

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## Adonis Blue Report 2013

Maureen Cross

The late spring delayed the emergence of the first brood Adonis but by June double numbers were being reported on Lardon Chase though less on other sites further north in the Chilterns.

The second brood appeared to have made up for the delay in the timing of the spring emergence and was back flying in August. The summer was warm and sunny with just enough rain to sustain the vegetation on the chalk hillsides. This was reflected in the good number of Adonis seen and the long duration of the flight season.

### **First Brood Adult 2013:**

**1st seen:** 1st June - 1 at Lardon Chase

**Most seen:** 4th June - 15 at Lardon Chase

**Last seen:** 18th June - 1 at Yoesden Bank

### **Second Brood Adult 2013:**

**First seen:** 14th August - 6 at Lardon Chase

**Most seen:** 26th August - 46 at Lardon Chase

**Last seen:** 6th October - 1 at Aston Rowant



Adonis Blue female  
*Photo © Dave Ferguson*

There were no reports of new colonies but as with the majority of butterflies including the Chalkhill and Common Blues the Adonis had a good year in 2013 due mainly to the warm sunny summer. Further north in the Chilterns the first and last Adonis were seen later than those around the Goring Gap possibly due to some increase in height of the sites. Lardon Chase remains the most constant site probably due to its sheltered hillside and the National Trust management which maintains a good

turf height and supply of Horseshoe  
Vetch by careful grazing and records  
show this year sightings of Adonis there  
were the most since 2006.