

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## Dark Green Fritillary Report 2014

Ched George



*Dark Green Fritillary Argynnis aglaja*  
Photo © David Hastings

**During the 2014 flight season there was no evidence of the Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* appearing in new colonies at new sites but some records suggest casual wanderings, which conceivably could lead to new colonies.**

The first record in 2014 was from Hackpen Hill, Oxfordshire on June 10th (with good numbers recorded there later in the season) and the last was from Juniper valley, Aston Upthorpe, Oxfordshire on August 3rd.

More records may arise once all reports reach Jim Asher. Even without those this species has shown dramatic increases in colony size on known sites in South Bucks and elsewhere since 2012, although there were few reports of occurrences away from known colonies.

The BBOWT Reserve at Calvert Jubilee is one of the exceptions to this statement with repeated sightings here at a site some distance from known colonies. A single report from the Gomm Valley leads to hopes of a re-establishment in this vicinity including our own reserve at Holtspur Bottom, however much of the Gomm Valley has been released now for potential housing development.



*Dark Green Fritillary*  
Photo © Michael McNeill

Populations remained high both at Bradenham and Buttler's Hangings in Buckinghamshire. A number of reports came from the nearby Lodge Hill where records have been very scarce in recent years. It was seen again at Strawberry Bank near Lane End and it was seen flying with Silver-washed Fritillaries at nearby Homefield Wood (Bucks).

Despite these encouraging reports, numbers remained low at several other Buckinghamshire sites, e.g. Coombe Hill and Baccombe Hill at Wendover, and also at Granglands near Princes Risborough.

Records reported on the website from Berkshire were restricted to one from Combe Gibbet, near Inkpen and White Horse hill at Uffington, with a singleton garden record from Upper Basildon.

Good numbers were again flying between Mapledurham and Whitchurch, Oxfordshire. A report of 9 seen at Watlington was exceptional compared to recent years. Many people visited and reported sightings at Aston Rowant NNR (Oxfordshire) on the Branch Website, but no-one published sightings from Ivinghoe Beacon (Buckinghamshire) where I'm sure that numbers were up to strength.

**Ched George**  
November 2014