

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Dark Green Fritillary Report 2012

Ched George

There was a definite improvement in numbers of Dark Green Fritillary in South Bucks, compared with recent years at least. There were records from sites that have had none for some years, e.g. Sydlings Copse (Oxon), and the first at Radnage for two years, yet Swyncombe Down (Oxon) returned just 2 sightings which was the lowest total for many years. The Bradenham area is still the second most likely place to see Dark Green Fritillary in Bucks, with at least 20 seen on a single day in 2012. The most likely remains the Ivinghoe area.

There were no reports from the following sites that previously held colonies: Gomm Valley and Holtspur Valley (Bucks), Watlington Hill (Oxon); nor from any Berkshire sites (where there may be a paucity of recorders in the best habitats). Away from the Chilterns Mike Wilkins recorded one individual at Greenham Common.

The first reported sighting was on July 10th and the last was on August 10th, however there may be more records not yet in.



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Left: A melanistic female was seen at Bradenham.

Various land managers are involved in work that should help the species even where their work is primarily targeted at other species (with similar needs).

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