

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Wood White Species Champion Report 2020

Nick Board



As we are all too aware, 2020 has proved to be a difficult year but for the Wood White numbers were good and the warm, sunny Spring provided ideal conditions to enable a second brood in July

Reported sightings were down on previous years and this may have been due to the “lockdown”. Indeed, my visits remained locally to woods in North Bucks

Earliest recorded sightings were on the 11th May at Leckhampstead and Wicken Woods, a week earlier than the previous two years. Regular sightings were then recorded throughout May and into June peaking on the 26th and 27th May when nineteen were seen in Kilwick Wood, close to Salcey Forest, and twelve in Leckhampstead Wood

Pleasing to report also that two Wood White were seen in Little Linford Wood on the 24th May

On the Northants / Bucks border Bucknell and Hazelborough Woods reported good numbers of sightings throughout the season again, with a second brood in both woods during July and early August

Thank you to everyone who took the time to report sightings to me, including those who visited woods where the Wood White was once seen and may have disappeared.

Next year, Covid permitting, will see us developing stronger links with local landowners in the hope that we can discover new colonies and also share our expertise to encourage the transformation of existing land to a more suitable habitat for the Wood White

We will continue our search in other woods along the North Bucks / South Northants border where I feel sure there remain hidden colonies. Please keep searching as your help is vital in helping to secure the future of this dainty yet fragile little butterfly