

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## Purple Emperor (*A. iris*) Report for 2014

Dennis Dell



*Photo © Tim Watts, Calvert Jubilee*



*Photo © Nick Board, private wood in North Bucks*

### Acknowledgements

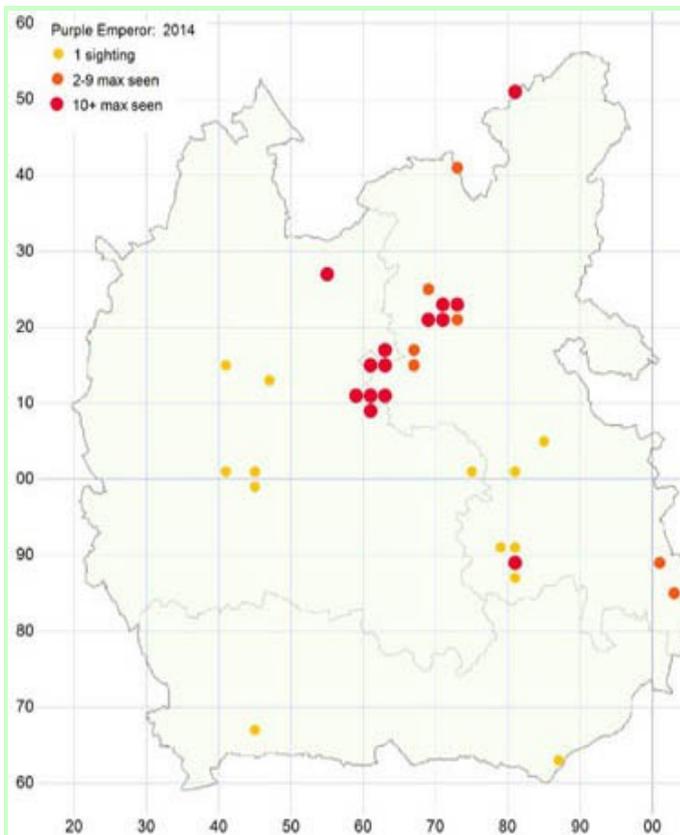
Thank you all once again for sending me your sightings. The Appendix indicates the recorders, not all members, who contributed to this report. I often don't receive all sightings directly, so I am indebted, as usual, to those of you who have passed on observations of third parties. Although one should not single out particular members, I must nevertheless mention the efforts of Wendy and Mick Campbell who, once again, sent by far the most records and explored potential habitats during the willow flowering season and were rewarded with new locations.

### 1. Introduction

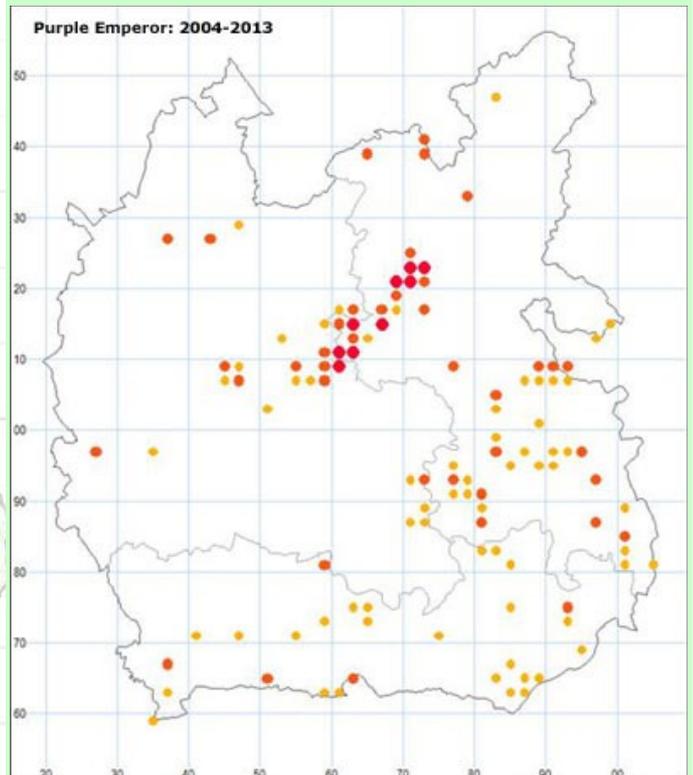
The details of the individual observations are in the Appendix and the difficulty of recording numbers of individuals is always with us, so that the numbers given here can only be used as an approximation, but is still useful for comparing trends from year to year. In this respect, I have also divided the number of sightings by the number of visits, because I believe this will allow a better year on year comparison [see diagram below]. To illustrate this approach with a fictitious example: on the 17th of July, Fred, Marion, and Felicity visited Finemere Wood, quite independently, at different times of the day. They recorded 10, 8, and 12 PEs respectively. I note these individual records and I also divide the total by three and record 10 as the average number of sightings for that day and that wood.

### 2. Summary

- The sightings, at **256 (30 x 2km squares)**, was about average taken over the last 6 years, but much higher than for the first 5 years [2004 to 2008] since we have been keeping records. The average sightings per visit ratio was 2.06 [from 2004 to 2008 it was 1.75, and from 2009 to 2013 it was 2.67].
- 10 new habitats were found.
- It was a normal season, starting during the 3rd week in June and ending on August 1st. The peak was during the first week in July.



*A. iris* distribution 2014  
(data from Levana with acknowledgement to Jim Asher)



*A. iris* distribution 2004-2013  
(data from Levana with acknowledgement to Jim Asher)

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Weather 2014

**January:** There was almost continuous rain throughout the month, although it was very mild.

**February:** This was another stormy, very unsettled and wet month. Again, temperatures were above average.

**March:** This month brought a big change; high pressure dominated the middle of the month with several warm days.

**April:** This was the fifth month in a row with temperatures above the UK average. The start and end of the month were rather unsettled, but fine weather dominated from the 8th until the 19th.

**May:** A mixed month; although it was again warmer than average, sunny spells were interspersed with unsettled conditions bringing cloud and rain.

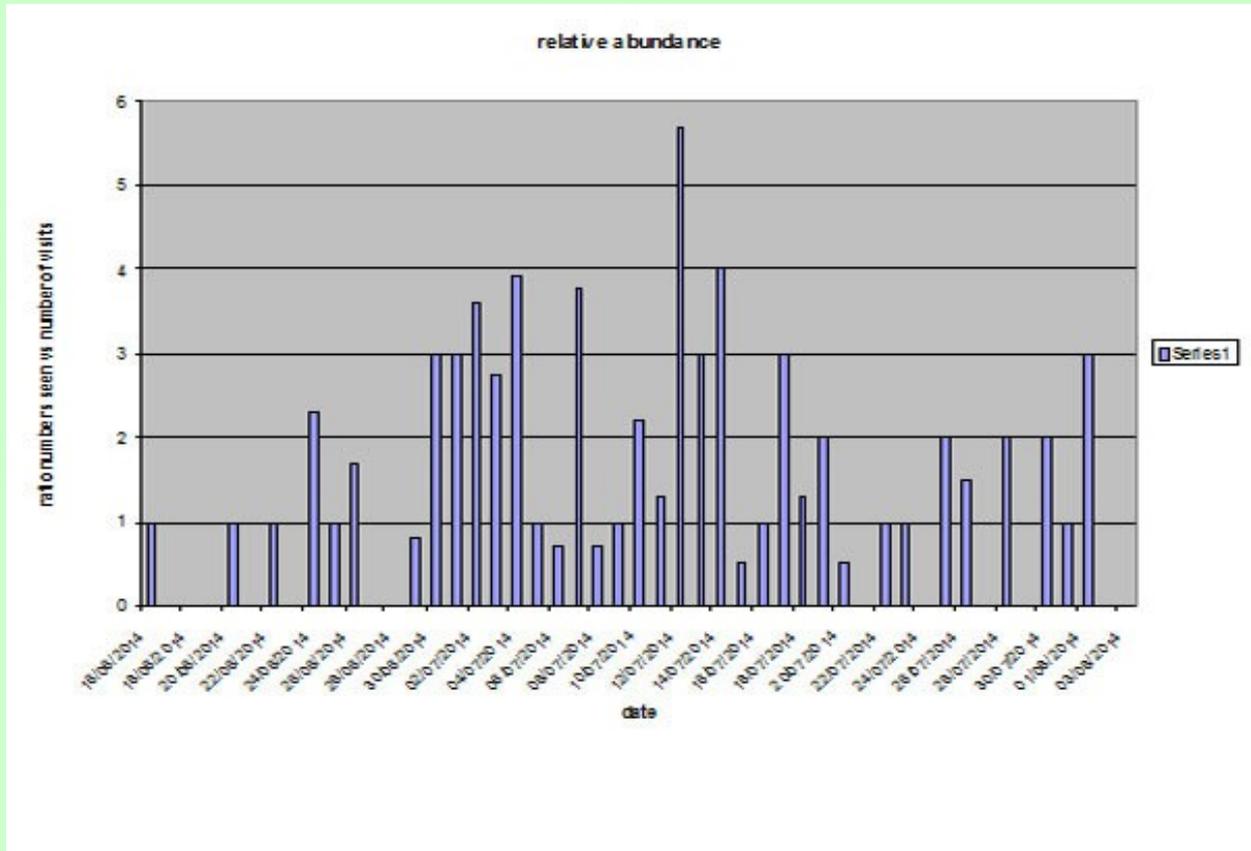
**June:** Again, above average temperatures. Some thundery downpours early and late in the month; fine anticyclonic weather around the middle of the month.

**July:** A fine month, with above average temperatures again and many days having maximum temperatures above 25 degrees.

The above average temperatures during the larval and pupal development periods and a fine July were ideal conditions for the species.

### 3.2 Sightings

The y-axis of the diagram below denotes the ratio of sightings to number of visits on each date, this being a more realistic representation of the abundance/date correlation than obtained by simply plotting the total sightings against date. Most sightings were made between the 1st and the 5th of July, which is about normal. The spike on July 12th was probably because we had our field meeting in Bernwood on that day, and the large number of people present enhanced the number of sightings.



### 3.3 Territories [male assembly areas]

- **Waterperry Wood**

New territory: The Campbells have seen activity within the Waterperry enclosure 'Hursthill' in the north-eastern corner of the wood during the last three years.

### 3.4 'New' habitats

Ten new habitats were reported in 2014.

- **Wokingham garden**, only about 0.5km from nearest wood.
- Woods at southern end of **Gerrards Cross golf course**.
- **Hitchcops Pit**, BBOWT reserve. This is close to both Tubney Wood and Besselsleigh Wood
- **Woodeaton Wood**, 3km to the west of the nearest *iris* wood.
- **Salcey Forest**, south-eastern corner, which is within the vice-county 24 boundary for Bucks.
- **Besselsleigh Wood**.
- **Calvert Jubilee BBOWT reserve**. This is scrub/grassland surrounded by a wide strip of woodland.
- **Stoke Wood**. This wood, near Bicester, is about 8km from the nearest *iris* wood.
- **Chinnor Garden**. About 1km from Chinnor Wood [*iris* not recorded from there, yet].
- **Grintley Hill Bridge**. Near River Evenlode; surrounded by woodland.

### 3.5 Noteworthy Events and Comments

- At Calvert Jubilee Reserve, Tim Watts focused on a female *iris* with his telescope which stayed perched high up in an Ash for 3.5 hours.
- In Bernwood Forest, a mating pair was observed, quite low down in flight.
- In a Chinnor garden, a female was observed nectaring on Buddleia two days running. She arrived at 10.30am both days and stayed for 2 to 3 hours each day.

### 4. Conclusions

This was an 'average' year. The lack of records from Berkshire was disappointing, apart from the very early sighting from Wokingham and a visit by the Campbells to woods near Hampstead Norreys which did not yield any sightings, but this was compensated for by the new records from Oxfordshire.

Dennis Dell

February 2015

10.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Bernwood Forest	SP627107 Shabbington Turning Circle	2	14.10	started sunny but became cloudy	The first PE flew from ground/near ground almost vertically up and over the top of a tall fir tree & disappeared after a brief glide. We watched for about another 10-15 minutes before HE reappeared, this time with a second PE. There was a short aerial skirmish before they split up. One headed for us and did a quick loop around our heads before returning to his territory in the top of the fir tree, the 2nd one flew along the top of the row of fir trees and disappeared from view at the far end.
10.7	Dave Law	Finemere Wood		3M	12.00 to 13.30	sunny, 28 degrees	On the main ride from the sign board 2 males were grounded feeding on dog faeces and a banana skin and further up the ride; just before the cattle enclosure [turning circle] I was circled by another male
11.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Little Wood	main territory at top of wood	3M		ideal	two in Ashes, one in Oak
11.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood		1		ideal	flying along track and then into wood
11.7	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood	SP719218 new glade created last year	1M		ideal	circled me several times
11.7	Steve Croxford	Romer Wood	SP714232	1M		ideal	looked to settle on track before moving off
11.7	Becky Woodell	Oakley Wood		1M			Mainly flying close to the ground around a black plastic bag which probably contained dog faeces somewhere between the first intersection from the car park and the big fenced meadow area.

## APPENDIX: Details of A. Iris Sightings in the UTB area during 2014

(Red denotes a new habitat)

DATE	OBSERVER	LOCATION <sup>a</sup>	MICRO-LOCATION <sup>b</sup>	NUMBER SEEN AND SEX <sup>c</sup>	TIME <sup>d</sup>	WEATHER CONDITIONS	BEHAVIOUR <sup>e</sup> and comments
16.6	Ian Humphrey	Wokingham	garden	1M			within 1km of nearest woodland
20.6	Steve Croxford	Little Wood	big ash territory	1M	4.50 to 5.10	sunny intervals	
22.6	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	SP589112	1M	13.30	fine	It flew straight out of the wood and headed off across the field to a small copse full of willow. Followed its flight with binoculars and was last seen being chased by a dragonfly!
24.6	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood	SP60950997 SP60590912	4 1	11.00 till 16.00	fine	@ SP6095-0997 - 3 flying in ash & oaks and 1 grounded on horse manure. @ SP60589-09122 - flew out of a willow & up over trees.
24.6	Neil Holman	Finemere Wood	main ride	1			Landed on the boot of another visitor where it proceeded to pose for several minutes. It then posed on the ground for more photos before settling on me as well.
24.6	Geoff Ryder	Finemere Wood	main ride	1			Settling on boots and people for some minutes; possibly the same specimen

							as above
24.6	Ewan Urquhart	Bernwood	1] M40 compensation area  2] main forest	1  1	11.00 to 14.00  14.30 to 15.00		One in M40 Conservation area . One in Bernwood Forest.
25.6	Dennis Dell	Waterperry	main track  SP605090	1	14.10 to 15.10		flying through Oaks at right angle bend
26.6	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	main territory	2	16.00		In usual ash territory at top of wood.
26.6	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	meadow corner territory	2	15.20		In usual meadow corner territory
26.6	Tony Croft	Bernwood	near shabbington turning circle SP626106	1	pm	20 degrees partly sunny	On the ground investigating some animal poo. I stopped just short of it and after a few seconds it flew away up into the trees
29.6	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Chinkwell Wood	SP6614	0			None seen. Extensive wind damage. Many trees snapped and uprooted. The 'territory' trees at the high point badly affected. Sallow mainly unaffected.
29.6	visitor's book	Whitecross green wood		1			
29.6	Wendy Wilson	woods at south part of gerrard's x golf course	TQ01258925	1	11.55 and at 12.25		Flying in Oaks and Ashes

29.6	Russell Butcher	Hitchcose Pit	SU452996	1	14.23		BBOWT reserve; woods 300m to the west [Tubney Wood] and to the east
29.6	Jim Asher	Finemere Wood		1			
29.6	Mike Dent	Whitecross Green wood		1			
30.6	Nick Board	Private wood in north Bucks	SP728401	1			Flying around top of Oak
30.6	Tony Croft	Bernwode fruit trees nursery		2			I was at Rushbeds on Tuesday and was talking to the man who owns Bernwode Fruit Trees which is the nursery to the north of Lapland Farm meadows. He had seen two land on his driveway that morning. That grid reference is SP666161. As I recall the weather on Tuesday morning was warm and sunny to start but clouded over late morning.
30.6	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood	1]SP72062157 to SP71832187 2]SP72112115 and SP72102108	5 1	am		1] Oak edging 2] Buzzed Steve; then on track 2] 300 to 400m from wood edge along main track out
1.7	Mike Reed	Homefield Wood		1			Buzzed him, flew along track before disappearing over trees
1.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Romer Wood	SP7213 SP7212	5 1			1 grounded and 2 chasing near shallows at turning circle. 1 flying over poplar tree territory. 1 flying in ash near poplars (very windy!).

							1 at top end of wood flying around willow. Possible female.
2.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Homefield Wood	SU8186	0			None seen, although we met someone who had seen one along the main ride the day before.
2.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Little Wood		2			1 male in ash territory, active, chasing birds, 1 female over willow
2.7	Nick Board	Private wood in north Bucks		1	am		Taking salts from hand
2.7	Dave Wilton	Private wood in north Bucks		6	11.30 to 13.30		Southern section of 'E' (the main north-south ride) from the usual 'master trees' southwards provided me with five sightings which could easily have been five different individuals. They were all flying around and along the oaks but didn't seem to be acting territorially - two passed each other at one stage and they barely acknowledged each other. At the very southern end one came down to inspect me before going back up high again. I had one more sighting on section 'G' (again flying along the oaks), so six sightings altogether.
2.7	Peter Law	Oakley Wood		2	11.30 and 12.45		They were both on the hard track through Oakley Wood. These were a female just past the meadow before the crossroads at 11:30, then a male near the car park at 12:45."
2.7	Steve	Finemere Wood		7			In a 20 minute walk up the track I

	Croxford		5				<p>must have had at least 15 sightings. Interestingly they were all Oak edging, there was no activity down near the track.</p> <p>7 from 10:30am Finemere Wood main track between SP72062154 to SP71842186 - Looked like males all Oak edging.</p> <p>From there I walked over to Greatsea and Romer Woods. At the main junction there was lots of action on the deck. I found 4 on the track or the pile of road scrapings. Two of these individuals actually landed on my shoes and trousers. At one point I could see two on the track when an apparent male and female appeared performing a sort of courtship dance. She did not appear very keen and dived into a sallow to escape. In total I saw 10 sightings with at least 4 individuals.</p> <p>5 from 11:30am Greatsea Wood main track between SP71392309 and SP71372316 – Mostly down on the track or close to it.</p> <p>I dropped into another wood very quickly on the way back. I also saw another Emperor here. This one was at the North end. Its only about 40m from where I also saw one last year.</p> <p>1 at 12:30 - looked like a male</p>
		Greatsea and Romer Woods	1				
		Private wood in north Bucks	5				
		Piddington Wood	7				
		Little Wood					

						<p>searching for females</p> <p>This afternoon I went over to Little Wood. At Piddington Wood I saw 3 or 4 individuals in the Ashes as you enter the wood and another inside the wood itself.</p> <p>4 from 16:00 Piddington Wood SP63011628 – males in territory</p> <p>1 from 16:10 Piddington Wood SP62931616 – male Oak edging</p> <p>At little wood there were at least three individuals in the usual large Ash as well as other sightings in the wood.</p> <p>4 from 16:30 Little Wood SP62421577 – males in territory</p> <p>1 from 16:40 Little Wood SP62401572 - male Oak edging</p> <p>1 from 16:40 Little Wood SP62311581 – male Oak edging</p> <p>1 from 16:50 Little Wood SP62111586 - male searching sallows</p> <p>The final sighting was interesting as it was well out of the main wood searching the Sallows and Ash for females in the new wood. I am sure the iris are using this area as a nursery.</p>
3.7	Steve	Finemere Wood	SP721215 to	4	10.30	Looked like males all Oak

	Croxford	Greatsea Wood	SP718219 SP714231 to SP714232	8	11.00		Mostly down on the track or close to it.
3.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Appleton Common Wood	SP4300	0			We surveyed this wood in the spring and found good oak and willow. The wood looks suitable for PE and we will revisit next year.
3.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	SP5911	3			One oak edging and two chasing above oaks near corner of wood.
3.7	Jonathan Court	Little Hampden		1			Sighted at the edge of mixed woodland at Little Hampden;  SP 85794 04456 (private property)
3.7	Ewan Urquhart	Bernwood		2	am		Two, possibly three Purple Emperors coming down briefly to the track through the forest. They were very restless and did not remain long before going back into the trees.
3.7	Wendy & Mick	Stanton Little		3			One oak edging and two chasing

	Campbell	Wood					above oaks near corner of wood.
3.7	Tony Croft	Rushbeds Wood		1	sunny 24 degrees		<p>I was making my way along the ride from the still closed car park to the cross-rides and as I arrived at one of the rideside clearings a PE flew low in front of me, circled a brash pile and then hot-footed it into the wood</p> <p>The grid reference is SP670154</p>
4.7	Richard Hicks	Moorend Common	SU792908	1		12.00	Seen from garden
4.7	Ewan Urquhart	Bernwood		3			One was on view for at least forty five minutes and another for twenty minutes
4.7	Dennis Dell	Finemere Wood		8	12.00 to 13.40		Three high in trees at back of new glade near entrance; one at end of grassy ride [section C] searching willows; two around tops of two tall Oaks about 100m from eastern end of C; one in Ash about halfway along C; and one halfway along main track above trees.
4.7	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood		4			Recorded anonymously in log book
4.7	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP6215	1			At bottom of wood.

4.7	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	SP6316	5			In meadow corner territory.
4.7	Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood	SP6009	5			Two (1m, 1f) in territory at eastern corner of enclosure [Hursthill] (we now think this is a territory as we've seen activity here two consecutive years) & a third, probable female, seen in sallow while walking back to the main track. One seen half way up main ride. One, probable male, seen at Dell's Corner flying over poplars.
5.7	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood		1			Recorded anonymously in log book
6.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Glympton Wood		0			None seen, but looks suitable for PE as the wood has a high point, oaks and plenty of sallow along the stream. We will revisit next year.
6.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Woodeaton Wood	SP5411 near Prattle Wood	1			Seen from outside edge of wood flying above ash trees.
6.7	Tony Croft	Whitecross Green Wood	SP601145	1			Flew rapidly overhead as we were sitting on the bench and disappeared into the trees so couldn't tell the gender.
7.7	Dennis Dell with Doug Goddard [Northants section]	Salcey Forest, corner in Bucks	south east corner which is within vice county 24 in Bucks	8	10.45 to 13.00	18 to 20 degrees, sunny intervals	One in car park; one at SP80955060; one at SP80625053; one at SP80575055; one at SP80305089; three at 80655050.  All engaged in flights in and near the crowns of the trees; except car park

						specimen which skimmed the surface
7.7	Wendy Wilson	Iver Heath		2	12 to 13.30	<p>They were at the south facing side of a small wood called The Clump in Iver Heath Fields opposite Pinewood Studios at Iver Heath. The M25 is in a deep cutting along the north margin. The Clump has lots of oak trees, many of them large ones, and along the south side are several willow trees.</p> <p>1. Possible sighting only - large butterfly flew up out of a willow tree (at TQ0215 8453) up to an oak. Too quick to be sure, so I decided not to record it.</p> <p>2. Definite sighting - 1 male flew up from a large oak to chase a swift which flew over (at TQ0222 8447). It made several passes around the tree before flying off to a more distant oak.</p> <p>3. Definite sighting - 1 female flew down from oak to a willow (at TQ0226 8439) and moved about in the willow for me to get a clear view with and without binoculars. It basked a bit about 15 feet up and I tried to get a photo but only got a bunch of leaves. Then she moved higher and up to another oak.</p>
7.7	Maggie Sproule	Finemere Wood	main ride	6	from 10.30 to 11.30	<p>I counted the six on one slow walk up the main ride at about 1100 a.m.</p> <p>The first two were chasing each other between the tops of two oak trees that</p>

just about overlap over the track, about half way up the straight on the main ride.

I seemed to have left them well behind when I saw two more in flight over the large oak tree off to the left where the small path intersects the main ride. One settled in the oak and the other, of which I managed to get a poor photo, settled in the willow immediately by the left path. It flew off fairly soon and went back towards the entrance and I lost track of it.

I then walked on past the clearing on the left and saw another two in the top of the oak tree on the right of the ride as it enters the shaded tunnel. The last sighting was on the smallish hawthorn tree on the left as I walked back, just before the large clear area before reaching the main gate. Managed a quick photo before it flew off. That could have been one of those previously seen as at least one was seen to fly back that way from the willow I mentioned.....but not necessarily.

Earlier, at about 1030, I saw one in the turning circle at the far end of the drive. I was sitting on the seat eyeing the trees opposite. I turned in time to see a Purple Emperor disappear into a small willow in the hedge behind me. I peered in and it seemed to be laying an egg but moved off to quickly for

							me to photograph it in difficult conditions. The two ladies had been watching it going in and out of sallows in that area but none of us saw it again. It may or may not have been one of those I saw on the 1100 pass!
7.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Besselsleigh Wood	SP4501	2			One (probable male) very active, seen flying above line of oaks near sallow coppice at edge of wood. One (probable female) seen flying above sallows near middle of wood
7.7	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood		1			Recorded anonymously in log book
8.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Queen's Wood	SU7292	0			None seen. Habitat is reasonable in patches. Some oak and sallow.
8.7	Mick Campbell	Bernwood	SP6310	1			One probable f. Seen flying low down from sallow near turning circle.
8.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Bernwood	SP6111	1			One m. Flying over oak and sallow.
9.7	Nick Board	Private wood in north Bucks	SP728401	1 male			
9.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Moor End Common	SU8090	1			One, pm, . Flying over oak in usual territory.

9.7	Stuart Hodges	Finemere Wood		1			SP720 216 Finemere wood
9.7	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood		1			Anonymous record in log book
10.7	Matthew Oates	Yarnton		1 male	8.15		Worn male along road at W end of Yarnton, NW of Oxford
10.7	Stuart Hodges	Private wood in north Bucks		2			One dashing backwards and forwards along ride close to large Oak. One busy searching in the Banks of Sallows so probably Female.
10.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Bernwood	SP6111	1			Seen flying near car park.
10.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Bernwood	SP6110 Hell Coppice	4			Seen chasing above oaks near roadside.
10.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood	SP608098	3			Flying above poplars & oaks at Dell's corner.
10.7	Tim Watts	Finemere Wood		2 males			
11.7	Tim Watts	Calvert Jubilee Reserve		1	11.43 to 15.33		Today I sat in the Calvert Jubilee BBOWT car park for 4 hrs !! with telescope and digital camera trained on tops of adjacent small .

						<p>At 11:43 caught a glimpse of movement of something larger in adjacent Ash tree, scanned tree with binoculars and nearly fell of my seat when after fair while located a Purple Emperor perched on outer edge! <b>This is a first for the site</b> .</p> <p>Amazingly it stayed perched in same spot for <b>3hrs 33 minutes!</b> It then flew off along tree line towards North end of reserve, took many photos of it. It was about 10 mts up and all views were of it's underside or wings held up closed, couldn't decide if was male or female. The Ash tree is near some good clumps of Sallows</p>
11.7	Mick Campbell	Boarstall Wood		0	17.00 to 18.00	- Footpath on southern edge nr house
11.7	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	meadow territory SP6316	3	18.00	Flying in usual meadow corner territory. Probable males.
12.7	Dennis Dell	Bernwood Forest		10	10.30 to 15.00	Field Meeting. We set off together at 10.30 along the main track and divided at Piccadilly Circus. Paul Bowyer took half of them through Yorks Wood to Hell Coppice and I continued with the rest along the main track to the Shabbington turning circle. Most of the Purple Emperor sightings were between the Oakley Wood car park and Piccadilly Circus, with just three in Yorks Wood and only one in Shabbington Wood

							between the turning circle and Piccadily Circus. Fourteen sightings in all were recorded. The main activity was Oak edging, with very few settling on the ground.
12.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Moor Wood		4	2M 2F	12.00 to 15.00	.Three (1m, 2f) seen in & around shallows at 12.00 noon. One seen circling swallow at 2.20pm.
12.7	Tim Watts	Finemere Wood		3		16.to 17.00	Three in flight together; based on size this was a female with two males; single males seen later
13.7	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	territory SP6215	3		16.30 to 17.15	Three (2m, 1f) seen chasing in usual territory at top of wood.
13.7	Dennis Dell	Bernwood Forest		3		poor until much later pm	Field Meeting day 2. We had a couple of fleeting sightings, and, as we approached Piccadily Circus, we saw a car parked near the crossroads. A Purple Emperor was buzzing this car in typical fashion and we then saw another one <b>inside the car! We managed to attract the attention of the [sleeping] girl in the car and persuaded her to open a window to let iris out.</b> This <i>iris</i> landed on a low Oak. It started to rain and we called it a day.
14.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood	SP6009	4			Two seen above poplars. 2 (m.) at 'enclosure' territory.
15.7	Mick	Penley Wood	SU7693	0			None seen.

	Campbell						
15.7	Dennis Dell	Little Wood	territory	1	14.45 to 16.00		On small Ash behind main Ash; short gliding flights over 10 minutes
16.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Rushbeds Wood	territory SP6615	1	16.00		sSeen flying in ash territory near meadow gate.
16.7	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood	grassy ride section C	1	11.50 to 15.00		Quite large, a probable female at SP 7220 2162; it was investigating shallows, then it flew past my head before disappearing behind me, so in sight for less than 30 seconds.
16.7	Dennis Dell	Private wood in north Bucks	easternmost ride	1	9 to 10am	sunny 21 degrees	High above trees across ride
16.7	Tim Watts	Calvert Jubilee reserve Finemere Wood		1 1	8.30 to 11.00		Brief glimpses, both times
17.7	Warren Claydon	Calvert Jubilee reserve	car park	1	14.00 to 16.00		
17.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Romer Wood	SP7123	9, 5M 4F			Six (3m,3f) in poplar tree territory & turning circle. Very active, flying & settling on ground & trees. Three (2m, 1f). Female was in willow appeared to be ovipositing.

17.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Romer Wood	SP7122	2			Two (m&f). Male seen flying above oaks & firs; female flew out of willow and up into tall firs where the male was flying.
17.7	Richard Wheeler	Calvert Jubilee Reserve		1		sunny 24 degrees	Purple Emperor made a single gliding pass heading south over the car park directly overhead, c.15ft up.
17.7	Tim Watts	Finemere Wood		2	11.15-12.15		Two in flight together, one larger, so male and female. The female dropped down to a Willow bush and was fluttering around and resting in it for some time.
18.7	Paul Bowyer	Private wood in north Bucks		1 female	10.30 to 12.30	very hot	About 10-12 feet above the ground moving in and out of the willows presumably looking for somewhere to lay eggs. [at 12.30]
18.7	Sue & Neil Killoran	Bernwood Forest	On tall oak tree at the first crossing in the track on the wildlife walk from the car park.	1F	15.00 hrs	Hot and sunny	Flew (glided) around lower branches of the oak tree then alighted on a lower limb (approx. 3m high) of the tree with wings closed. Proceeded to crawl, circumnavigating the limb, and went out of sight. Took flight and flew around lower branches again before landing on a leaf, again with wings closed, in a position which made it possible to take a reasonable photo.
18.7	Sue & Neil Killoran	Bernwood Forest	On ash (?) tree on the border of the track on the wildlife walk returning to the	1F + 1M	16.30 hrs	Hot and sunny	<b>MATING</b> . Disturbed as we walked past and flew a short distance to lower branches (approx. 3-4m high) of neighbouring ash tree, then alighted on leaf coupled together,

			car park after leaving the central track crossing (Piccadilly Circus?).				mating, with wings closed. Took flight and disappeared from sight, unfortunately disturbed as we were attempting to move to a position to take a reasonable photo. However managed to get clear identification using binoculars, particularly having had a good reference from the first sighting. At first they appeared to be a very large fast butterfly in flight so easily observed. It was only when they were at rest was it obvious that they were mating.
18.7	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Stoke Wood		3	1pm to 2.20	hot and sunny 28 degrees	SP5556-2779 - One female flew up an oak and across a fir tree where we lost sight of it. The fir was next to a big willow. The second iris was a probable male - just a brief sighting of it as it flew across from a willow into a big fir tree.  SP5548-2801 - One female seen flying above us over the narrow path at the bottom of the wood, then up and over an oak tree, disappearing from view.
18.7	Tim Watts	Calvert Jubilee reserve		1	5 hours		Also 5 separate sightings all in the car park entrance area
19.7	Martin Phipps	Chinnor garden	nectaring on buddleia	1 female			On Saturday 19th July my wife saw what she thought to be a White Admiral on our garden buddleia in Chinnor, Oxon. I was away so wasn't able to see it. However on Sunday 20th my wife called me when she was hanging out the washing and told me

							it was back. I raced home from Bernwood (Bucks) where I was looking for Purple Emperors, to no avail, only to discover that the White Admiral was in fact a female Purple Emperor! It stayed a good 3 hours nectaring - see photo
19.7	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	territory SP6316	0			None seen.
19.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Little Wood	territory SP6215	1M, 1F			One male in ash territory, very very active, chasing birds; also one female over sallow.
19.7	Nick Bowles	Private wood in north Bucks		3 female 2 male	13.25 to 14.45		I started walking around in the cloud and very very light rain. By section E the sun was out but the first PE wasn't seen until a female was seen checking sallow along F; at the entrance to G a male shot past and then another female (I assume) was checking sallow about half way down G. She(?) vanished into the wood before I got chance to confirm sex but size and behaviour strongly suggest fem. In H one more probable male PE – too distant to count on transect and then biggest surprise was another in N ( the short wander into cleared woodland off J and in the wood) based on size I think this a female, she(?) was being chased by a SWF.
20.7	Mick	Stanton Great	SP5909	0	17.00 to		None seen. .

	Campbell	Wood			18.00		
20.7	Mick Campbell	Holly Wood	SP5809	1			Flying across road towards large area of Sallow on edge of wood
21.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Hampstead Norreys, Berks (Park Wood/Down Wood/Westbrook Copse)	SU5275	0			None seen. We surveyed this wood on 14/04/14 and it looks suitable for PE.
22.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Bernwood Waterperry	SP6110 Yorks Wood SP6009	1F 1			Female in good condition, landed in sallow for 5 mins.  1.20pm - flew up oak & over sallow nr. Dell's corner.
23.7	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	territory	1M	4.30 to 5.30		Four flights above ash territory
24.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Worton Wood	SP4227	1			One possible sighting but unconfirmed.
25.7	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	territory SP6215	2M, 1F			Two males chasing in usual territory. One f. flying around big sallow behind main territory.

25.7	Alison Lowe	Grintley Hill Bridge	SP408151	1		26 degrees, sunny	Flying high in trees beside River Evenlode. Perched briefly once or twice
26.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Bernwood	SP6210	1F			Flying low along track near log pile.
26.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Bernwood	SP6111	2F			One at Piccadilly Circus flying low near oaks, very worn. One in reasonable condition flying & perching in sallow for several minutes, along main track near car park.
28.7	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP6215	2M			Chasing above conifer at top of wood.
30.7	Tony Croft	Whitecross Green Wood	SP604141	1 female	seen at 18.14	23 degrees sunny	Along the green lane near the pond. She was on a bramble leaf investigating it with her proboscis. As I was a bit sweaty from brushcutting I wiped some sweat onto my finger and put it near her. She immediately started licking my finger and then crawled onto it and spent a good ten minutes there before flitting off to another nearby plant.

30.7	Mick Campbell & Dennis Dell	Little Wood	territory SP6215	3	14.00 to 16.00	hot and sunny	One active between 2.15 and 2.45; two seen between 3.15 and 3.45
31.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Chinkwell Wood	SP6614	1F			Flew out of trees at edge of wood & back in again.
1.8	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP6215	3 [2M 1F]	13.30 to 16.30		Flying & chasing over ash & conifer in usual territory.
3.8	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP6215	0			None seen (after heavy rain on 2nd Aug.).
4.8	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP6215	0			