

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Small Blue Report 2016

Karen Saxl



Photo © Tim Watts

Expecting my first sighting of a Small Blue for 2017 any day now, so well past time to put down a few reflections on how last year was.

From the recordings the Small Blue did a little better in 2016 than in 2015. My own personal observations are the same – particularly as it was the first year for a while when I actually saw a second brood adult along the Sustrans route between Didcot and Blewbury.

In the last few weeks I've been talking with Sustrans about the possibility of managing the route a bit more for butterflies and undertaking some scrub clearance so it was really interesting to see the article ***A Bright future for the Warwickshire Small Blue*** in issue 124 (Spring 2017) of *Butterfly*. Sustrans have received some money to undertake a project looking at how routes can be used more effectively to support ecology and are working with a number of organisations on this – including Butterfly Conservation ... and one focus is around the potential for using the routes as wild-life corridors. They are supposed to be doing surveying in the next couple of months and then hope we can develop a management plan that stops kidney vetches and other plants from being overwhelmed by bushes, brambles and other scrub so may be a call to local UTBC members at the end of the year for help.

Karen Saxl

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