

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## Wood White Species Champion Report 2018

Nick Board



Based on sightings reports, the flight period for the 2018 season was very similar to the previous year.

Earliest sightings for both years were reported in the second week of May, with numbers peaking during the last week in May and the first week in June.

The last dates of reported sightings were ten seen at Wicken Wood on the 5<sup>th</sup> August and two at Stoke Park Wood on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, these being second brood butterflies.

Great news this year were the two reported sightings from Little Linford Wood where a tremendous amount of work has been put in to encourage a suitable habitat.

Stoke Park Wood, further to the north of the County, appears to be holding a stable colony with nine reported during a single visit to the wood on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.

However, the stronghold in the UTB region continues to be Wicken and the nearby Leckhampstead Woods with healthy numbers being reported.

Last year I reported on the lack of management at Wicken Wood and its sad deterioration but this year I am pleased to report that the new owners and their woodland management team have commenced a cutting and clearance programme which has transformed the wood.

We have been able to develop a close liaison them and they have welcomed our advice and feedback as we work together to secure the future of the Wood White and other butterflies in the wood

Both Wicken and Leckhampstead Woods are in private ownership and public access will be restricted but we have been informed that we will continue to have access to undertake our surveying.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to report sightings to me, including those who visited woods where the Wood White was once seen but may never return.

There are still other woods to visit along the North Bucks / South Northants border where I feel sure there remain hidden colonies.....next year maybe!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Conditions</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
15-May	Hazelborough Wood	SP6666941416	Kate Neal	Warm/Sunny	1
17-May	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	1
17-May	Wicken Wood	SP729411	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	2
19-May	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	5
19-May	Wicken Wood	SP729411	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	5
20-May	Whistley Wood	SP610414	Louise Hammond	Warm/Sunny	0
21-May	Whistley Wood	SP6109341420	Kate Neal	Warm/Sunny	2
22-May	Wendover Woods	SP889804	Heidi lloyd	Warm/Sunny	0
23-May	Hazelborough North	SP658431	Caz Temple	Warm/Sunny	4
27-May	Wicken Field trip	SP729411	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	20
28-May	Wicken Wood	SP73124054	Phil Tizzard	Warm/Sunny	3
01-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP729411	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	10
01-Jun	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	22
03-Jun	Hazelborough Wood	SP444616	Louise Hammond	Warm/Sunny	11
06-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP730406	Stephen Jones	Warm/Sunny	3
06-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP730403	Stephen Jones	Warm/Sunny	2
11-Jun	College Wood	SP790330	Bob Tunnicliffe	Warm/Sunny	0
11-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	SP825494	Mick/Wendy Campt	Warm/Sunny	9
11-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	n/k	Ian Saunders	Warm/Sunny	4
14-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	SP824492	Ian Saunders	Warm/Sunny	1
15-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	SP820492	Linsey Alton	Warm/Sunny	4
16-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	SP824492	Judith Barnard	Warm/Sunny	2
18-Jun	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726399	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	3
18-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP730406	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	5
18-Jun	Little Linford Wood	SP832453	David Munson	Warm/Sunny	1
19-Jun	Stoke Park Wood	SP824492	Ian Saunders	Warm/Sunny	1
21-Jun	Little Linford Wood	SP832453	Lina Mulrenan	Warm/Sunny	1
28-Jun	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	1
01-Jul	Hazelborough Wood	SP666414	Louise Hammond	Warm/Sunny	0
13-Jul	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	Warm/Sunny	1
24-Jul	Wicken Wood	SP729411	Brian lloyd	Warm/Sunny	3
02-Aug	Wicken Wood	SP729411	Louise Hammond	Warm/Sunny	1