans	Maidenhead
Mrs V Sansom	Emmer Green, Reading
Miss M Dance	Ascot
Mr & Mrs F Cottrell	Shefford Woodlands, Hungerford
Mrs S Holland	Woodley, Reading
Mr K Ravenscroft	Streatley, Reading

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Mr C Connolly	Wooburn Green, High Wycombe
Mr & Mrs D Munro	Aylesbury
Mrs S McLaskey	Aylesbury
Ms N Rakowski	Buckingham

OXFORDSHIRE

Mr J Jutton	Yarnton, Kidlington
Mrs S Collingwood	Didcot
Mrs P O'Connor	Oxford
Mr & Mrs E Eisenhandler	Didcot
Mr P Johnston	Headington, Oxford

TRAINING COURSES

Sunday 11th June at 2 pm Lardon Chase, Berks
Botany, geology and butterflies. Join a team of experts to learn about this site both above and below ground. See the West Berkshire Countryside Society website or "Upstream " for full details.
Contact Grahame Hawker 0118 9814405

Saturday 22nd July 10 am to 4 pm Greenham Common, Berks
BBOWT Developing Your Skills course: Butterfly Ecology and Identification.
This course will enable participants to identify most of Britain's butterflies. Other topics covered will include butterfly ecology and lifecycle, caterpillar food plant identification, recording and available literature.
See BBOWT website for more details and booking.
Contact Grahame Hawker 0118 9814405

Sunday 23rd July at 2 pm Seven Barrows, Berks
Botany, archaeology, geology and butterflies. Join a team of experts to learn about this site both above and below ground. See the West Berkshire Countryside Society website or "Upstream " for full details.
Contact Grahame Hawker 0118 9814405

Field Meeting Report

Blackland Covert, 25th June

Roger J Kemp

This was a combined meeting between the Bucks. Invertebrate Group (BIG) and the Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation. Six people made the trip to a somewhat remote privately-owned site near Stewkley and a previous site for Black Hairstreak *Satyrrium pruni*. The weather was mainly overcast and unfortunately this target species was not seen although there were suitable sheltered blackthorn hedges at SP830258.

Despite the poor weather seven common butterflies were recorded (Large Skipper, Small White, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Small Tortoiseshell), along with ten moths, three beetles, three flies, two bugs, one bee, one dragonfly, one damselfly, one cricket, one ichneumonid wasp and six spiders. The full list is printed in the BIG Bulletin No.27.

The meeting was kindly arranged through Mick Jones with the owners of the land Hugh and Sally Mellor to whom we are most grateful. The evening mothing session was cancelled due to poor weather.

FIELD MEETINGS

The May field trips have already been announced in the previous issue of Hairstreak and on the website. We are pleased to say we are offering a full programme with some trips on the same day, giving you a choice.

Tick bites are becoming more prevalent in the UK. We strongly recommend that you wear long trousers and shirts with long sleeves to minimise the area of exposed skin.

Please look at the Herts/Middx section website for field trips close to our region; we are invited to these trips, as they are to ours.

Tuesday 30th May at 2 pm

Finemere Wood, Bucks

A field trip to try and find Black Hairstreak pupae.

Entrance at grid ref: SP720209, map 165.

Leader: [Stuart Hodges](#) 01296 730217.

Saturday 17th June

Blackland Covert nr Stewkley, Bucks

Joint meeting with Bucks Invertebrate Group (BIG).

Blackland Covert is a private farm approximately 7 miles N of Aylesbury and 2 miles W of Stewkley. The site is managed sensitively for wildlife and a lot of restoration work has taken place in recent years. The focus for the daytime meeting will be the wetland areas, though BC members may wish to spend time looking for Black Hairstreak around the spinney. We will also look for other invertebrates so members interested in all groups are very welcome.

Please note that the number of places on this trip is limited; it is essential that you book with the leader(s) before the event. Please arrive promptly, as we will be moving away from the meeting/parking sites.

Daytime meeting, meet at 11:00. Search for Black Hairstreak and general invertebrate surveying, meeting at the T junction at the end of Dean Road, where the green lane goes off to the right - SP829264, map 165.

Leader (daytime): [Alan Nelson](#) Email: alan.k.nelson@googlemail.com

Evening meeting, meet at 21:00. Focus on mothing. Parking near the cattle grid at the entrance to the farm, at the northern tip of Blackland Covert - SP830262, map 165.

Leader (evening): [Bill Parker](#) 07774170573 Email: billjoparker@btinternet.com

Directions: West of Stewkley, follow High Street north heading out of the village NW until the edge of the village. Turn left onto Dean Road and follow it to the end which will take you to Blackland Farm. Drive carefully along Dean Road as there are large potholes and there is a very narrow cattle grid at the entrance to the farm track

Saturday 17th June at 2 pm Reading University Whiteknights Campus, Berks
Targeting spring butterflies. Easy walking around a mixture of woodland and meadows. Meet at the entrance to the woodland (the wilderness) grid ref: SU 73715 71499, map 175. Best accessed using the Pepper Lane Whiteknights Campus entrance and using car park 13.

Leader: Matt Greenwell 07501486698 matthew.greenwell@pgr.reading.ac.uk

Wednesday evenings 21/6, 28/6, 5/7, 12/7, 19/7, 26/7 at 6 pm Didcot, Oxon
Ever wondered what butterflies do outside transect hours?

Target species: Marbled White, Small Blue, and other summer butterflies...
Sustrans path on top of disused railway line from Didcot to Upton. Some rough ground but along side of metalled path. Meet at the Village Hall in East Hagbourne. That should catch the height of the Marbled White season. At that point in the year I'd be going out daily... and I'd be doing that even if it was raining as the numbers of MW will be good even in the rain. Around the solstice butterflies will be perching until 22.00 and can be in flight up to 21.00!
Grid ref: SU525883, map 174. **Leader: Karen Saxl 01235 818574**

Saturday 24th June at 10.30 am Holtspur Reserve, Bucks

We hope to see the Small Blue, as well as most of the common summer species. Meet at the Holtspur Bottom reserve entrance in Riding Lane.
Grid ref: SU918906, map 175. **Leader: Brenda Mobbs 01494 712486**

Saturday 1st July at 10.30 am Iver, Bucks

A level walk from the centre of the village along a track and footpaths through a variety of habitats, including Swan Meadow where some disease resistant Elms have been planted. White-letter Hairstreaks are seen regularly, together with a wide range of summer butterflies, which should appeal to experts as well as family groups and complete beginners. Meet in Swan Road, a cul-de-sac with parking bays, next to the Swan Pub [SL09NG] opposite the parish church in Iver. Please do not use the pub car park unless you intend to eat there.
Grid Ref: TQ039812, map 176. **Leader: Wendy Wilson 01753 883465**

Sunday 2nd July at 10.30 am Hackpen Hill also known as Crowhole Bottom and Devil's Punchbowl, Oxon

Butterflies and day flying moths. Steep slopes requiring suitable footwear. Meet at Sparsholt Firs on the Ridgeway by the B4001. Grid ref: SU 344850.

Leaders: Mike & Gillian Taylor 01235 751646

Tuesday, 4th July at 11 am Great Chalk Wood, Oxon

Target species will be the White-letter Hairstreak but hopefully a good selection of other butterflies along the way. To gain access to the wood we will need to walk in from Goring. Binoculars highly recommended. Meet at Sheepcot Recreation Ground car park. Grid ref: SU 604805, map 175.

Post code RG8 0EN. **Leader: Peter Cuss 07938 577944**

Thursday 6th July at 11 am

Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks

Walk to see Dark Green Fritillary in UTB's best site. Very steep slopes and lots of rabbit holes. Meet car park, grid ref: SP963160, map 165.

Leader: Paul Bowyer 01628 526225

Saturday 8th July at 11 am

Silchester Common Hants

A good site for the Silver-studded Blue. Ground uneven so wear suitable footwear. Also, there is gorse, so wear long trousers. Meet in the car park on the west side of Pamber Road in Silchester. Grid ref: SU625622.

Leader: Bryan Williams 0118 9792177, mobile 07919921910

Sunday 9th July at 10.30 am

Salcey Forest, Bucks/Northants

Combined meeting with Northants Section. Repeating our successful field trip of last year with Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary, Wood White and three possible Hairstreak species. Meet in the Horsebox car park on Midshires Way, grid ref: SP801509, map 152.

Leaders: Douglas Goddard and Dave James, Doug's number 01604 408670, Dave's number 07838 113940

Sunday 9th July at 2 pm

Reading University Whiteknights Campus, Berks

Targeting summer butterflies, hoping to find White-letter Hairstreak. Easy walking around a mixture of woodland and meadows. Meet at the entrance to the woodland (the wilderness) grid ref: SU 73715 71499, map 175. Best accessed using the Pepper Lane Whiteknights Campus entrance and using car park 13.

Leader: Matt Greenwell 07501486698 matthew.greenwell@pgr.reading.ac.uk

Saturday and Sunday July 15th and 16th at 10.30 am

Bernwood Forest Bucks/Oxon

Weather permitting, good numbers of summer butterflies should be seen, the main attraction being the Purple Emperor. Meet in the main Oakley Wood car park, grid ref: SP611117, map 164. If the weather is fine, participants may like to arrive earlier, since the Purple Emperor is active from 9 am in really warm weather. **Leader: Dennis Dell 01296 397039 and 07986868747**

Saturday 15th July at 11am **North Bucks Way & Oakhill Wood, Milton Keynes**

A walk of 2.5 miles approximately along the North Bucks Way to look for White Admiral, hairstreaks and other summer species. We also spotted the Purple Emperor here last year. Meet at Shenley Wood car park, grid ref: SP824356, map 152. **Leader: Martin Kincaid 01908 235632, 07768 146232**

Saturday 22nd July 10:30am **West Wycombe Hill and Buttlers Hanging, Bucks**
A walk to see summer butterflies and hopefully some of the rarer species on Buttlers Hanging including Dark Green Fritillary and Chalkhill Blue. After meeting at the south end of National Trust car park on the top of West Wycombe Hill (Grid ref: SU827950) we will walk, through the woods, along the top of the ridge until we arrive at Buttlers Hanging. A walk of about 4 kilometres in total with very steep slopes, so please wear suitable footwear. Please note it is not possible to park on the road directly below Buttlers Hanging.
Leader: Tess and Peter Ogdén 07596 495007

Saturday 22nd July at 10.30 am **Bowdown Wood, Berks**
A walk through the varied landscape of Bowdown Wood, a BBOWT reserve near Newbury, in search of the fairly elusive White Admiral. The walk will include a couple of steep slopes (one with steps) and will take in areas of woodland, wooded valleys and open ground so a variety of summer butterflies should be observed. Meet in the 'Bomb Site' car park (see BBOWT website for directions) at grid ref SU507654, map 174.
Leader: Julia Huggins 07879 066876

Saturday 29th July at 10.30 am **Paices Wood, Aldermaston, Berks**
A look at the varied habitats of this country parkland which supports a variety of species. Entrance south of Youngs Industrial Estate between Aldermaston and Tadley off A340. Parking at SU587639, map 174. On west side of A340, best satnav code is RG74PG. Then follow brown signs.
Leader: John Lerpiniere 0118 375 1756

Sunday 30th July at 10.30 am **Oven Bottom, Oxon**
Butterflies of high summer. From the A417 a mile east of Blewbury turn south along the narrow lane opposite the turning to Aston Upthorpe village. Park and meet by the grain drier half a mile along the lane. Grid ref: SU550844, map 174. Steep chalk slopes. The walk will proceed to the near end of 'Juniper Valley' then bear right up the hill, turn right onto Grim's Ditch by the dew pond and then on to Oven Bottom returning by descending 'Juniper Valley'.
Leader: Malcolm Brownsword 01235 850668

Tuesday 8th August at 11 am **Greenham Common, Berks**
Lots of butterfly species, our target the Grayling. Meet at car park near control tower. Grid ref: SU501652, map 174. Off Bury's Bank Road.
Leader: Paul Bowyer 01628 526225

Friday 11th August 11 am

Shirburn Hill, Oxon

Target species is Silver Spotted Skipper with other mid-summer chalk downland species. Steep slopes and rabbit holes. Meet at southern end of Cowleaze Wood car park, off the road from Christmas Common to Stokenchurch. Grid ref: SU725955, map 165.

Leader: Paul Bowyer 01628 526225

Saturday 12th August at 10.30 am

Hundred Acre Piece, Mortimer

The wide flowery rides through the conifer plantations on the Berks/Hants border are one of the local hotspots for the Grayling butterfly. Park in the quiet cul-de-sac of Stephen's Firs, Mortimer. Grid ref: SU644647, map 175.

Leader: Jan Haseler 0118 9414750 / 07464 603236

Saturday 12th August 10.00 - 12.30

College Lake, Bulbourne, Bucks

We welcome beginners to moth trapping, families, interested members of the public and experienced 'mothers', to examine moths trapped the previous night. We will provide identification sheets so that you attempt to identify the moths on display as we open a number of traps at intervals (there will be expert assistance with ID). Please note that College Lake welcomes a donation of £3 if you choose to use their car park. This event is a joint enterprise with the Buckinghamshire Invertebrate Group (BIG).

Grid ref: SP935139, Map 165. Post code: HP23 5QG.

Contact: Nick Bowles 01442 382276; nick.bowles@ntlworld.com

Sunday 13th August at 10.30 am

Kimble Rifle Range, Bucks

Summer butterflies (including Chalkhill Blue and hopefully Silver-spotted Skipper) and day-flying moths at this BBOWT reserve. This is a 3km walk and includes some slopes, but is possible with grippy shoes and the exercising of caution about rabbit holes and ant hills. We could extend onto the adjacent Grangelands BBOWT reserve if time permits. Parking at grid ref: SP832045, Map 165, on Longdown Hill near HP27 ONB.

Leader: Nick Bowles 01442 382276

Wednesday 16th August at 10.30

Whitecross Green Wood, Bucks/Oxon

Target species Brown Hairstreak. Meet at BBOWT car park at entrance to wood, grid ref: SP600150. Binoculars and lots of patience essential!

Leaders: Dennis Dell 07986 868747

and Tony Croft 01844 214998 and 07808 289588

Holtspur - before and after scrub clearance



In Buckinghamshire, the Bucks Invertebrate Group organise a lot of field trips which include studying butterflies and especially moths. Their list of field trips is available on their web site.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bucksinvertebrategroup/Home>

In Berkshire, the Berkshire Moth Group hold regular meetings on the second Thursday of every month. They organise other events as well. Refer to their web site for details. <https://sites.google.com/site/berksmoths/Home>

Upper Thames Branch Website

www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/288/upper-thames-branch.html>

Have your butterfly sightings and photos posted on the website by sending them to: sightings@upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

Upper Thames Branch Moth Sightings Blog
<http://upperthamesmoths.blogspot.co.uk>

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Butterflies.Berkshire.Buckinghamshire.Oxfordshire>
and Twitter - @UpperThamesBC

Holtspur Bottom Reserve
<http://www.holtspurbottom.info>

Upper Thames Branch Officers

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01442 382276 nick.bowles@ntlworld.com

Vice-chairman & Conservation & Recording Chairman Grahame Hawker
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