

What a difficult Week! The weather gave us a challenging start to the season. Thursday was a beautiful clear and sunny day, but unfortunately there is no evidence from the local weather stations that the temperature managed to reach 13°C. Salisbury and Southampton managed 12°C, on the coast it was 8.5°C, while other weather stations around the area made it to 11°C. Therefore, most of the transects walked on Thursday were ruled invalid, although two results were accepted, following assurances that the temperatures on these did reach 13°C in the shade.

Whilst the Group takes pride in achieving 100% coverage, that target is to get 100% coverage for things which are in its control and, unfortunately, it can't control the weather.

Just to be clear, temperature is measured in the shade not in the open. There will be a significant difference between the two numbers, so even on a bright sunny day the required temperature may not be reached. Please bear this in mind, because it looks as if next week will also be challenging and we don't want our data rejected by UKBMS. (If you are unable to do your transect when the weather looks more favourable perhaps you could find a willing sub in advance from your team.)

Special thanks to those of you who walked the transects on Thursday and then realised that, despite the sunshine and feeling warm, the temperature was too low and did them again on Friday, when an acceptable temperature was reached from around mid-day.

There are some formatting problems on the submission spreadsheet as regards the sun in S9 and S10 and the average, which will be resolved as soon as possible - please contact Trevor Bumfrey for a work around in Excel, if you're comfortable using that.



Peacock at Barton Common
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Results for Week 1: (Total reported to date - 172)

Acres Down.....*	Hasley.....*	Normandy Marsh.....0
Badminton.....	Hawkhill.....9	Perrywood Ivy.....10
Barton Common.....6	Hightown.....2	Pignal.....4
Beaulieu Heath.....5	Holmsley.....2	Pondhead.....12
Blackwater.....R	Ibsley.....*	Pondhead Wood.....R
Breamore.....31	Janesmoor.....4	Rockford.....*
Broadly.....R	Janesmoor Plain.....2	Roe North.....*
Dibden Bottom.....0	Keeping Marsh.....1	Roe South.....18
Fields Heath.....7	Kings Copse.....3	Standing Hat.....12
Frohawk.....3	Lepe.....0	Studland Common.....2
Godshill.....37	Little Linford.....*	Vales Moor.....1
Great Linford.....*	Mockbeggar.....	Warren Farm.....1

* transect has been walked - results awaited. R: result ruled invalid due to weather conditions

Day Flying Moths: As explained at the annual meeting, this year the Group has been asked to help improve records of day flying moths in this area. Please look out for moths as you walk your transect. We're interested in those that are similar in size to a butterfly (most likely a small butterfly!). Please record any seen in the same way as a butterfly, trying to get a photo if you don't know what it is. Include any moths seen in the 'notes' section of the spreadsheet you submit, giving the section number where it was seen and what type of moth it was (or a photo of unknown moths). An NFTG Day Flying Moth chart has been circulated with this newsletter to help identify which moths are most likely to be seen in which habitats at which times of year. Butterflies remain the priority, with moths spotted an added bonus!

Moth to spot: Already seen at Field's Health this year, the Orange Underwing (<http://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/archiearis-parthenias/>) is an early day-flying moth that spends most of its time high up in Birch trees but can be spotted when it visits the ground to drink or enjoy a bit of added nutrition from horse dung!