

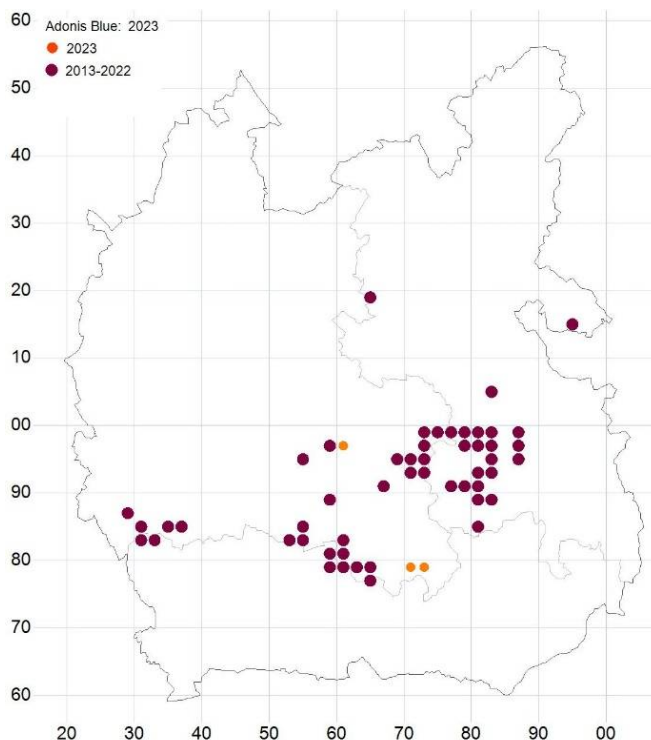
BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Adonis Blue report for 2023

Maureen Cross and Margery Slatter

The first sighting for 2023 was on 21st May at The Holies in the Goring Gap (1st brood), a week later than last year, and, for 2nd brood, on 29th July at Grangelands, with a gap of more than a week between this sighting and the next at Lardon Chase on 7th August. Numbers for the 1st brood increased steadily to peak in early June, particularly at Yoesden where large numbers were reported. The sequence of sightings in 1st brood numbers did not reflect any particular differences in the date of emergence from south to north, as has been apparent in recent years, though this became more obvious in the 2nd brood sightings. Despite the early sighting at Grangelands, in general the data shows that the 2nd brood emergences gradually progressed from south to north and the last sightings for the year were at Grangelands and the Rifle Range on 23rd September.

Overall, population sizes remain stable for most sites, though seem to be increasing at Yoesden and Grangelands, the former having the most sightings during 2023. Whilst numbers remain low at many of the sites in the UTB area, populations are persisting over many years and must, therefore remain viable. However, sadly there have been no records for one of the historic sites in the Goring Gap that appeared from the previous year to have experienced a revival, or from another near Lane End for which records were made in 2021, but for which there have been no sightings since. To counter this, a record has been made again in 2023 at a new site for 2022 near Marlow, giving hope that a new colony may be establishing there.



The map shows Adonis Blue sites/records for 2023 and any changes occurring from those of 2013 – 2022. Unfortunately, the new sites shown in orange are records which have been given erroneous grid references attached to named and well-known Adonis colonies and, therefore, do not represent new sites for 2023. (Corrections have been made!) So, it can be seen that there have been no additions to the location of Adonis Blue colonies from the previous 10-year period.

Walks targeting Adonis Blue in Berkshire and on the Chilterns during 2023 have been popular, as always, and we look forward to welcoming people at those planned for 2024.

Many thanks to all those volunteers and casual observers who have recorded Adonis Blue in our area and submitted their sightings!

Maureen Cross and Margery Slatter