



Butterfly
Conservation



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY REPORT - 2015

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Report 2015

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www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

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Introduction

Following a review of the logistics of publishing a joint butterfly and moth report each year, it has been decided to trial splitting the report into two. As the butterfly report can be compiled earlier, it is being produced in the spring. The intention is to publish the moth report as a pdf document later in the year. This will be available on the Branch website.

Following such renowned predecessors is rather daunting if not overwhelming, but I have received considerable support from many in the organisation since assuming the role of County Recorder in late 2014. Particular thanks are due to my colleagues in the Records Sub-committee, Andy Barker, Kelvin Richards and Mike Wall.

This years butterfly report has a completely new layout which I hope you will like. Modelled on the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch Report (by kind consent of Andrew Wood, their Branch Chairman and Records Collector), the publication provides a standard single page for each species report.

Writing the Annual Report for the Branch in 2004, John Taverner's final request was to maintain the A5 format in preference to changing to A4 which many organisations were doing at the time. He would be very pleased that we have honoured his request.

So now, as well as the species writers account for the year, there is a flight graph comparing 2015 to 2014, an up to date species image, a distribution map and the usual data you have been used to over previous years. The flight period graph is a welcome addition and already of value highlighting the differences in Small Tortoiseshell & Holly Blue over the two years plotted.

Site trend graphs will be available as an Appendix to this report on our Branch Website.

As always, the production of the report has been a team effort. In particular, I would like to thank Andy & Linda Barker for providing the transect records and graphs, and Kelvin Richards who had the enormous task of consolidating thousands of records from the various reporting sources into a format suitable for importing into the Branch Database.

The number of recorders has increased dramatically over the past few years and regrettably it is not possible to list everyone within this report, but rest assured your efforts are very much valued and every record we receive (well over 80,000 in 2015) finds its way into our County and ultimately the National Database.

Jane Vaughan & Brian Fletcher have decided to stand down as species report writers and we would like to thank them for their contributions to the publication spanning many years. More recently, we welcome Jacky Adams, Mervyn Grist, Allan Orme, Nigel Owen, Tani Read & Bob Taylor to the team of writers.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to this report, which represents a wonderful 'volunteer' effort. Please do take a look at the inside cover to view the extensive list of acknowledgements.

Bob Annell

County Butterfly Recorder
March 2016

Transect records always form around 60% of the collective Hampshire records and these are reviewed by Linda & Andy Barker before being imported to our database on an annual basis. Wider Countryside Butterfly Surveys carried out in Hampshire and Isle of Wight are ultimately received by us via Butterfly Conservation's Lulworth Head Office, as are Big Butterfly Count, Migrant Watch Painted Lady and contributions from BTO Garden BirdWatch & Buglife.

In addition, more 'casual' sightings are also received and there are a number of ways that these can be reported to us.

1. Branch Spreadsheets - Do please use the latest version of our MS Excel Branch Spreadsheet, downloadable from:
<http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/recording.php>
Please read the 'Notes' page carefully before using the spreadsheet to ensure that your information can be transferred successfully into the County Database.
2. Living Record - This is an online system for recording all of your wildlife, plants etc and your verified butterfly records will be downloaded and added to our database. <http://www.livingrecord.net/>
3. iRecord Butterfly app - Another online recording facility developed by the Biological Records Centre. It would be helpful to us if actual quantities were inserted rather than using the 'Abundance Codes'.
<http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>
4. MapMate – Forward your annual records to me for synchronisation using Centre Unique Key (CUK) **cyb**.
5. Hard Copy - Very few recorders now submit their sightings on paper. However, for those of you who still prefer to submit your records in hard copy, standard forms are available. Please let me know if you need blank copies of these forms.

Most importantly, please use only one system as duplicate recording continues to present us with enormous problems.

Locations should be recognisable so that we can check the validity of your recorded National Grid Reference. Please be careful when recording near to the south coast which can often be SZ rather than the usual SU.

Please do remember that we no longer transfer sightings noted on our website Sightings Page to the records database.

Your images are of course always welcome; please continue to send these to me in good time for consideration of the next report.

Submitting your records to me by 30th November each year will give us a great chance of maintaining timely issue of future Annual Reports.

Bob Annell - 23 Ashleigh Close, Hythe, Southampton, Hampshire, SO45 3QN
Telephone: 02380 840 316 or email: grahants23@gmail.com

Bentley Station Meadow

Butterflies in the meadow got off to a cracking start in 2015 with a total of 12 seen, including two Peacocks on the first transect of the year (06 April) by Thelma Smalley. The abundance of Wood Anemone and primroses in flower were also noted – a result of the felling of a number of trees from previous work parties to allow light to filter through. Other species noted during the transect walkers' year included Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Muntjac deer, and many Bee-flies including a mating pair seen by Sue Clark. Butterflies continued to be on the increase from mid-April, with a count of 20 butterflies of four species, including Comma (2), which were seen in their usual place at the end of Section 1 by David Walton. A grand total of 29 Comma were recorded during the season. Ken Bailey kindly provided this beautiful photo.



Comma: Ken Bailey

2015 saw a slight decrease to 103 Silver-washed Fritillary sightings, compared to their highest count of 131 in 2013, but there were still very high numbers seen visiting the meadow during their peak flight periods during July and August. David Walton made the following comment *'Returned through the forest but only saw one SWF and a couple of Speckled Woods. Amazing how much more active the meadow was'*. This is a positive reminder of the work carried out over the winter to provide light and sunny nectaring opportunities for these spectacular butterflies.

Orange-tip decreased slightly to 17, from the previous year's count of 20, but eggs were seen on the food-plant Lady's Smock, or Cuckooflower as it is also known, which is ever abundant, responding as it does to the open but still damp conditions that are to be found in the meadow.

All in all 2015 had a good tally of species, with the highlight of two Dark Green Fritillary recorded on the 21 and 25 July by Thelma Smalley and Steve Easter respectively. Steve also noted a Purple Hairstreak off transect on the same day. In the first week of August Sue Clark recorded an Essex Skipper and a White Admiral, two species not often recorded on this transect.



Bentley Station Meadow, March: Ken Bailey

Conservation and grazing

Grazing with cattle in the autumn, ongoing conservation management and volunteer work-parties all continue towards achieving our aim of reducing shade to the grassland areas. We all have a lot of fun, and last year we got together for a forest walk and a pub lunch in the summer, taking in the Straits Inclosure at Alice Holt Forest on the way.

Magdalen Hill Down

April 2015 was the sunniest April for the UK since 1929, but the cold May didn't favour certain species. The most prominent of these, and cause for concern, was the Chalk Hill Blue which had significantly low numbers on all transects on our Hampshire reserves, but this species was notably down nationally in 2015.

There are always outright winners and losers, and 2015 was without doubt the best year for the Small Blue. This, the smallest of the UK's butterflies, increased its range across the reserve. On the Allotments, where four were recorded in 2014, numbers rose to 11 in 2015. On the Original, 65 were recorded (the highest ranking count since records began 25 years previously), with a further 36 on transect on the Extension (second highest ranking year), and another first on North Down with 52 recorded on transect.

Marbled White and Meadow Brown had their second best year since 1995, although counts on the Original for these species ranked 13 out of 26 years of recording, and Orange-tip rose to rank second with 26 records on the Original. Another highlight for the reserve was a further appearance of the Adonis Blue with three individuals recorded on North Down.

To the east of the reserve is Morn Hill where we now manage an area of land behind the Holiday Inn. This area has benefited from scrub clearance under the Nature Improvement Area Partnership, with butterfly monitoring commencing soon afterward. Over 4 visits in 2015, a total of 620 butterflies were recorded, including 39 Small Blue.

In August, Andy Barker completed the late summer turf height measurements with measured points falling in the 5-10cm and 10-20cm ranges, and commented how good it was to see so much short turf which the Brown Argus clearly love! An increase in short turf leads to more bare earth showing through and the sheep tracks also help to create these conditions. Andy observed small tufts of Sheep's Fescue grass along the edge of these tracks, which is exactly the microhabitat that Silver-spotted Skipper females like for egg-laying should they ever colonise Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) - another species on the wish list!!

All in all, there were good numbers of butterflies around, with the following highlights noted by Andy Barker from the transect walkers during mid August:

Morn Hill (mound meadow): 5 Chalk Hill Blues (westernmost end of Section 2), 3 Brown Argus, 6 Common Blue, 2 Painted Ladies, 1 Small Heath

MHD (original): 106 Brown Argus (really strong 2nd brood emergence!), 93 Chalk Hill Blues, 89 Common Blues, 2 Small Blue (lower slopes Section 10), 9 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Copper (lower slopes Section 1)

MHD (old allotments): 1 Clouded Yellow (male) nectaring on Spearmint (Section 1, excellent views!), 6 Brown Argus, 19 Common Blue, 3 Small Heath.

Management continued throughout the winter with volunteers and contractors clearing scrub and bramble. The replacement of 5.5 miles of fencing is almost complete thanks to our contractors Martin and Greg Wombell. A further major undertaking has been mechanically removing the edge vegetation and restoring the disabled path back to its former glory.



Volunteers Break: Jayne Chapman

Yew Hill

2015 saw an ever so slight increase in numbers of butterflies recorded on transect – up by a mere 4 to 2,527 from the 2,523 low of 2014. The Chalk Hill Blue did not fare well in 2015 having the lowest ever ranking out of 26 years since records began. It is likely that the general weather impacted at a crucial stage of the butterfly's life-cycle, and this combined with the colder aspect at Yew Hill could be responsible for the decline. The management of the reserve is overseen by a group of knowledgeable committee members, and this is very much something that will come up for discussion when we have our next on-site meeting at Yew Hill in 2016.

Conversely, the Meadow Brown continued its upward trend in recent years, from 593 in 2014 to 765 in 2015, but the Marbled White dipped from 723 to 386, ranking 12 in 26 years.

The Grizzled Skipper fared less well, with no actual sightings on transect, although I did see 4 on one visit to the reserve in the summer. Dingy Skipper continued to show its presence and ranked third this year, with a total of 24 on transect. The Brown Argus increased from 4 (2013) to 44 (2014) but experienced a dip to 22 in 2015, but this was still a good

number compared to many previous years, once again proving that these butterflies do respond well to sheep and or rabbit grazed turf. The Small Tortoiseshell seemed to reverse its good fortune from 2014, but not the Small and Large White which were seen in excellent numbers. The Brimstone had its second best year ever in 2014 (131 recorded) but went on to hit the top spot in 2015 with a record number of 171 counted on transect.

Common Blue held its own, which is good news for the reserve, as nationally this once common butterfly gave cause for concern in 2015 with a project launched by Butterfly Conservation to engage and encourage members of the public to send in their records. The Holly Blue follows a boom and bust life cycle due to its relationship with a parasitic wasp, *Listrodomus nycthemerus*. The female wasp inserts a single egg into the living Holly Blue caterpillar via its long syringe-like sting. The wasp larva develops within the caterpillar, eventually killing it after it has changed into a chrysalis (www.butterfly-conservation.org), but records show that this beautiful butterfly actually bounced back nationally last summer, including good counts on Yew Hill - up from 2 in 2014 to 28 in 2015.

Small Heath, Gatekeeper and Ringlet were all winners – faring better at Yew Hill than neighbouring Magdalen Hill Down, but the surprise species which seems to be a regular visitor in recent years is the Dark Green Fritillary, its fifth best year with 4 records in 2015.

The Hampshire Conservation Volunteers arrived on a very cold day in November, and a further day in December to clear the fence lines around the reserve from invading hawthorn and clematis. Grazing was mixed with a few cattle, but mostly a flock of sheep, including the lambs, which happily grazed throughout the summer months on Hilltop, keeping in check the bramble shoots and Wild Parsnip. They were taken to Magdalen in the winter, but will return to graze Yew Hill in the spring of 2016.



Common Species Summary

Bob Annell

Below are shown the top twenty-five most recorded species of butterfly in 2015, ranked by number of records, and their comparative rankings from 2011-2014.

Meadow Brown remains in top position and Gatekeeper seemed to have a better year, rising from sixth to second and Large White from tenth to sixth.

Painted Lady moves back into the table, but both Small Tortoiseshell & Red Admiral had disappointing records this year as borne out by the flight period graphs in the following species reports which indicate that late summer counts were much lower in 2015 than in 2014.

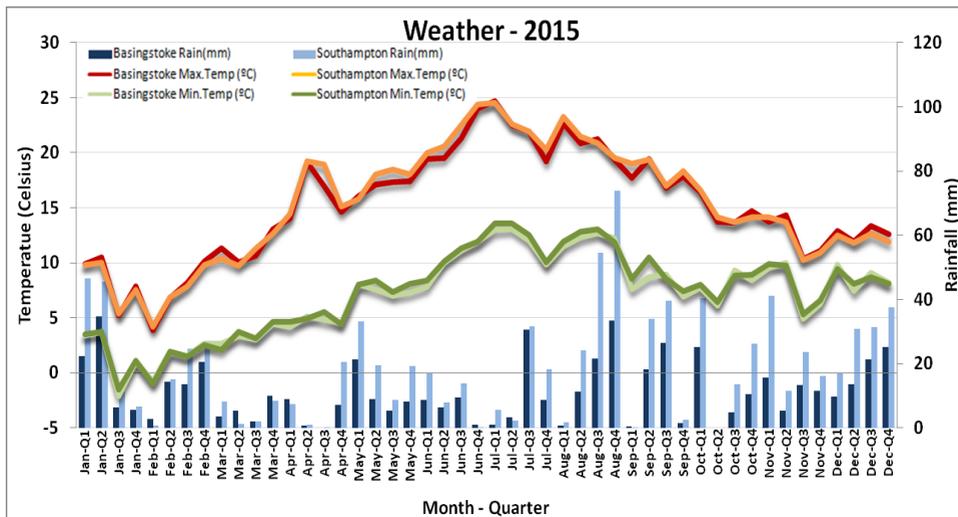
Species	Records	Individuals	Positions				
			2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Meadow Brown	9,627	102,347	1	1	2	1	1
Gatekeeper	6,632	48,166	2	6	6	2	5
Brimstone	6,537	15,066	3	2	4	6	4
Small White	5,627	14,014	4	3	1	5	3
Speckled Wood	4,797	9,577	5	4	5	3	2
Large White	4,785	11,282	6	10	3	8	6
Peacock	4,590	10,374	7	5	7	12	12
Common Blue	3,835	16,731	8	8	12	13	9
Ringlet	2,916	18,941	9	11	10	7	11
Small Skipper	2,763	11,939	10	12	16	15	17
Marbled White	2,678	23,728	11	13	14	10	15
Comma	2,528	4,153	12	15	11	11	14
Green-veined White	2,482	5,070	13	14	8	14	8
Small Tortoiseshell	2,378	4,611	14	7	9	20	21
Red Admiral	2,300	3,525	15	9	15	4	7
Holly Blue	2,183	3,689	16	19	21	18	18
Large Skipper	2,016	8,408	17	16	17	17	16
Small Heath	1,769	5,928	18	17	13	9	10
Silver-washed Fritillary	1,466	4,925	19	20	18	19	19
Painted Lady	1,250	1,835	20	26	25	31	29
Orange-tip	1,235	2,004	21	18	19	16	13
Brown Argus	780	2,416	22	21	24	25	22
Small Copper	714	1,228	23	22	22	22	20
Chalk Hill Blue	647	8,626	24	23	20	21	23
Dark Green Fritillary	523	1,468	25	25	26	23	27

This report has been compiled with the aid of the following websites:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/2015/>

<http://southamptonweather.co.uk/>

and data supplied by Simon Neil from his weather station at Chineham, Basingstoke



2015 was a relatively quiet year for weather and often close to average although things changed markedly at the end with some exceptional warmth in November and December. The following is a brief summary of each month:

JANUARY ended up a reasonably average month in terms of both temperature and rainfall but was very much a month of two halves with a mild and unsettled start giving way to quieter colder conditions as high pressure became more influential. There were several cold nights with Basingstoke recording -5 °C on both the 20 and 23 of the month.

FEBRUARY was also not far from average in all respects and started with the only real cold spell of the winter. There were a couple of light snowfalls in parts of Hampshire and frost was widespread during the first 10 days. Things warmed up in general after this with mild conditions to end the month.

MARCH was a dry month despite weather patterns being rather unsettled at both the start and end of the month. Temperatures throughout were nothing exceptional and ended up close to average. There were a number of frosty mornings but these were generally slight.

APRIL brought some welcome warmth, especially mid-month with several days exceeding 20°C as high pressure took control. The 15 April was a very warm day with Basingstoke reaching 24.2°C, a temperature that was not reached again until the end of June. The month began with an unsettled and cool regime and the last few days were again cool and showery. Nonetheless it was a warm month at about 1°C above normal and another dry one.

MAY was cooler and wetter than normal. It was unsettled throughout with westerly winds dominating. Southampton saw one very warm day on the 23 May when it reached 23.1°C but there were few highlights in what was a quiet month for weather.

JUNE was much more settled with plenty of warm days. The most notable event was the temperature rise at the very end of the month as heat was imported from the south. The final day saw 28.8°C reached at Basingstoke. Despite this, temperatures were close to average although it was a dry month.

JULY started with the culmination of the previous month's heat. Southampton (30.9°C) and Basingstoke (32.6°C) saw their warmest temperatures recorded in 2015, whilst elsewhere the all time July record was broken at Heathrow where 36.7°C was the maximum. Sadly the rest of July was a disappointment with cool and unsettled Atlantic weather dominating. Much of the month was quite dry but the last week brought heavy rainfall with 29.5mm recorded at Southampton on the 24 July.

AUGUST brought a continuation of the rather unsettled and uninspiring theme with temperatures slightly below par and rainfall a bit above normal.

SEPTEMBER was a cool month, the coolest in England since 1994 at over 1°C below average. Not many days reached 20°C at either station and rainfall was close to average with some wet days mid-month.

OCTOBER is traditionally quite a wet month but not so this year as there was a lot of high pressure which led to it being dry at around 70% of average rainfall. Temperatures were slightly above normal.

NOVEMBER was remarkable being the third warmest November since 1910. Apart from a brief cold snap around the twentieth of the month, persistent winds from the south or south-west led to very mild weather. Nationally there were flooding problems but we avoided much of the heaviest rain locally. Both Basingstoke and Southampton recorded three air frosts in the short cold snap but they were to be the last of the year.

DECEMBER was record breaking. It was easily the warmest December in England since the dataset began in 1910 and was an incredible 5°C above average. Tropical maritime south-westerly winds blew throughout what was a frost free month. An idea of how mild it was can be gauged from the maximum temperatures at both stations which exceeded 10°C on every day of the month. Huge amounts of rain fell on the windward facing hills and mountains in the north with resultant flooding issues but we escaped lightly despite it being a wet month.

Glossary of Terms

Butterfly transect: A method of monitoring butterflies, involving walking a fixed route at a given site, once a week from the first week of April to the last week of September, counting the number of each species seen. For the purpose of comparison between other butterfly transects both locally and nationally, there are a fixed set of guidelines. These primarily relate to weather conditions and the time of day under which the transect is walked. For further details of transect methodology, see <http://www.ukbms.org/>.

Annual Index graphs: These will be available on the Branch website as an appendix to this report. An Annual Index is the sum total of weekly counts for a particular butterfly species on a given transect in a particular year. The graphs show an average Annual Index for all transect monitored sites where the species is found, 1990 to 2015, and a graph featuring the Annual Index for an individual site with a trend of interest.

Flight period graphs: These are the periods on which the adult butterfly was on the wing this year compared to last.

Butterfly counts: Butterfly transects do not monitor population size, but because of a consistent methodology, they allow us to monitor change from one year to the next. Other counts sent in by recorders will be a function of the area of a site covered and the amount of time spent. In a quantitative way they give an idea of important sites, but would only give an indication of population size.

BC Priority Status: Regional priority is shown as listed in the *Butterfly Conservation South-central England Regional Action Plan* updated to take account of changes to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 2007.

Vice Counties: Vice Counties are a system devised in 1852 by the botanist H.C. Watson (1804-81) of dividing the British Isles into approximately equal areas. The boundaries that Watson selected were principally county boundaries as defined in an atlas published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1844. These reflected the political boundaries as they existed then. Watson tried to define areas of approximately equal size and so some of the larger counties (including Hampshire) were divided into "vice counties". The system was later extended to cover Irish vice-counties. These boundaries are fixed and do not change as do administrative county boundaries.

Vice-county 10 is the Isle of Wight. Vice County 11 covers the entire present Hampshire administrative boundary roughly south of a line between Stockbridge, Winchester and Petersfield but also includes parts of present day Dorset westwards to Bournemouth. Vice County 12 covers the northern half of Hampshire together with a part of present day Wiltshire around Tidworth and a very small part of Berkshire in the extreme north-west of the county.

Species distribution maps: The distribution maps in this report were produced using *MapMate* recording and mapping software. These show the 2-km squares (tetrads) for which records were received since 2000.

Red: 2015

Mid Blue: 2010-2014

Open Black: 2000-2009

A blue or open black circle does not necessarily mean that the species no longer occurs, merely that the site may not have been visited in 2015. For maps of pre-2000 records, see *Butterflies of Hampshire*.

Vernacular and scientific names of plants: Plant names follow Francis Rose, 2006, *The Wild Flower Key*, revised and expanded edition, Warne.

Species Number: is in accordance with Agassiz, D.J.L., Beavan, S.D. and Heckford, R.J. (2013) *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles*. This now supersedes that of Bradley & Fletcher used previously.

BUTTERFLY REPORT 2015

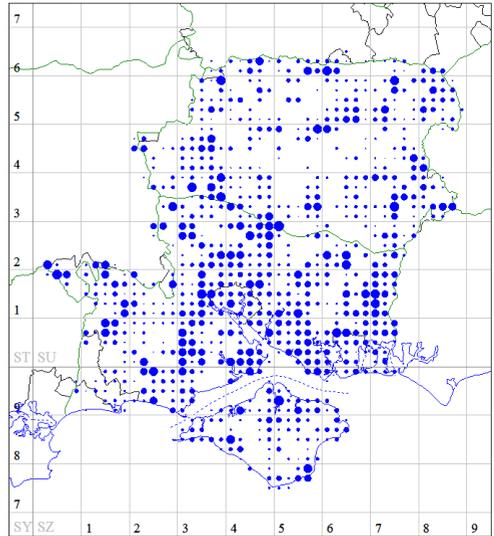
Butterfly record coverage 2015

Recorded tetrads in 2015 – the bigger the circle, the greater the recording effort.

This methodology better illustrates the ‘cold spots’ that require more targeted effort in coming field seasons.

No of 2015 records: 80,983

No of tetrads in 2015: 864

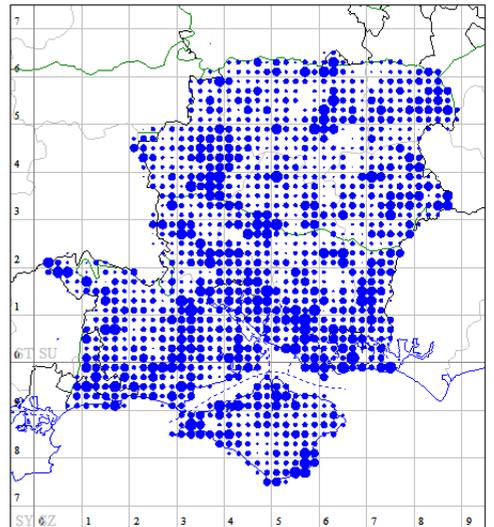


Butterfly record coverage 2010 - 2014 (Millennium Atlas +15)

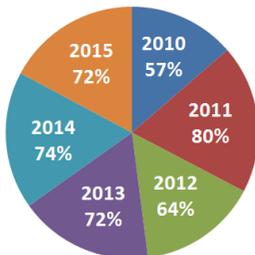
Recorded tetrads in the five years 2010 to 2014 – as per the preceding map, the bigger the circle, the greater the recording effort.

No of records: 342,951

No of tetrads: 1,152



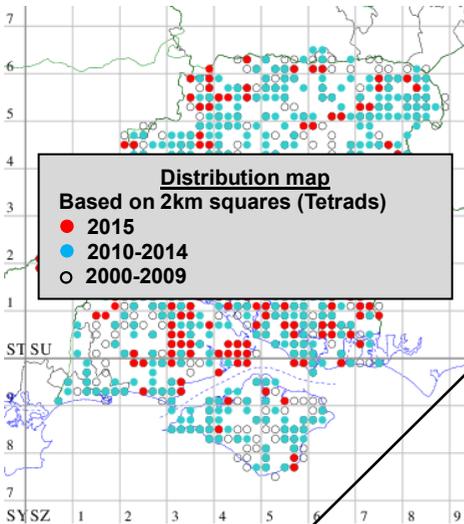
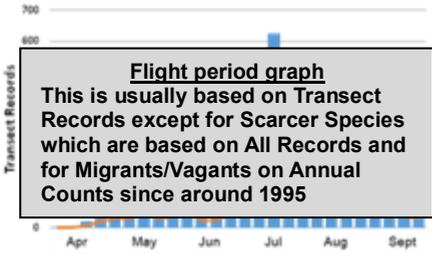
Tetrad Coverage 2010 - 2015



57.001 Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*

Anthony Anon

Species Number (Agassiz et al, 2013) – Vernacular - Taxon - Author



BC Priority status

Medium

No of 2015 records

No of 2015 individuals

No of 2015 tetrads

No of post 2005 tetrads

Occupied tetrads

Earliest on Database	Summary Tables also provided towards end of this document		
Earliest 2015			
Latest 2015			
Latest on Database			
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%

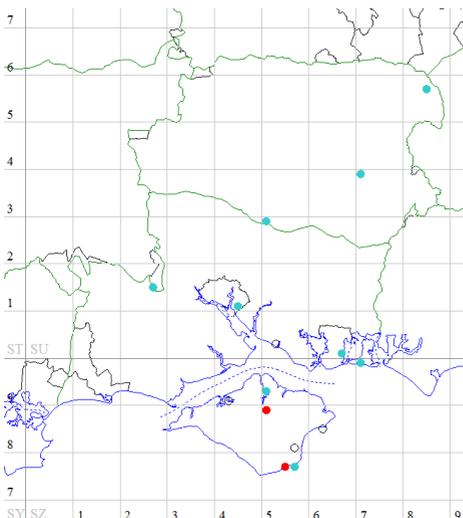
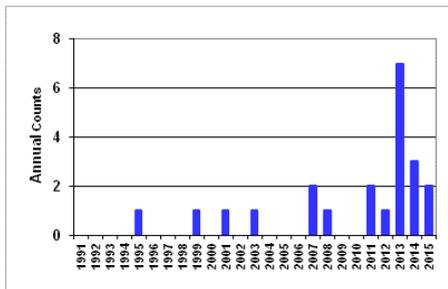
BC Priority Status

Determined in accordance with Section 1.4 of the Regional Action Plan updated 2007

Based on 111 transects, comparing 2015 records with 2014 indicating number of transects in each category

AUTHOR'S NARRATIVE

Generally prepared using information & data provided on 23rd December 2015

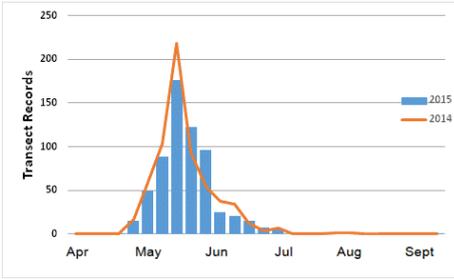


BC Priority status	N/A - Migrant
No of 2015 records	2
No of 2015 individuals	2
No of 2015 tetrads	2
No of post 2005	13

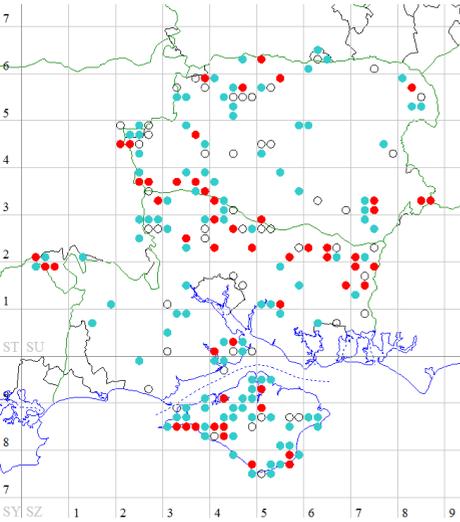
Earliest on Database	14 Apr 2014			
Earliest 2015	03 Jul Newport Sam Knill-Jones			
Latest 2015	09 Aug St Lawrence Janet Kadett			
Latest on Database	02 Sep 2007			
Transect Site	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Down >20%</td> <td>Within ± 20%</td> <td>Up >20%</td> </tr> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%		
Trends	Not Applicable			

After last year's influx there were only the two observations above reported. Even so, with five consecutive years with Swallowtail records along the south coast of England it may suggest that this rare immigrant may be crossing the English Channel more frequently (also see graph). In Sussex there were reports of Swallowtail again after last year's invasion, with two observations on 30 July and 09 August 2015. In our area, the Isle of Wight has proved to be the most likely place to observe the continental gorganus subspecies of this butterfly in recent years.

Please keep a special lookout for this species and keep sending your records so that we build up a more complete picture of any possible colonisations.



Graeme Davis

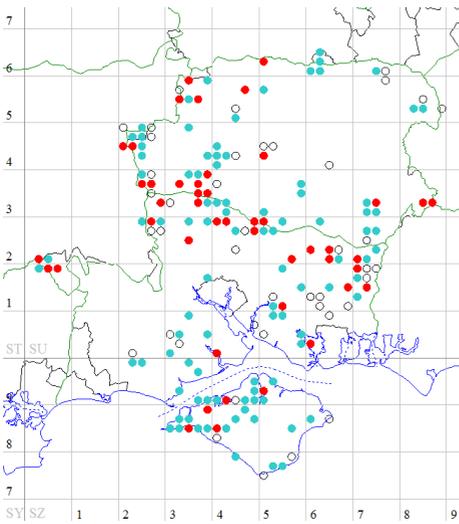
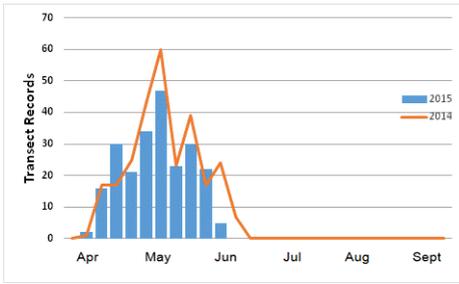


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	426
No of 2015 individuals	1,357
No of 2015 tetrads	53
No of post 2005 tetrads	188

Earliest on Database	12 Apr 2011		
Earliest 2015	12 Apr Yew Hill Ivan Arnold		
Latest 2015	25 Jul Pilot Hill Mervyn Grist		
Latest on Database	03 Sep 1993		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	14	8	11

The first Dingy Skipper recorded was on transect on Yew Hill on 12 April, three days earlier than 2014 but the index there was down to 24 (30 in 2014). This was mirrored at Pilot Hill, down from 152 to 83, and Old Winchester Hill down from 77 to 38. In contrast Danebury Hill showed an increase up from 22 to 64 and Broughton Down was up from 31 to 60. Away from the chalk, the index at Bramshott Common was up from 26 to 49, Arthur Greenwood recording 10 on 17 May and 16 on 23 May.

There were some good counts during May. On 04 May Mervyn Grist saw 15 on Pilot Hill and Andy and Linda Barker 25 at Ramsdean; and on 12 May Tony James recorded 19 at Noar Hill and Ashley Whitlock 100+ on Butser Hill. On 23 May, Andy Barker found 19 at Shipton Bellinger. Small numbers continued through June with Ian Riddett reporting seven on transect at Ventnor on 24 June. There was evidence of a possible second brood on Pilot Hill on 25 July



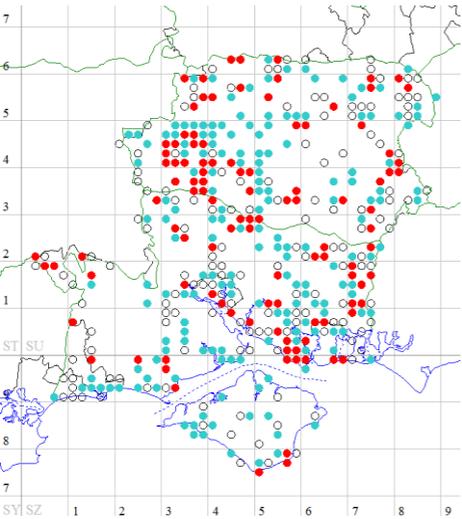
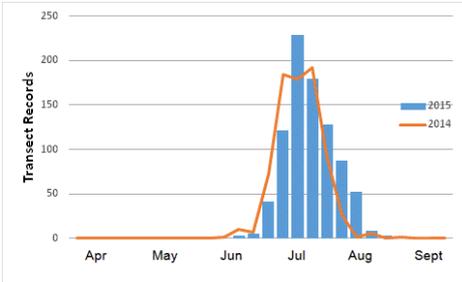
BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	252
No of 2015 individuals	515
No of 2015 tetrads	47
No of post 2005 tetrads	164

Earliest on Database	26 Mar 2012		
Earliest 2015	09 Apr Magdalen Hill Dave G Evans		
Latest 2015	24 Jun Gosport Francis Plowman		
Latest on Database	30 Nov 2012		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	14	5	7

Grizzled Skipper fared reasonably well in 2015 though only seven transects had a greater than 20% increase in Annual Index while 14 had a greater than 20% decrease.

Stockbridge Down showed the most notable increase up from 11 in 2014 to 36, while only a singleton was seen on transect at Beacon Hill, Warnford and none at Yew Hill. On Magdalen Hill (Original) 25 were seen in 2015 (28 in 2014). In Botley Wood seven were recorded in both years. On the Isle of Wight, there were 37 (40) at Mottistone Down and 17 (10) at Whippingham Fields.

On Butser Hill Ashley Whitlock counted 21 on 22 April, and on the same day Tim Bernhard recorded 11 on Magdalen Hill (Original). 13 May saw a number of good counts, including ten on Broughton Down (Glynne Evans) and nine at Martin Down. Andy Barker saw eight at Stockbridge Down on 20 May and three days later, 17 on a visit to Shipton Bellinger. In June a few were still to be seen, notably one at Warren Farm (Allan Orme) and five on Butser Hill (Ashley Whitlock). At Martin Down James Plunkett saw four on 04 June and Linda Smith four on 05 June. Les Street counted five on Newtown IOW on 20 June, and Ashley Whitlock five on Butser on 21 June.



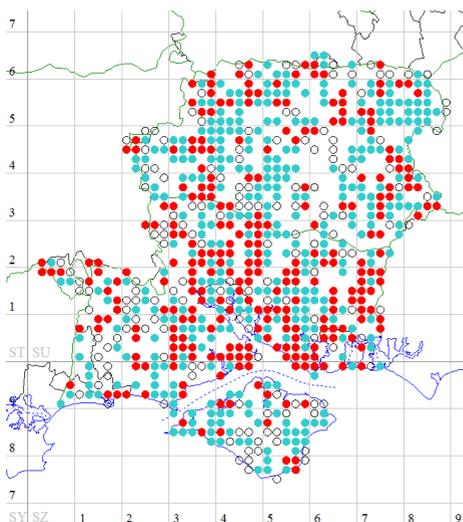
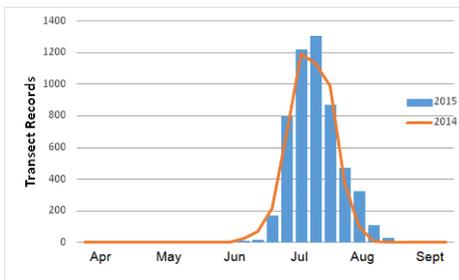
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	454
No of 2015 individuals	1,554
No of 2015 tetrads	107
No of post 2005 tetrads	355

Earliest on Database	26 May 2007		
Earliest 2015	17 Jun Wendleholme David Holberton-Jones		
Latest 2015	29 Aug Hazeley Heath (S) Dave Bradock		
Latest on Database	21 Sep 1996		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	Not Measured		

Overall recorded numbers were 20% down on 2014 and only a little higher than 2013 even though there were more transects and records reported. Looking at the flight period graph the distribution was skewed to the right compared to 2014 with the later weeks doing comparatively better than the early ones.

Whilst the species first emerged at the same time as 2014, numbers did not rise as quickly as 2014. The numbers recorded peaked in the middle of July and, whilst the peak was significantly higher than 2014, unlike 2014 where there was a spread across three weeks, in 2015 this peak was not maintained. However numbers then held up better in late July and early August than 2014.

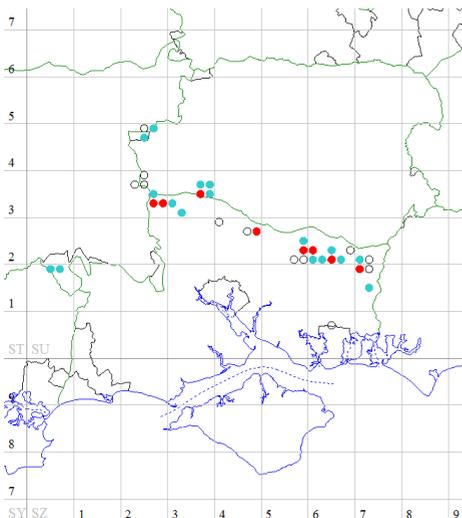
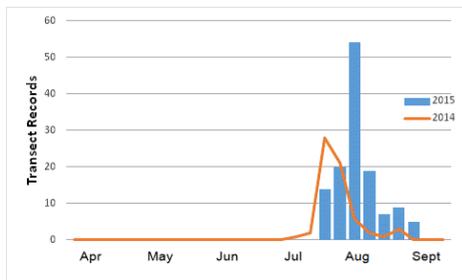
Pilot Hill remains the stronghold in Hampshire with 386 individuals recorded, slightly lower than in 2014 although no specimens were recorded until 01 July some two weeks after other sites had started to record specimens. 99 were recorded on Pilot Hill on 16 July. No specimens were recorded on any site after the end of August.



BC Priority status	Low						
No of 2015 records	2,763						
No of 2015 individuals	11,939						
No of 2015 tetrads	273						
No of post 2005 tetrads	720						
Earliest on Database	16 May 2011						
Earliest 2015	06 Jun Dell Piece West Chris Buckle						
Latest 2015	06 Sep Dell Piece West Chris Weeks						
Latest on Database	19 Sep 1991						
Transect Site Trends	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">Down >20%</td> <td style="background-color: #d4edda;">Within ± 20%</td> <td style="background-color: #d4edda;">Up >20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="background-color: #fff3cd; text-align: center;">Not Measured</td> </tr> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	Not Measured		
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
Not Measured							

Overall a disappointing year for skippers. Numbers for Small Skippers were generally down on 2014 and also on 2013, with nearly half the transects where there was data for both years showing a significant decrease and only a small number of sites showing gains, Noar Hill being one to buck the trend.

For recognised skipper sites the drop was closer to 30%. The species first emerged at the same time as 2014 and like 2014 double figures did not materialise until the first week of July. Whilst the distribution shown on the flight period graph was similar to 2014 the peak was reached a week later in the third week of July. Pilot Hill remained the stronghold (474 Small Skippers) but skipper numbers there dropped by 10% from 2014, and elsewhere Old Winchester Hill, Whippingham Fields, Martin Down and Testwood Park all showed significant decreases. Barry Proctor recorded 194 on the Old Winchester Hill Transect on the 16 July. Only one specimen was recorded after the end of August at Dell Piece West on 06 September.

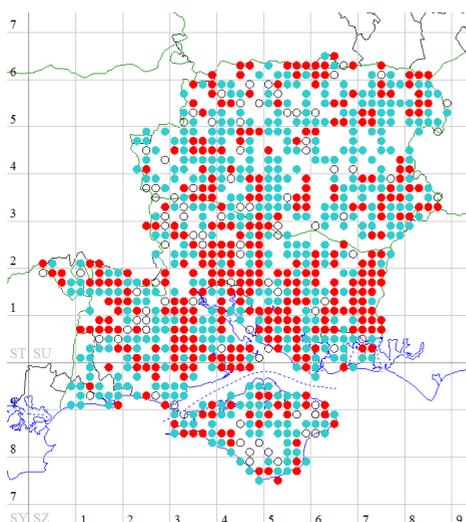
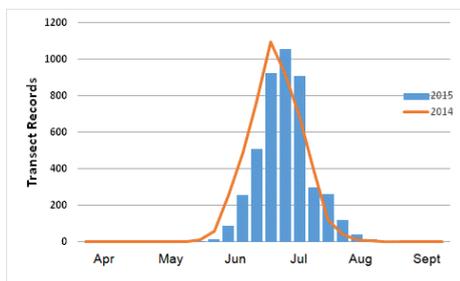


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	79
No of 2015 individuals	268
No of 2015 tetrads	8
No of post 2005 tetrads	32

Earliest on Database	13 Jul 1997		
Earliest 2015	31 Jul Oxenbourne Down Ashley Whitlock		
Latest 2015	17 Sep Old Winchester Hill Ashley Whitlock		
Latest on Database	11 Oct 1986		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	2	1	3

With the exception of Broughton Down, it was a poor to indifferent year for this species, with only six sites producing records, and only nine observers recording the species. The first record was of five at Oxenbourne Down on 31 July (Ashley Whitlock), more than two weeks later than 2014. Broughton Down started with 14 on 02 August, rising to a peak count of 52 on 16 August (both Glynne Evans). The next sites to produce records were Stockbridge Down and St.Catherine's Hill, with five at the former and three at the latter, both on 08 August (Andy & Linda Barker).

The Meon Valley sites were once again three weeks later to emerge. The first at Beacon Hill NNR were two on 17 August (Barry Proctor), followed by several at Old Winchester Hill on 21 August (Barry Proctor, Ashley Whitlock). These sites used to be the most reliable places in Hampshire to see Silver-spotted Skipper during the late 1990's and up to 2007. Since then, for whatever reason, the populations have dwindled. There were no records of Silver-spotted Skipper from Martin Down, where none have been reported since 2012.



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,016
No of 2014 individuals	8,408
No of 2015 tetrads	355
No of post 2005 tetrads	864

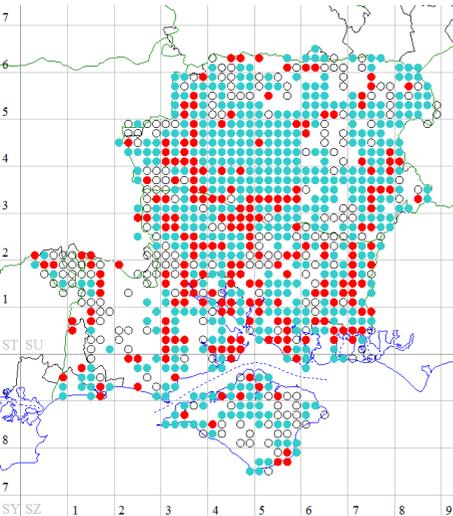
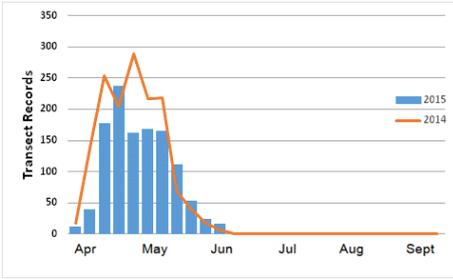
Earliest on Database	28 Apr 2007		
Earliest 2015	07 May Winnall Moors Bob Whitmarsh		
Latest 2015	17 Sep Kitts Grave Chris Hill		
Latest on Database	22 Sep 2013		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	50	20	29

The Large Skipper is one of the more consistent of our local butterfly species, emerging from May onwards, peaking in July and thence tailing off, with the odd September record. 2015 proved to be no exception to the general rule.

Although it has a wide distribution within the area, the highest counts are invariably from the New Forest and in 2015 it peaked at 284 at Brockishill on 09 July and 203 at Church Place Inclosure the following day (both John Ruppertsbery).

Away from the Forest a count of 50 was achieved at West Butser Hill on 21 June (Ashley Whitlock) and on the Isle of Wight, John Rowell reported 135 from the Whippingham Fields transect on 10 July.

Although transect trends were down on 2014 at more sites than they were up, most still reported healthy numbers with Pignal Inclosure and Standing Hat achieving their highest ever Annual Indices, both of 465. Conversely the annual count at Broadley Inclosure crashed from 65 in 2014 to just 3 in 2015.



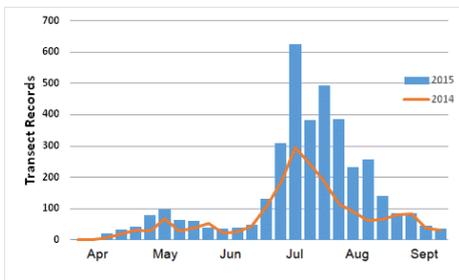
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	1,235
No of 2015 individuals	2,004
No of 2015 tetrads	221
No of post 2005 tetrads	869

Earliest on Database	10 Mar 1990		
Earliest 2015	03 Apr Whippingham Field John Rowell		
Latest 2015	18 Jun Breamore Sherry Wildish		
Latest on Database	22 Sep 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ± 20%	Up > 20%
	44	25	21

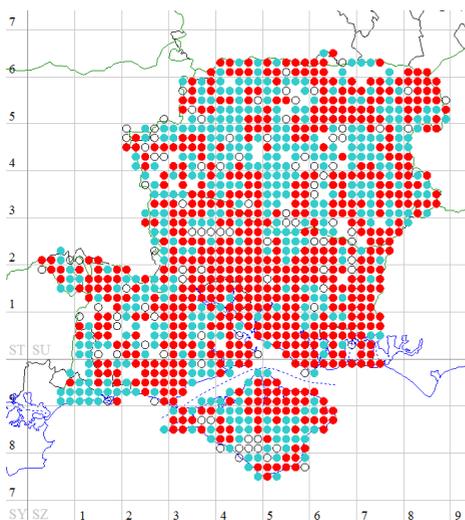
2,004 Orange-tip were recorded in 2015, about two-thirds of them on transect. The main flight period on transect lasted from early April until early June followed by a few later records. The largest numbers seen at any one time were 14 on the Testwood North Perimeter transect and 13 (all males) at St Cross, Winchester, both on 23 April.

Since 1991 the average Annual Index for transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has been around 5.5 times smaller than the average for England. There has been an encouraging slight upwards trend in Orange-tip numbers since 2006.

Orange-tip were more numerous on transect in 2014 than in 2015, particularly up to mid May, although the main flight period was the same. Numbers peaked a week earlier in 2015. Almost as many transects showed decreases in Orange-tip numbers, compared to 2014, as showed increases or stayed steady.



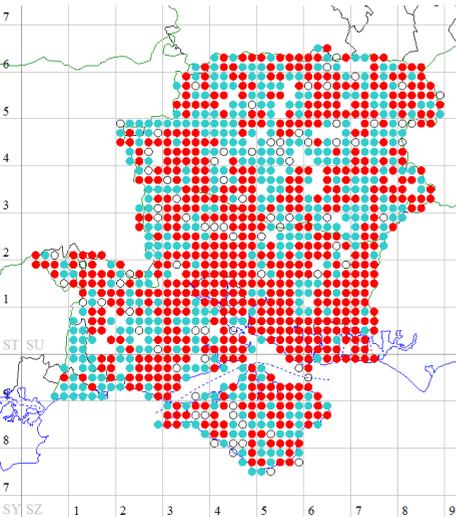
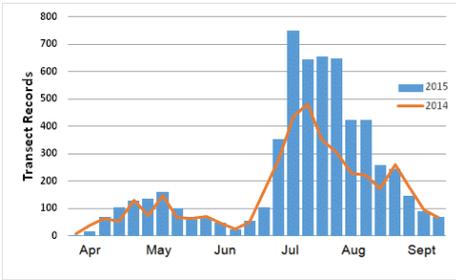
Nigel Owen



BC Priority status	Low						
No of 2015 records	4,785						
No of 2015 individuals	11,282						
No of 2015 tetrads	626						
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,091						
Earliest on Database	02 Feb 2007						
Earliest 2015	31 Mar Milton Allotments Ashley Whitlock						
Latest 2015	01 Nov Wheelers Bay Andy Butler						
Latest on Database	07 Dec 2012						
Transect Site Trends	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Down >20%</th> <th>Within ± 20%</th> <th>Up >20%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>14</td> <td>72</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	8	14	72
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
8	14	72					

This species had a very good year and slightly better in our county than the National average. Of the transect monitored sites, an amazing 72 showed an increase of more than 20%, 14 showed no change and only eight showed a decrease of more than 20%. The transect trends show significantly increased numbers at nearly all sites, the highest being from Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight, The Mountain and Magdalen Hill Down.

The year began rather slowly with only ones and twos being recorded through April, May and June. The first record of ten or more came from Whippingham Fields when 12 were seen on 10 July (John Rowell). 12 were also counted at Old Burghclere on 15 July (Rosie Williams) and a much higher count of 26 was made during the Yew Hill transect on 16 July (Maggie Shelton). Numbers increased throughout July and August with high counts at sites such as Peel Common where Michael Gregory counted 16 on 23 July. 17 were counted at Whippingham Fields on the same day (John Rowell) and 17 at Danebury Hillfort on 22 August (Mervyn Grist). On the Isle of Wight excellent counts of 20 were made at Wheelers Bay on 28 August and 34 at Bonchurch Down on 06 September (Andy Butler). The highest count of the year came from Harewood Forest where John Solomon recorded 68 individuals.



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	5,627
No of 2015 individuals	14,014
No of 2015 tetrads	633
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,087

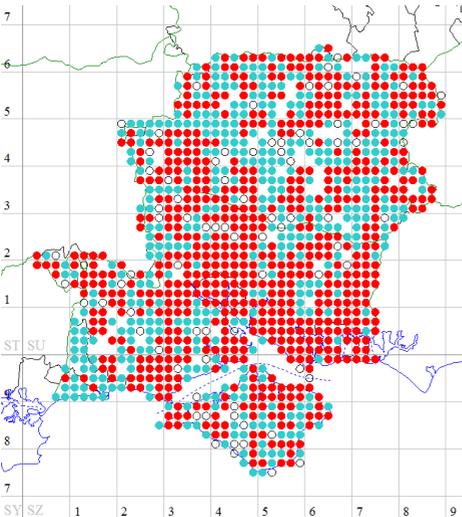
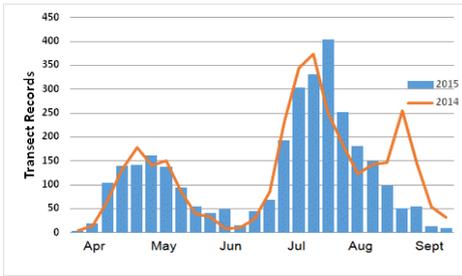
Earliest on Database	09 Jan 1991		
Earliest 2015	05 Apr Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	02 Nov Petersfield AC Smallbone		
Latest on Database	08 Dec 2007		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	23	19	49

Overall, this common and widespread butterfly had a better year in 2015 than 2014, with over half comparable transects showing increases of more than 20%. The spring broods were similar in size but numbers in the summer brood were greater in 2015, peaking from mid-July to mid-August.

The picture did vary, with about a quarter of comparable transects seeing a drop in numbers of more than 20%. This was particularly so on the Isle of Wight, where only one transect, at Mottistone Down, reported an increase in numbers.

This species was seen most frequently on a new transect at Breamore, in the west of Hampshire, being recorded on more than 700 occasions during the weekly counts taken between April and September. On the Isle of Wight, Small Whites were seen most frequently on the Whippingham (fields) transect, with over 200 sightings during the recording season, albeit a drop of over 20% from 2014.

Surprisingly no Small White adults were recorded before early April. This species is often seen earlier than this, with a number of individuals noted in February and March 2014.



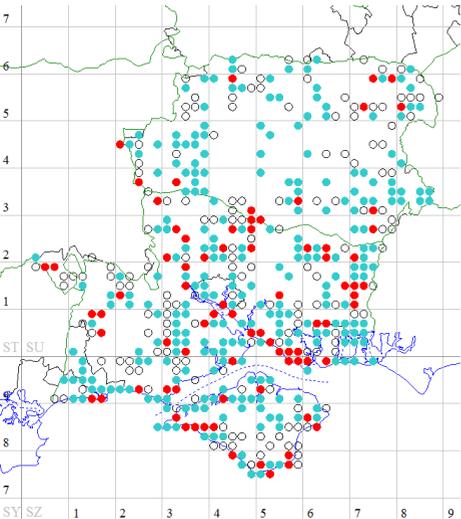
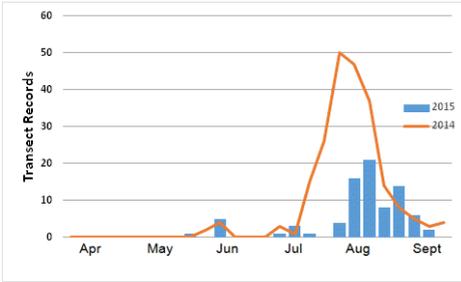
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,482
No of 2015 individuals	5,070
No of 2015 tetrads	397
No of post 2005 tetrads	984

Earliest on Database	03 Mar 1989		
Earliest 2015	06 Apr Portchester Chris Cobb		
Latest 2015	20 Oct Monks Hill Francis Plowman		
Latest on Database	28 Oct 1999		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ±20%	Up >20%
	31	36	22

For the second year running there was a year-on-year decrease in the average numbers of this common and widespread butterfly being recorded on comparable transects. Notwithstanding this, the average for transects where this species is recorded in reasonable numbers still compares well to figures in years prior to 2013. 2013 was a particularly good year for white species in general.

The spring brood was similar in numbers and flight period to the previous year, with the summer brood peaking around the start of August, about a week later than in 2014. Numbers then fell steadily through August and September.

This species favours damper conditions and was seen most frequently on the Winnall Moors transect near Winchester, being recorded on around 450 occasions during the weekly counts taken between April and September. Good numbers were also recorded on the Lower Test Marshes transect near Totton and a new transect at Breamore in the west of Hampshire. On the Isle of Wight only two transects reached double figure with the greatest numbers recorded on the Whippingham (fields) transect.



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	171
No of 2015 individuals	255
No of 2015 tetrads	81
No of post 2005 tetrads	410

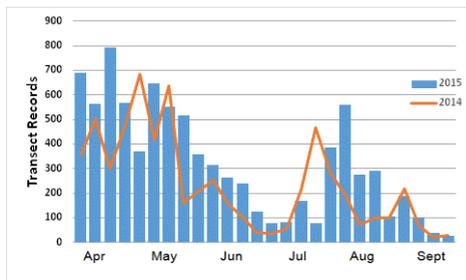
Earliest on Database	08 Feb 2005		
Earliest 2015	06 Apr Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	02 Nov Afton Down Sam Knill-Jones		
Latest on Database	30 Dec 2007		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	31	11	11

As befits the Clouded Yellow, low early numbers built into a reasonable showing from late summer into autumn. All records for April were from the Isle of Wight at Wheelers Bay (Andy Butler). These are probably local emergences from overwintering larvae. Likely migrants arrived around mid-May and by June sightings were more widespread. July started slowly, but after 10 July sightings were ubiquitous and almost daily into October.

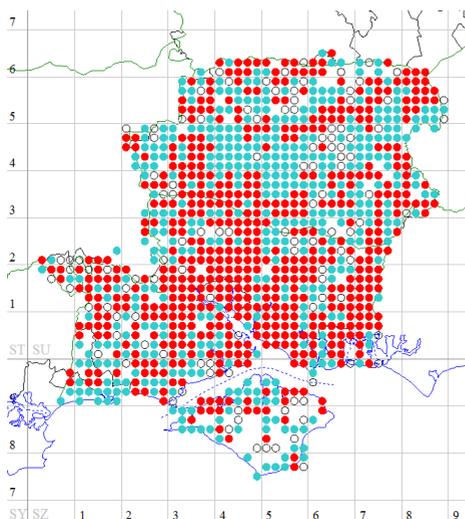
One helice female was recorded at Magdalen Hill Down on 02 August (Phil Budd), which reflects the average year the Clouded Yellow had in 2015.

It was interesting to note that on 12 September 2015 two were recorded at Southbourne Undercliff, one faded and rather tatty, the other a freshly emerged female (Mike Gibbons). The difference in ages is likely emphasising the continuity of a static autumn population. Numbers here were low but generally could be relied on to be seen on any sunny day in early autumn.

The highest number recorded was 15 at Barton on Sea on 06 September (Mike Gibbons). The flight graph clearly shows the abrupt increase in numbers from mid July peaking in early August, then dropping off as autumn progresses. There are nearly always constant numbers along the coast in suitable localities, with 2015 producing a few up to early November.



Andy Butler

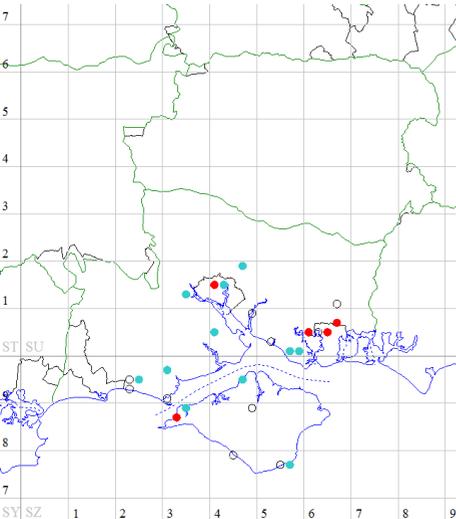
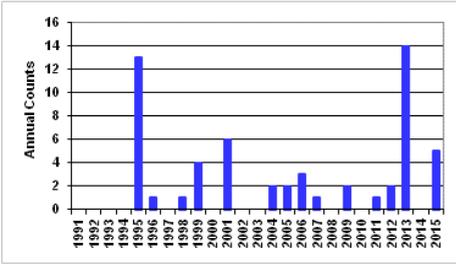


BC Priority status	Low						
No of 2015 records	6,537						
No of 2015 individuals	15,066						
No of 2015 tetrads	550						
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,039						
Earliest on Database	01 Jan 2001						
Earliest 2015	09 Jan Titchfield Haven Richard Carpenter						
Latest 2015	09 Dec Petersfield Ron Allen						
Latest on Database	29 Dec 1999						
Transect Site Trends	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Down >20%</td> <td>Within ± 20%</td> <td>Up >20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>33</td> <td>49</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	11	33	49
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
11	33	49					

Another good year for this harbinger of Spring.

Following the most successful year for 30 years in 2013, Brimstones over 20 monitored sites showed an 11% average increase in 2014 followed by a further 12% increase in 2015.

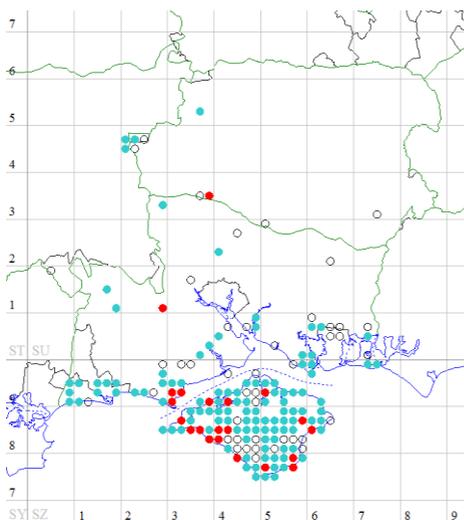
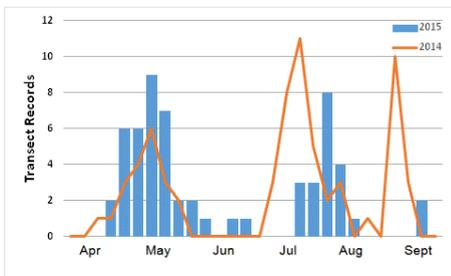
As in 2014 there were relatively few sightings in January and February but from the first week in March dozens of overwintering adults were being reported daily from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Although the highest daily totals were down on 2014, numbers of new adults were reported throughout June, July and August across the counties. The peak period was at the end of July and the beginning of August, with daily sightings continuing until the end of September, and sporadic sightings continuing until mid-December.



BC Priority status	N/A - Migrant
No of 2015 records	5
No of 2015 individuals	5
No of 2015 tetrads	5
No of post 2005 tetrads	21

Earliest on Database	11 Mar 2005		
Earliest 2015	27 May Portchester David W Hunt		
Latest 2015	27 Sep Totland Neil Green		
Latest on Database	17 Oct 1995		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	Not Applicable		

This huge migratory butterfly is a rare sight in Britain, and most records are made in the south-west and on the Isles of Scilly. This species is well known for its incredible migrations across North America and Canada to the communal hibernation sites in the conifer forests of Mexico and California. Traditionally it is during these autumn migrations that a few are blown off course and over the Atlantic. In most years one or two individuals have been recorded in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight. Previously records from 1995 to 2003 have been coastal during September and October, consistent with typical historic UK records. However between 2004 and 2015, there are very few September and October records, the majority being during June, July and August, unlike the historical pattern of Monarch immigrations. It is now frequently reared in captivity and it is likely that all records before September and October are either deliberate releases or escapees. Of the five records made in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2015, only one of these is likely to have been a genuine migrant from America. This was of a single adult recorded at Totland by Neil Green on 27 September. In recent years it has become popular to release exotic butterflies at weddings and funerals and the sightings by David Hunt at Portchester Crematorium on 27 May, the two records in the Portsmouth area and the one from the Southampton Sports Centre may have originated from such occasions.



BC Priority status	High						
No of 2015 records	70						
No of 2015 individuals	159						
No of 2015 tetrads	23						
No of post 2005 tetrads	161						
Earliest on Database	05 Apr 2000						
Earliest 2015	19 Apr Afton Down Sam Knill-Jones						
Latest 2015	31 Oct Afton Down Dave Wooldridge						
Latest on Database	06 Nov 2003						
Transect Site Trends	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Down >20%</th> <th>Within ± 20%</th> <th>Up >20%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	5	2	1
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
5	2	1					

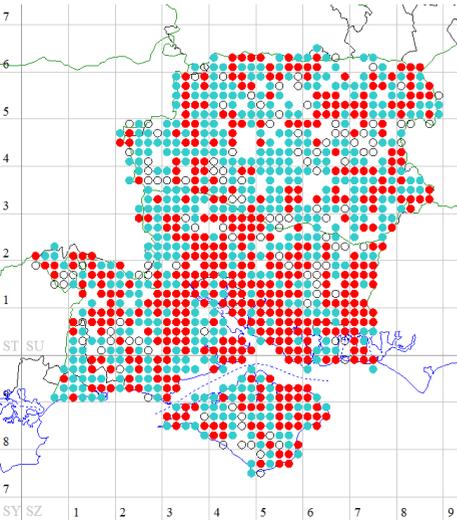
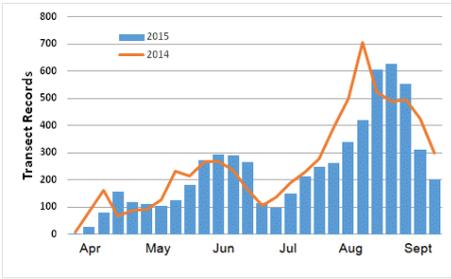
On the Isle of Wight the Wall appeared right on schedule on the 19 April at Afton Down however it took until the 13 May for the first sighting on the mainland with a singleton on Pennington Marshes (Andy & Linda Barker).

Numbers appeared to be fairly low at most locations with the best counts of the year being an impressive nine recorded by Gordon Coster at Iley Point Keyhaven on the 15 May, ten at Niton on 07 June (Mel Bellingham) and an incredible 43 at Shepherds Chine on 27 May recorded by Andy Butler.

The only report away from the south-west was a single individual on the transect at Stockbridge Down on 16 June (Catherine Hadler).

On the island numbers on the transect counts at Whippingham Fields and Mottistone Down held up fairly well but on the Normandy Marsh transect at Lymington just a single Wall was recorded all year. Its demise on the mainland appears almost inevitable.

The last record from Afton Down on the 31 October strongly indicates a small third brood.



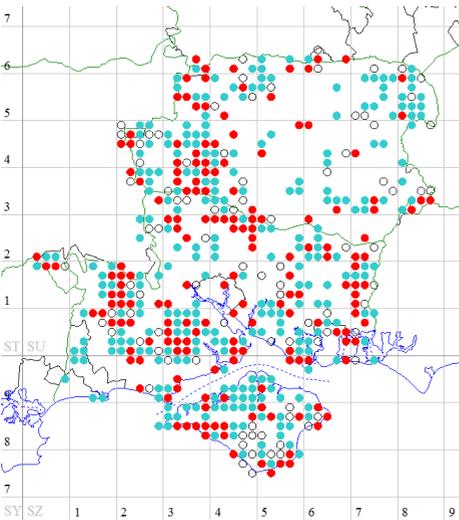
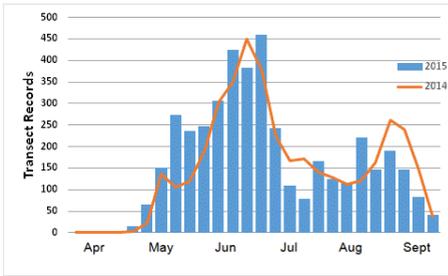
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	4,797
No of 2015 individuals	9,577
No of 2015 tetrads	466
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,017

Earliest on Database	11 Jan 2013		
Earliest 2015	06 Apr Several locations & recorders		
Latest 2015	14 Nov Test Valley Sue Lambert		
Latest on Database	15 Dec 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	44	27	17

2015 was a reasonable year for the Speckled Wood but at many sites numbers were down with half the transects showing a decrease of more than 20% while 30% showed no significant change. Looking at transect data from two woods in Hampshire where this species does well, at Pamber Forest the Annual Index in 2014 was 611 whilst in 2015 this dropped to 474 however, at Ampfield Wood numbers showed no significant change with 284 in 2014 and 269 in 2015.

The flight graph shows that numbers for the three broods peaked later in 2015 compared to 2014 with the largest brood, the third brood, peaking during the first week in September compared to the third week in August in 2014. The highest individual count was recorded at Pamber Forest, 91 on 29 August (Graham Dennis) and at a non transect site, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, 58 were recorded on 6 September (Phil Budd). This butterfly is usually only seen in small numbers and the majority of the records were ones and twos.

There were several late sightings towards the end of October, then a gap before the November sighting as above.

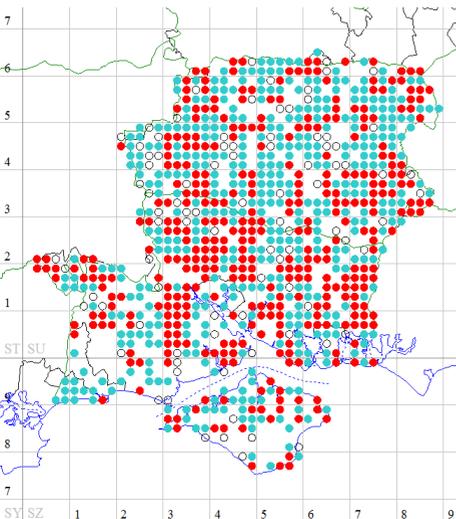
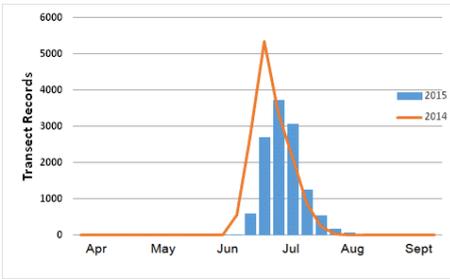


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	1,769
No of 2015 individuals	5,928
No of 2015 tetrads	176
No of post 2005 tetrads	499

Earliest on Database	08 Apr 1997		
Earliest 2015	20 Apr Farlington Steve Wiltshire		
Latest 2015	09 Oct Culver Down Andy Butler		
Latest on Database	29 Oct 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	26	12	22

The Small Heath continued to show a decline in 2015, though the rate of decline is slower than the previous year. The number of records were down by 15%, and the total individuals recorded were also down by 15%. The highest individual count was 112 recorded at Conholt Hill on 11 June (John Solomon), with 64 at Whippingham Fields, East Cowes on 23 May, and 56 at the same location on 30 July (both John Rowell), being the only other counts above 50 individuals.

The Annual Index for Whippingham Fields was 1,407, or over 27% of the transect total for the two counties, and over three times as many as any other transect site. The earliest record was over a week earlier than in 2014, and the latest nearly a week later than in 2014, and one of six October records. The peak for the first brood was the beginning of July, with the second brood peaking earlier than last year in mid-August, but only at a level around half that of the first brood.



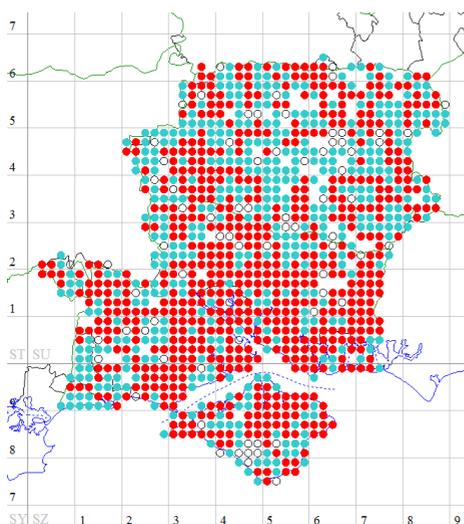
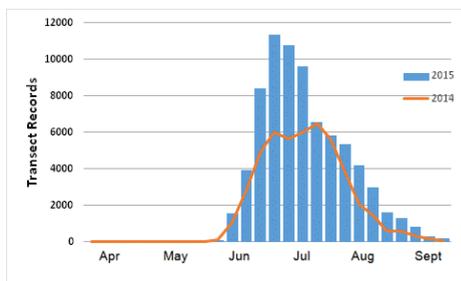
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,916
No of 2015 individuals	18,941
No of 2015 tetrads	366
No of post 2005 tetrads	840

Earliest on Database	25 May 2011		
Earliest 2015	07 Jun Enham Alamein Peter Billinghamurst		
Latest 2015	06 Sep Itchen Valley Keith Fisher		
Latest on Database	11 Oct 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	48	24	22

Emergence was two days earlier than last year and, unusually, involved fifteen individuals at two sites. It was then recorded at four sites the following week and was widespread by the third week of June.

It would appear that the butterfly did not fare especially well this year, particularly on the chalk, perhaps as a result of the dry conditions and high July temperatures. This is illustrated by the results of the three transects at Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) where the indices were down by between 61% and 77 % compared with the 2014. Those at MHD Extension and Martin Down Kitts both produced their lowest counts since 2005. Noar Hill, West Down, Martin Down, Catherington Down, Sparsholt College and Stockbridge Down also experienced significant declines in population. In contrast, at Alresford Farm the Annual Index (332) was the highest since recording began in 1979.

Once again the largest counts came from damper woodland complexes. The highest being 297 at Church Place Inclosure on 10 July (J Ruppensbery), 273 at Pamber Forest on 09 July (Graham Dennis) and 255 at Pignal Inclosure also on 09 July (Dave Creasey).

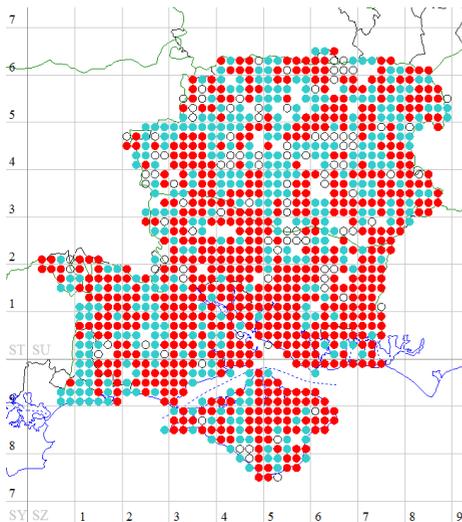
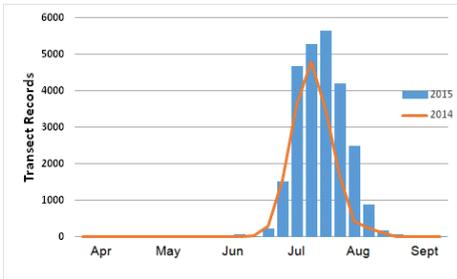


BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	9,627
No of 2015 individuals	102,347
No of 2015 tetrads	622
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,085

Earliest on Database	30 Apr 2011		
Earliest 2015	23 May Combe PJH Billinghamurst		
Latest 2015	02 Nov Afton Down Sam Knill-Jones		
Latest on Database	07 Nov 2010		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	25	32	49

As has been common in the last decade, this species again had a long flight period. The first was not seen until 23 May at Combe, Hog's Hole (PJH Billinghamurst) and generally not in great numbers until early June. Transect records suggest that the peak flight period was late June to mid-July, slightly earlier than seen in 2014. With another mild autumn the adults continued to be regularly recorded throughout September and until mid-October, with a late record at Wheelers Bay, IOW on 20 October (Andy Butler) before a final sighting in early November. It is known that on southern chalk downs Meadow Brown can continue to emerge into September, so it is not surprising that the last two sightings for the year were from the Isle of Wight.

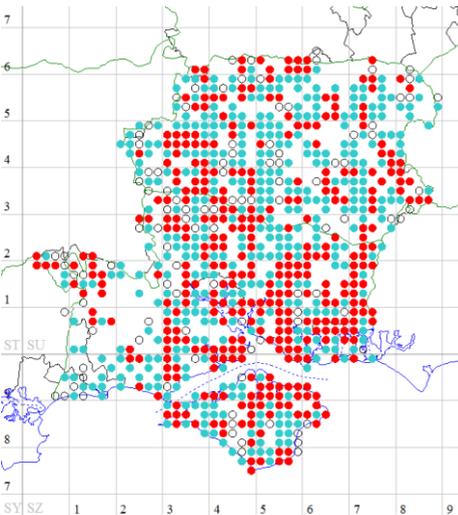
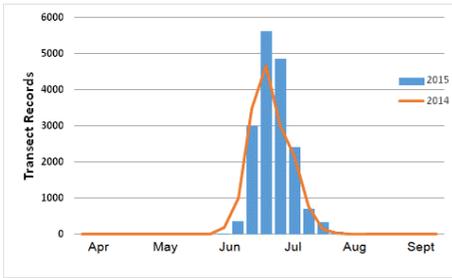
Meadow Brown is always a common species, often occurring in high numbers on suitable grassland sites. The highest adult count both in 2014 and 2015 was on Section 10 of the Whippingham Fields transect, Isle of Wight (334 recorded 18 July 2014 and 1,058 on 26 June 2015, John Rowell).



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	6,632
No of 2015 individuals	48,166
No of 2015 tetrads	654
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,081

Earliest on Database	24 Mar 1999		
Earliest 2015	27 May St Marks Meadow Paul Beavers		
Latest 2015	26 Sep Foxlease Meadow David Walton		
Latest on Database	19 Oct 1995		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	15	26	63

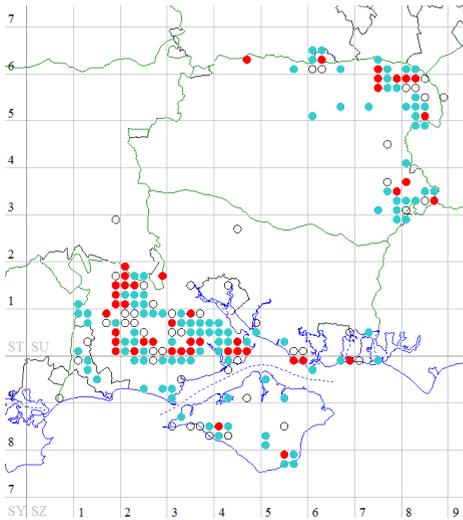
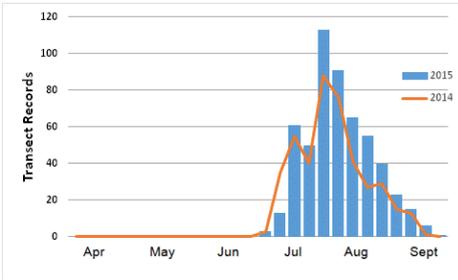
The Gatekeeper had a longer flight season and was much more numerous than in 2014. There were 38 counts of 100 or more in 2015 compared to just 18 in 2014, and these were seen between 10 July and 08 August. The largest count of all was of 844 on 17 July at Whippingham Fields, Isle of Wight, where a further four counts of over 300 were made (all John Rowell). Other localities where very high counts were made included Church Place Inclosure (John Ruppertsbery), Latchmore (Nigel T Owen) and Perrywood Ivy (Bob Annell). Of the 104 transects on which the Gatekeeper is recorded, no fewer than 63 reported an increase of more than 20%, a significant improvement in spite of the poor weather later in the flight season



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,678
No of 2015 individuals	23,728
No of 2015 tetrads	355
No of post 2005 tetrads	799

Earliest on Database	31 May 1990		
Earliest 2015	07 Jun Martin Down Nigel Parsons		
Latest 2015	09 Sep Itchen Valley Keith Fisher		
Latest on Database	25 Sep 2003		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	27	25	46

The Marbled White suffered a decline in numbers in 2015, after a good year in 2014. The number of records was down by over 11%, and individuals recorded were down by more than 14%. Over a quarter of the total records come from Whippingham Fields, near East Cowes, which achieved an Annual Index of 6,132, an increase of over 75% on the previous year. The 510 individuals recorded on 03 July (John Rowell) on Section 8 of the Whippingham Fields transect was the highest of the year, with Whippingham Fields providing 19 of the 20 highest records; the 200 recorded at Newtown National Nature Reserve on 25 July (Les Street) being the one exception. Elsewhere, 104 seen at Petersfield Heath on 06 July (AC Smallbone) was the next best. The Annual Index at Magdalen Hill Down (Original) declined dramatically from 918 in 2014, to 357. The flight season started two days earlier than in 2014, but finished abruptly, with only one sighting after 22 August, and that nine days earlier than the latest sighting in 2014.



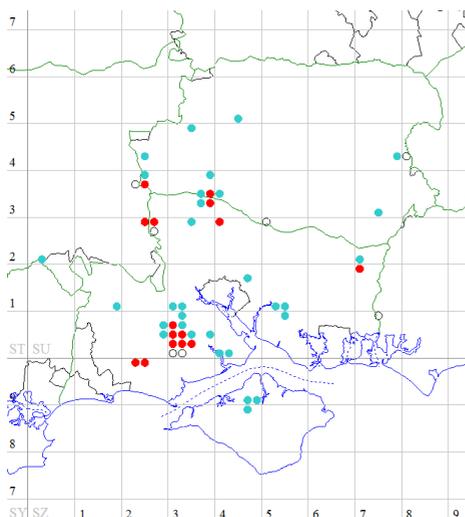
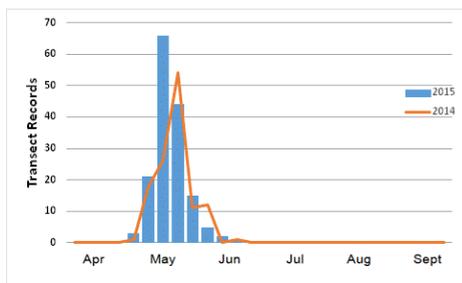
BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	330
No of 2015 individuals	1,020
No of 2015 tetrads	44
No of post 2005 tetrads	181

Earliest on Database	21 May 2011		
Earliest 2015	30 Jun Hawkhill Ashley Whitlock		
Latest 2015	25 Sep Hazeley Heath Dave Bradock		
Latest on Database	08 Oct 1986		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	8	3	6

This species had a slightly better, but still mixed year in 2015. Hazeley Heath's Annual Index of 224 was the largest transect count, well above the 2014 total of 151. A new transect this year at Hasley (New Forest) registered a promising 69.

Records were received from the usual heathland localities throughout Hampshire during the normal flight times. The peak counts were all from the New Forest strongholds: 73 at Beaulieu Heath on 18 July and 52 on 16 August (both Gordon Coster), 38 at Broomy Bottom on 28 July (John Ruppensbery), also 30 at Brown Loaf on 2 August (Paul Brock); the only counts of 20 or more. The latter site included observation of a female egg-laying on a tuft of isolated grass growing at the top of this steep, disused railway embankment, known for its wide range of Hymenoptera. Not such a pleasant experience only a few metres away, one was being chased by a number of German Wasps *Vespa germanica*. One of the hazards for a butterfly spotter, let alone something for the Grayling to avoid!

The older records shown on the map are well worth exploring, in many cases reflecting lack of recording effort, rather than a decline, although low numbers of this species are likely in these areas.

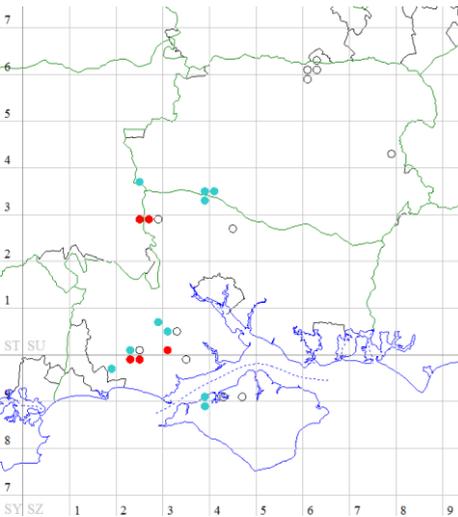
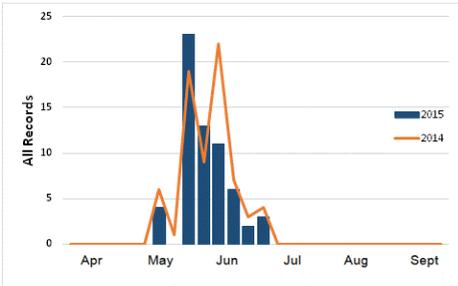


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	159
No of 2015 individuals	689
No of 2015 tetrads	15
No of post 2005 tetrads	47

Earliest on Database	17 Apr 2003		
Earliest 2015	27 Apr Stockbridge Down Dave Pearson		
Latest 2015	16 Jun Parkhill Inclosure Keith Brook		
Latest on Database	09 Jul 1950		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ± 20%	Up > 20%
	1	3	3

This species is still recovering from the disastrous 2012 season; even so, its distribution in Hampshire continues to hold steady. The timing of the season was broadly similar to 2014, and it is encouraging to note that most transect Annual Indices were the same or better in 2015.

In its New Forest stronghold, the species appeared in modest to good numbers in woodlands east of Brockenhurst, but only four individuals were reported from the isolated population at Wootton Coppice Inclosure. The season peaked in mid May, with a top count of 31 at Parkhill Inclosure on 13 May (John Ruppertsbery). Outside the New Forest, there were various records from Bentley Wood (Eastern Clearing), peaking at 25 on 13 May (Lizzie Beer). Elsewhere seven were seen on 17 May at Isle of Wight Woods, Porton Down (Ashley Whitlock, Andy Barker). Low numbers were also reported from several sites in the Stockbridge area, plus a singleton on 12 May at Oxenbourne Down (Ashley Whitlock), and an unexpected appearance of eight on 16 May at West Wood, Winchester (Jonathan Spencer). The season was all but over by the end of May, although Stockbridge Down and a few New Forest inclosures continued into June.

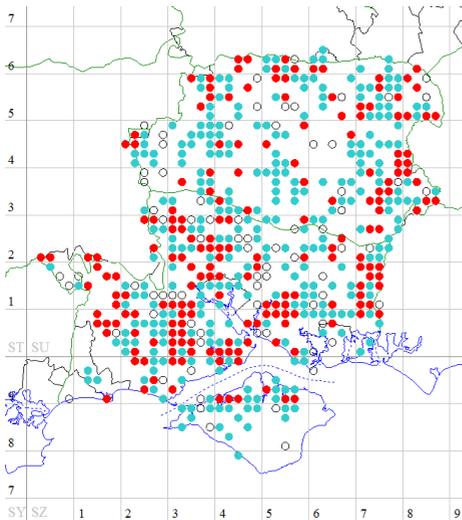
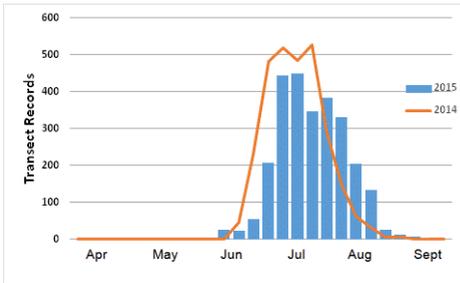


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	31
No of 2015 individuals	78
No of 2015 tetrads	5
No of post 2005 tetrads	21

Earliest on Database	03 May 2007		
Earliest 2015	13 May Bentley Wood Lizzie Beer		
Latest 2015	03 Jul Roydon Common Ron Cooke		
Latest on Database	31 Aug 1991		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	1	2	-

2015 was another poor year for this butterfly. At Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing the Annual Index was six, similar to 2014 which was seven, but just four years ago in 2011, the Annual Index was 186. Six recorders sent in non-transect counts and these are a bit more encouraging as 11 were counted on two occasions by Nigel Parsons on 27 May and 07 June.

Sightings in the New Forest were some three weeks later than Bentley Wood, and as with Bentley Wood, Annual Indices were down. At Wootton Coppice the Annual Index in 2014 was nine; in 2015 it was just five with no other records. At Roydon Woods the Annual Index dropped from 10 in 2014 to seven and the only other record was of four seen on 24 June (Ashley Whitlock). No records were received from Holmsley Inclosure again, the last being 2012 and nothing from the Isle of Wight. On a positive note, however, work by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to extend the area of habitat for these Fritillaries at Roydon is on-going and two Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were recorded by Maarten Ledebøer in Brownhills Inclosure, adjacent to Wootton Coppice Inclosure and directly across the A35 from Holmsley Mill where a colony has been previously seen.



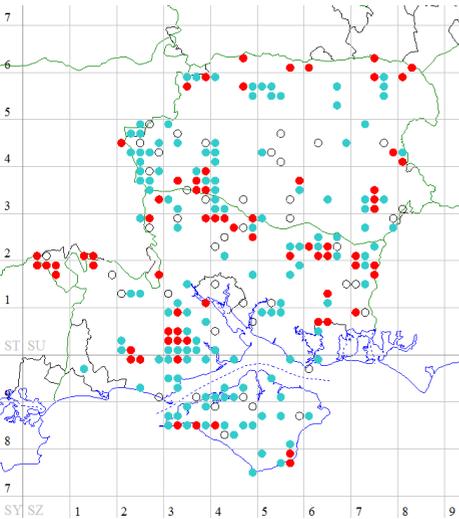
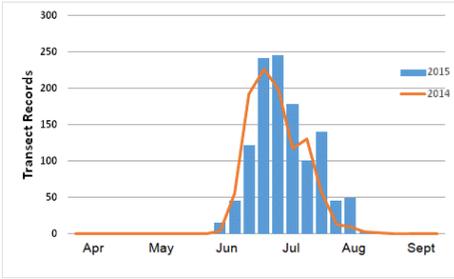
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	1,466
No of 2015 individuals	4,925
No of 2015 tetrads	191
No of post 2005 tetrads	549

Earliest on Database	Late May 1893		
Earliest 2015	10 Jun Firestone Copse AJ Redfern		
Latest 2015	11 Sep Axmanford Andy Bolton		
Latest on Database	20 Sep 2010		
Transect Site	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
Trends	20	17	24

The first emergence, at Firestone Copse, was two days earlier than last year but it was a further week until the first mainland record at Holmsley. The butterfly became widespread during the last week of June and was still present at sixteen sites in September.

Although the overall population remains at reasonably healthy level there were some noticeable losses in numbers this year. This was particularly true for many of the New Forest sites. The transects at Keeping Marsh, Standing Hat, Pignal Inclosure, Broadley Inclosure and Pondhead Inclosure all recorded declines of between 46% and 73% in their indices. Elsewhere there were significant declines at Walter's Copse, Firestone Copse and also at Ichen Valley Country Park (woods) where the count was the lowest since 2005.

There was more positive news from Pamber Forest, which once again produced the highest count of the season with a peak of 123 on 25 July (Graham Dennis). The index here was the best since 2010. At Bentley Station Meadow numbers were up from 74 to 102 and at Botley Wood the index rose from 73 to 151. At Mottisfont Cadbury there was a similar welcome increase.

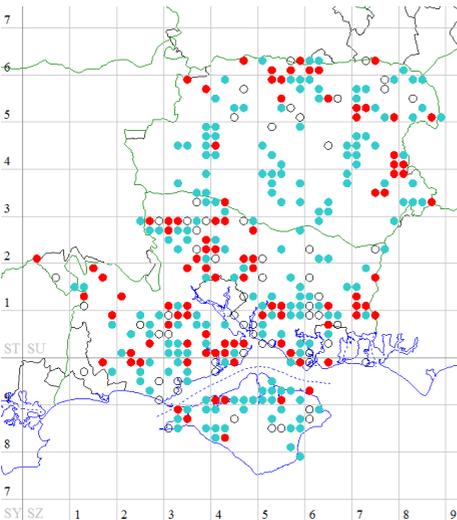
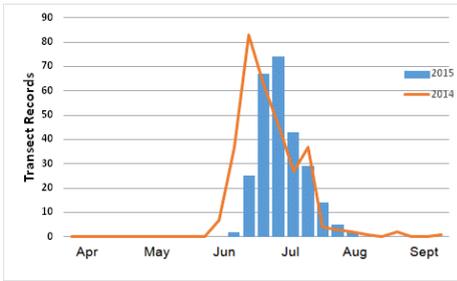


BC Priority status	Medium
No of 2015 records	523
No of 2015 individuals	1,468
No of 2015 tetrads	68
No of post 2005 tetrads	233

Earliest on Database	28 May 2010		
Earliest 2015	07 Jun Martin Down Nigel Parsons		
Latest 2015	30 Aug Wootton Incl. Maarten Ledeboer		
Latest on Database	08 Sep 2012		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	8	11	14

Although this magnificent species has struggled in recent years, 2015 saw a marked improvement although the flight period was a little shorter than usual. Of the transect monitored sites, where the butterfly is present, an amazing 14 showed an increase of more than 20%, 11 showed no change and only eight showed a decrease of more than 20%. However this species continues to struggle in many areas with low numbers being recorded throughout the counties with the exception of the larger, well managed sites such as Broughton and Mottistone Downs. Martin Down (south) had the best year since 1999 with an annual count of 239. The highest came from Broughton Down with an impressive 308.

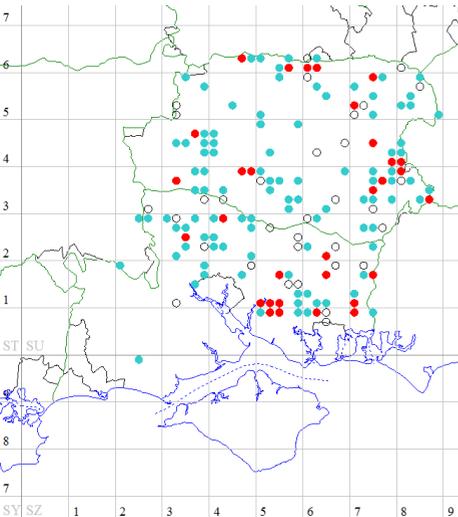
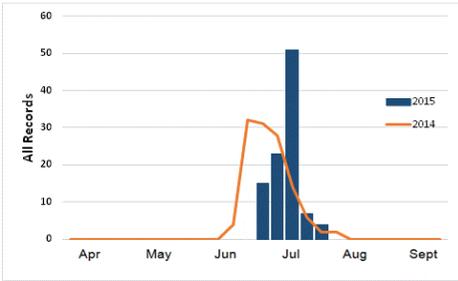
The first butterflies of the year were recorded at Martin Down (south) when Nigel Parsons counted 31 individuals on 07 June. Subsequently only low numbers of less than 10 were noted from most other sites throughout the season. Broughton Down had a reasonable count of ten on 24 June (Glynne Evans) and 12 were seen at Hazeley Heath (south) on 01 July (Dave Braddock). On the same day high numbers were counted at other sites such as Martin Down (north transect) when 24 were recorded (Linda Smith) and 10 at Mottistone Down (Robin Lang) on the Isle of Wight. An impressive 31 were counted by John Solomon at Stockbridge Down on 19 July.



BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	310
No of 2015 individuals	691
No of 2015 tetrads	95
No of post 2005 tetrads	325

Earliest on Database	Late May 1893		
Earliest 2015	19 Jun Spearywell Ryan Scott		
Latest 2015	17 Aug Wootton Incl. Maarten Ledeboer		
Latest on Database	04 Oct 2003		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	13	7	13

Yet another mediocre year, although there was a curious dearth of records from some of the species' most favoured haunts such as the Straits Inclosure, surely a reflection on recorder numbers rather than those of the butterfly. The emergence peaked at around mid-July, the highest tally of 23 recorded by Les Street at the diminutive Walter's Copse at Newtown on the Isle of Wight. In fact, only five double-figure records were submitted, including 11 at Briddlesford Copse also on the Isle of Wight (Andrew Brookes), 14 at Burghclere (Tony Filbee), and 18 at Kitts Grave (Gordon Coster). Perhaps the most surprising feature of the year was the brevity of the butterfly's appearance, the last record on 17 August, about one month earlier than is usual. Data from the transects were equivocal; two-fifths of those featuring the insect showing a greater than 20% decline in numbers, one fifth with little change, and the remaining two fifths enjoying a greater than 20% increase.



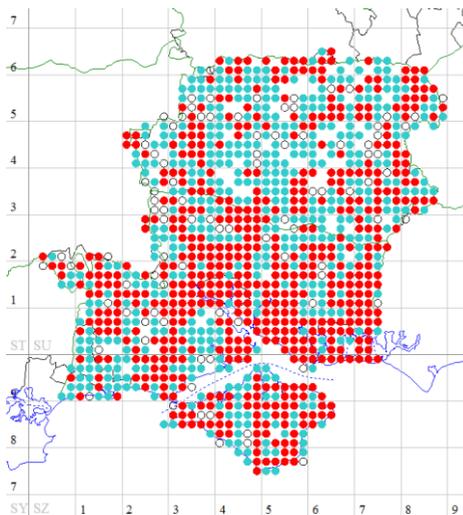
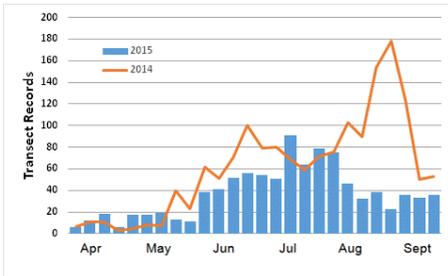
BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	68
No of 2015 individuals	140
No of 2015 tetrads	31
No of post 2005 tetrads	155

Earliest on Database	20 Jun 2007		
Earliest 2015	27 Jun Danebury Hill John Solomon		
Latest 2015	08 Aug Rowlands Castle Barry Collins		
Latest on Database	23 Aug 2013		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ± 20%	Up > 20%
	3	-	5

The Purple Emperor in 2015 had one of shortest seasons on record, flying for barely three weeks at most sites in Hampshire, adding to a very poor season. The weather as usual played a big part in its fortunes, with a heatwave to start off the flight season at the end of June and at the beginning of July.

Peak flight time was between the 15-18 July, and sightings came from the following sites: Botley Wood, Bartley Heath, Butterwood, Bells Copse, Bramshott Common, Carpenters Down Wood, Herbert Plantation, Hook Heath Meadow, Old Basing, Old Winchester Hill, Overton, Ovington Mill, Odiham, Pamber Forest, Rowlands Castle, Swanwick Nature Reserve, Sheepphouse Copse, Southleigh Forest, Whiteley Pastures, Winchester Cathedral, West Wellow, West Walk, & Wonston. Best counts came from Alice Holt with 25 recorded on the 15 July and 11 at Havant Thicket on the 11 July.

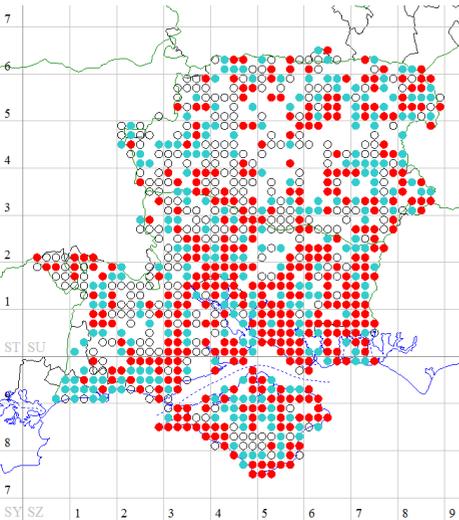
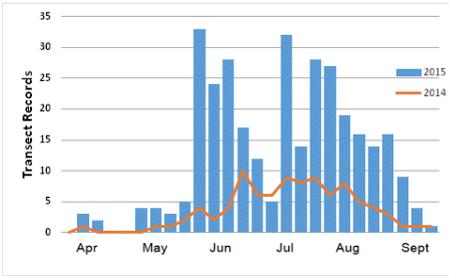
The weather turned foul in the last week of July; however a female at West Harting Down in fine conditions on the 30 July this probably being their final fling, and a grounded male was seen on a field trip on the 01 August. A female was noted on an apple tree in a garden at Rowlands Castle, near Havant Thicket on the 08 August.



BC Priority status	Low						
No of 2015 records	2,300						
No of 2015 individuals	3,525						
No of 2015 tetrads	551						
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,060						
Earliest on Database	01 Jan, various years						
Earliest 2015	02 Jan Totland Bay Jacqueline Chambers						
Latest 2015	29 Dec Holbury June Matthews						
Latest on Database	31 Dec, various years						
Transect Site Trends	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Down >20%</td> <td>Within ± 20%</td> <td>Up >20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>66</td> <td>18</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	66	18	13
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
66	18	13					

The Red Admiral is usually sighted in every month of the year, with adults that are attempting hibernation becoming active and flying during the winter months. The low number of December records probably reflects the timing for record collation rather than an absence of butterfly sightings. The 2015 flight period, as estimated from transect results, showed a slight peak between mid-July and early August, but the highest count of individuals was 19 at Newtown NNR, Isle of Wight on 20 September (Les Street).

Transect counts suggest that adult numbers were generally lower than in 2014, but this cannot be taken as a reflection of breeding success. Red Admiral migration patterns do mean that the numbers seen in Britain will naturally tend to fluctuate greatly between years.

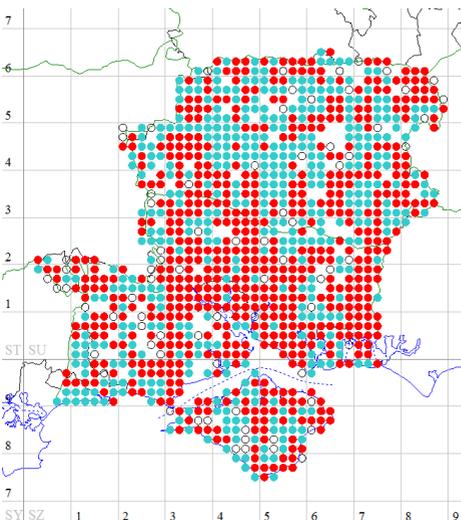
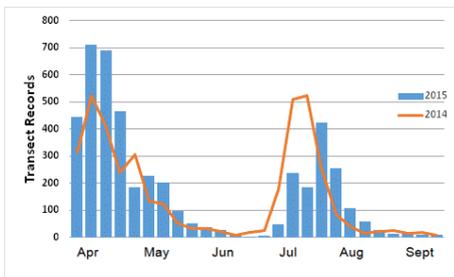


BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	1,250
No of 2015 individuals	1,835
No of 2015 tetrads	392
No of post 2005 tetrads	871

Earliest on Database	01 Jan 2013		
Earliest 2015	08 Apr The Holt, Hordean Peter & Sheila Laversha		
Latest 2015	29 Dec Sparsholt College Kathleen Humphreys		
Latest on Database	31 Dec 1987		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	8	12	49

Painted Ladies were seen on transect from early May until the end of September with a few observations in April. The largest numbers seen at any one time were five on transect at Whippingham Fields on 05 June and 32 at Wheelers Bay, Isle of Wight on 06 September.

Although in our area Painted Lady numbers fell back sharply after the huge influx of 2009, numbers in 2015 were much higher than in the previous five years although still lower than the average of the 18 years up to 2009. Painted Ladies were more numerous on transect in 2015 than in 2014. Only eight of 69 transects showed a more than 20% decrease in numbers compared to 2014. In particular, numbers increased strongly in early June, followed by a steady decline until early July and then a peak in mid July was followed by a steady decline until the end of September. In 2014 there was a smaller peak towards the end of June followed by a slow decline until mid August after which numbers dropped off quite sharply.



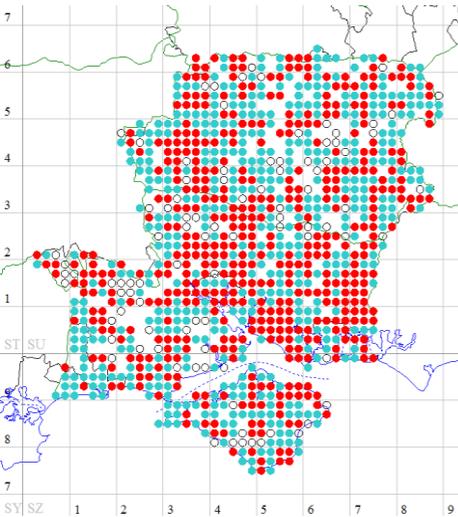
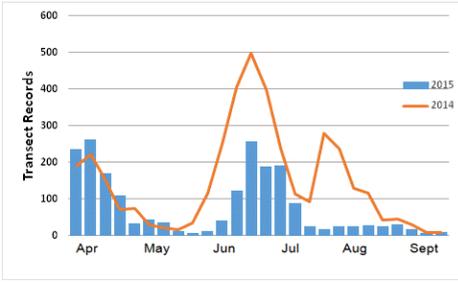
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	4,590
No of 2015 individuals	10,374
No of 2015 tetrads	645
No of post 2005 tetrads	1,134

Earliest on Database	01 Jan, various years		
Earliest 2015	08 Feb Blackgang Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	11 Nov Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest on Database	31 Dec, various years		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	27	25	42

With its black jizz this butterfly is seldom overlooked. No January and few February reports thus show it late out of hibernation this year. First mating was noted on 22 March by Lyz Hankinson at Totton. The spring peak was higher than in 2014. Maximum spring count was 52 at Pamber Forest and environs on 21 April by Neil Saint. Peacocks are especially welcomed in spring as 2015's submissions are skewed with 70% before early June and they are very widely distributed. Wood-edge type environments are preferred.

Total transect sightings for 2015 sustained the level of the last two years in contrast to Big Butterfly Count's national 61% fall which assesses the ongoing summer adult population only. Regrettably there were few larvae records, the largest being 300 near Knowle Village by Paul Herfield on 21 June.

High summer transect totals were 49 at Breamore on 31 July pipped by 69 on The Mountain transect one day later. The cold August rains then cut numbers sharply with few in the autumn, ending with two November singletons near Ventnor.

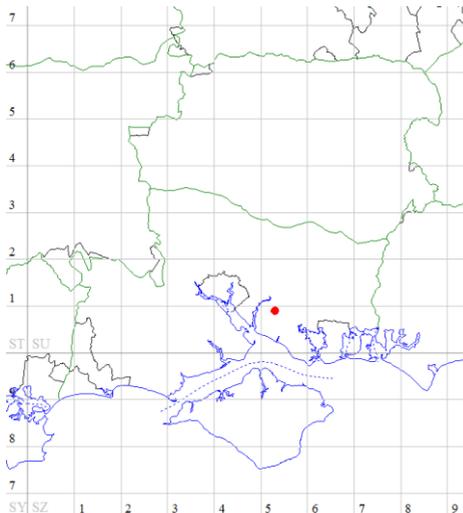


BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,378
No of 2015 individuals	4,611
No of 2015 tetrads	469
No of post 2005 tetrads	977

Earliest on Database	05 Jan 1999		
Earliest 2015	08 Feb Normandy Andrew Vaughan		
Latest 2015	23 Dec Brook IoW Clive Chatters		
Latest on Database	25 Dec 2013		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	60	16	14

The butterfly had a disappointing though far from disastrous year, with few records of note. The spring emergence was modest, the top tally of 15 at Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve on 12 April (Graeme Davis). Reports of larval colonies were ominously few over the following weeks. The year's best record was of the 44 seen by John Solomon at Charlton, near Andover on 14 June, with 23 at Knowle, near Fareham, later that month (Paul Harfield), and 26 at Windmill Hill, Chalton, on 10 July by Roger Marriott. Thereafter, an all too familiar pattern emerged. The reported numbers rapidly dwindling to single figures, mostly ones and twos, for the remainder of the year; again not the slightest hint of a late summer brood. Transect data indicated that numbers fell by over 20% on two-thirds of the transects.

This is the very first Scarce Tortoiseshell to be reported in Hampshire or on the Isle of Wight

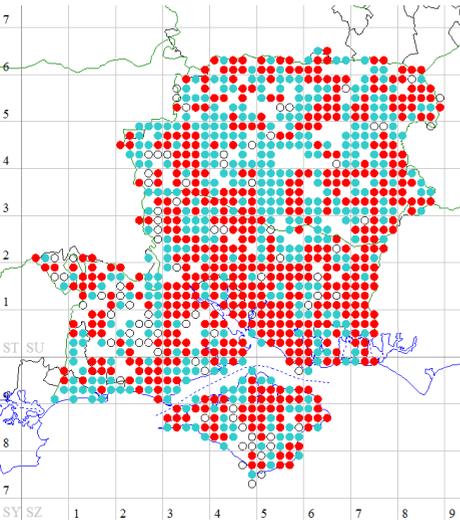
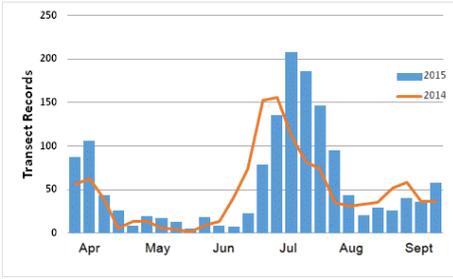


BC Priority status	N/A- Migrant
No of 2015 records	1
No of 2015 individuals	1
No of 2015 tetrads	1
No of post 2005 tetrads	1

Earliest on Database	19 Apr 2015		
Earliest 2015	19 Apr Botley Wood Philip Lowe		
Latest 2015	19 Apr Botley Wood Philip Lowe		
Latest on Database	19 Apr 2015		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	Not Applicable		

In 2014 there were about 30 records of this very rare butterfly mostly along the east coast of England. Before that there had only been a single sighting back in 1953 in West Kent so for numbers like this to appear was an extraordinary event and butterfly enthusiasts looked forward to the spring of 2015 with anticipation, hoping for overwintering Scarce Tortoiseshell to emerge and this duly occurred. Only a few were recorded in the UK during 2015: two were seen in Norfolk, one in Cambridgeshire, one in Suffolk, one in West Sussex and one in our area at Botley Wood/Whitely Pasture on 19 April seen by Phillip Lowe. Obviously a first for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and an excellent record confirmed by two experts.

The Scarce or Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell is a native of China and Eastern Europe so the movement in 2014 across Europe and through Holland and thus into Britain was most unexpected but, needless to say, very welcome. Also very well spotted by the finder.



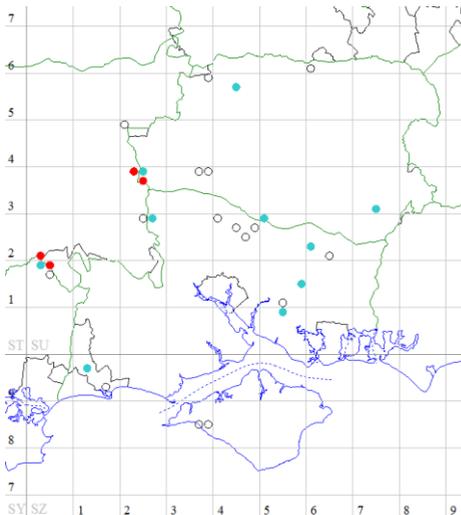
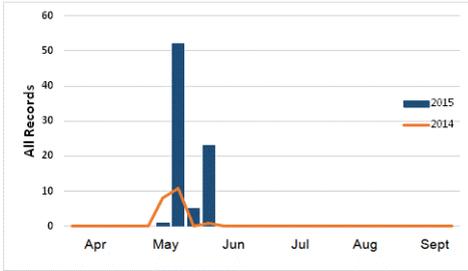
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,528
No of 2015 individuals	4,153
No of 2015 tetrads	536
No of post 2005 tetrads	983

Earliest on Database	09 Jan 1998		
Earliest 2015	17 Feb Gosport David Tining		
Latest 2015	04 Dec Chidden Rosie Williams		
Latest on Database	22 Dec 2013		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	25	28	38

A reasonably good year for the Comma with most transects reporting decent, if unexceptional, Annual Indices, the highest being of 90 at Whippingham Fields, slightly down on 2014. Alresford Farm, on the other hand, reported an increase from eight to 36 – its highest ever count.

As with other species that hibernate as adults, the season was long, with January being the only month for which no records were received. Individual counts were relatively modest. Four of the top ten were from Mockbeggar Lake, Ringwood, where it peaked at 26 on 28 July and again at 25 on 28 September (John Levell). On the Isle of Wight, 14 were recorded from Newtown NNR on 1 August (Les Street) and 13 from the Whippingham Fields transect on 10 October (John Rowell).

With the exception of single records in February, November and December, which were no doubt of awakening hibernators, the Comma was reported fairly steadily throughout the season. Hopefully the hibernating adults will not have been too disconcerted by the high rainfall in the later months of the year.



BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	18
No of 2015 individuals	84
No of 2015 tetrads	4
No of post 2005 tetrads	26

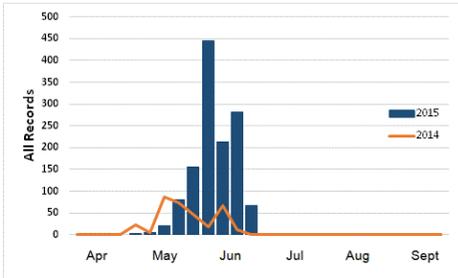
Earliest on Database	22 Apr 2007		
Earliest 2015	17 May Tower Hill, Porton Dn Andy Barker, Andy Bolton		
Latest 2015	08 Jun Porton Down Barbara Last		
Latest on Database	11 Jul 2006		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ±20%	Up >20%
	1	-	1

Gordon Coster recorded 16 individuals on both 23 & 24 May and a further 19 on 04 June. Five were recorded at Martin Down (North) Transect and three at Martin Down (South) during the flight period.

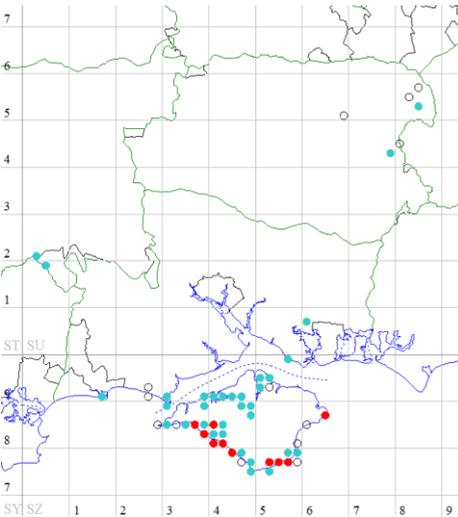
Paul Brock was fortunate to find two larvae near the A354 Car Park on 21 April. The flight graph shows the peak at the end of May, after which two were recorded in early June, a very short flight period for so few butterflies.

The decline in this species has been dramatic in recent years and the Annual Index demonstrates that it only just has a foothold at this once well populated site. It could certainly do with some help in Hampshire and some good news would certainly be welcome. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch have established a partnership with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and are planning a licenced reintroduction to suitable sites in North-East Hampshire. This would involve caterpillars from donor sites in East Dartmoor. The plan is to release up to 20,000 caterpillars over two seasons on the Hampshire sites.

These Hampshire sites have been carefully researched and will be managed to benefit the Marsh Fritillary. It is hoped that with luck, good weather and careful management, populations can be successfully established.



Andy Butler

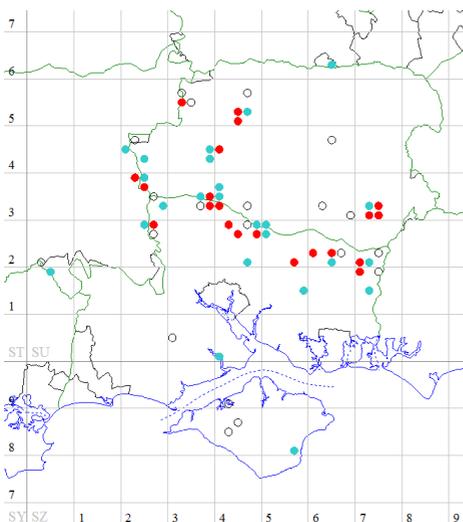
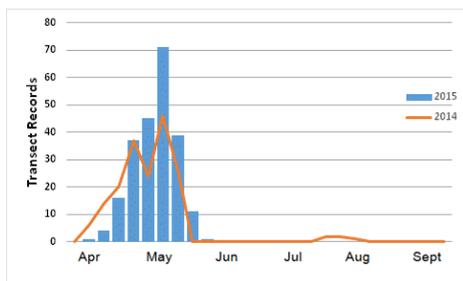


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	64
No of 2015 individuals	1,404
No of 2015 tetrads	10
No of post 2005 tetrads	54

Earliest on Database	08 Apr 2007		
Earliest 2015	04 May Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	06 Jul Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest on Database	09 Jul 2010		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	-	1	-

The spring larval web survey this year resulted in a rise in numbers over the previous year continuing the trend after the poor results of 2013. There are still no signs of the butterfly at Redcliff, Binnel or St.Catherine's Point however but there are indications at Redcliff that the habitat has improved slightly. Very few records of adult butterflies are sent in so it is not easy to judge how larval numbers relate to emerged adults but the impression is that this year has not been too bad given the situation of the past few years.

The Glanville was seen again at Castle Cove on 03 June (Adam Wright) and also on the upper cliff above St. Lawrence on 07 June (Mel Bellingham) but only in low numbers. Grange Chine, Compton and Shepherd's Chine all held reasonable numbers and the maximum count on the inland site at Mottistone Down was an about average 20 (National Trust). The Wheeler's Bay colony continues to flourish and has been consistently good since it was started back in 1991. For some reason it doesn't seem to be susceptible to the usual fluctuations seen at other sites. To sum up, this year has been one of improvement at the remaining sites but no gains elsewhere.



BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	153
No of 2015 individuals	846
No of 2015 tetrads	22
No of post 2005 tetrads	54

Earliest on Database	09 Apr 2011, 2014		
Earliest 2015	09 Apr Noar Hill Hazel Pratt		
Latest 2015	21 Jun West Butser Hill Ashley Whitlock		
Latest on Database	02 Oct 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	1	1	3

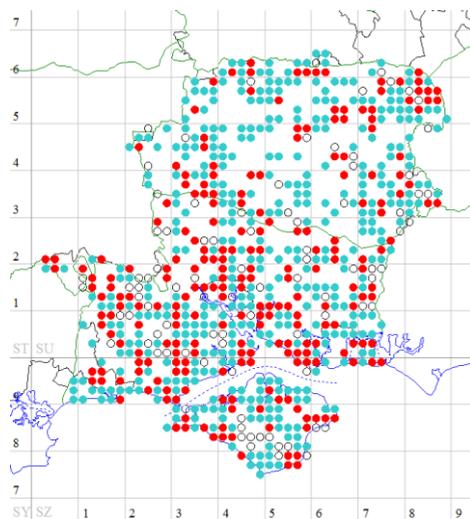
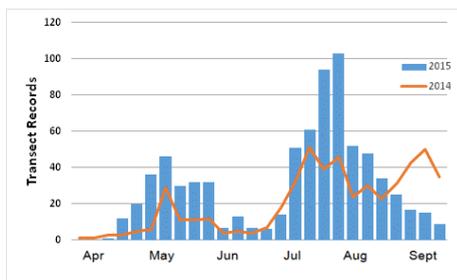
The Duke of Burgundy in 2015 had mixed fortunes. Good weather in April brought on the first Noar Hill sightings 09 April (Hazel Pratt).

One of the best counts came from Porton Down on the 17 May at Isle of Wight Hill; 85 were recorded in clearings of woodland with lush areas of Primrose. At Butser Hill the colony still thrives, counts coming from various recorders throughout the month of May, including 19 on the 25 May.

Deacon Hill, near Winchester, remains the only site in this area despite very good habitat on other sites close by. Another site is a roadside verge at Angle Down just off the A34.

Other sites where the Duke is still extant are Old Winchester Hill, Exton, Stephen Castle Down, Winterdown Copse, Stockbridge Down, Bentley Wood Eastern Clearing, Oxenbourne Down, and Westbury Park.

Hampshire remains a stronghold for this species, and Matthew Oates found larval damage on Cowslip in August at Broughton Down, a site where this species is rarely recorded.



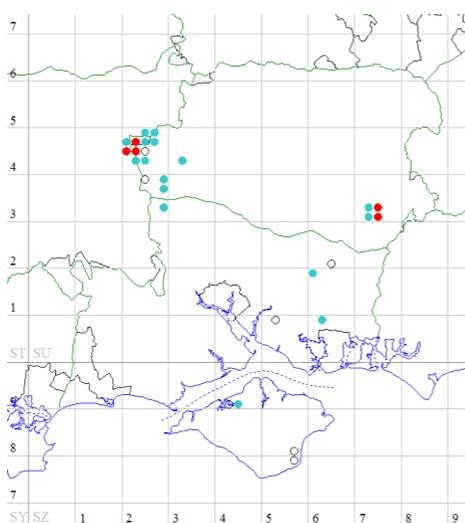
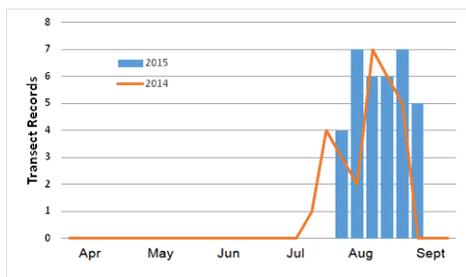
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	714
No of 2015 individuals	1,228
No of 2015 tetrads	234
No of post 2005 tetrads	694

Earliest on Database	05 Mar 2009		
Earliest 2015	09 Apr Compton Bay Sam Knill-Jones		
Latest 2015	25 Oct Lepe Lyz Hankinson		
Latest on Database	27 Nov 2003		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	30	18	27

2015 was a fairly indifferent Small Copper season, very similar to 2014 at most monitored sites. The Small Copper was on the wing from early April to late October with numbers generally low at most sites, with some notable exceptions.

At Whippingham Fields, traditionally the star site locally for this species, a creditable annual total of 351 was achieved, peaking at 55 on 30 July (John Rowell). Other transects recording significant increases on 2014 included Medina Valley Centre (45) and Pilot Hill (41). Conversely Ampfield Wood saw a drop from 12 in 2014 to just one in 2015.

An individual tally of 24 was recorded at Keyhaven on 15 May (Gordon Coster) and was the only mainland double figure count. The vast majority of records received otherwise were of ones and twos but covered a wide variety of sites. Autumn records were relatively few and there was no late build-up of numbers that sometimes occurs during an Indian summer.

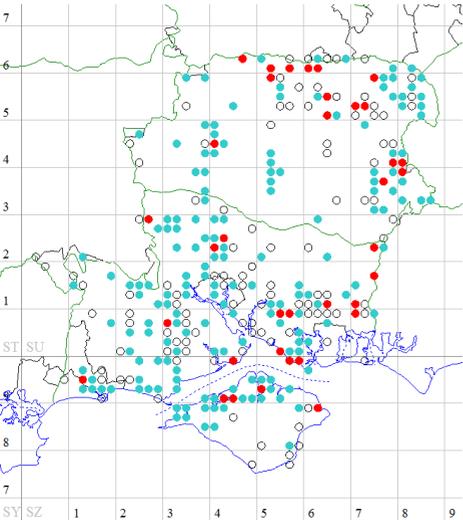
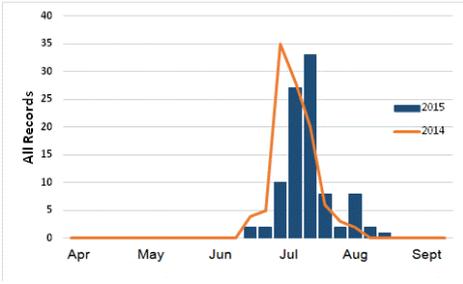


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	50
No of 2015 individuals	106
No of 2015 tetrads	5
No of post 2005 tetrads	23

Earliest on Database	24 Jul 2011		
Earliest 2015	30 Jul Shipton Bellinger Alan Thornbury		
Latest 2015	11 Sep Shipton Bellinger Tim Bernhard		
Latest on Database	16 Oct 1986		
Transect Site	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
Trends	-	2	-

2015 was very much business as usual for the Brown Hairstreak. The 44-day flight period was marginally shorter than 2014 and Shipton Bellinger recorded both the earliest and latest sightings for the year with a peak count of 17 on the 22 August (Paul Harfield). Tony James once again recorded the first sightings at Noar Hill (07 August) and the last (10 September). Numbers at Noar Hill peaked in late August with a total of 15 adults seen on the 29 August (Dave Pearson and Ashley Whitlock, combined total).

No reports were received from the Isle of Wight or away from Shipton Bellinger and Noar Hill. Both sexes will descend from the canopy to feed on bramble, thistle and ripe fruits therefore the lack of any other sightings from across the county remains an enduring puzzle. Perhaps it is time to follow the lead of other Butterfly Conservation branches and undertake systematic egg surveys of vacant tetrads to establish a better understanding of the true distribution of this elusive butterfly.

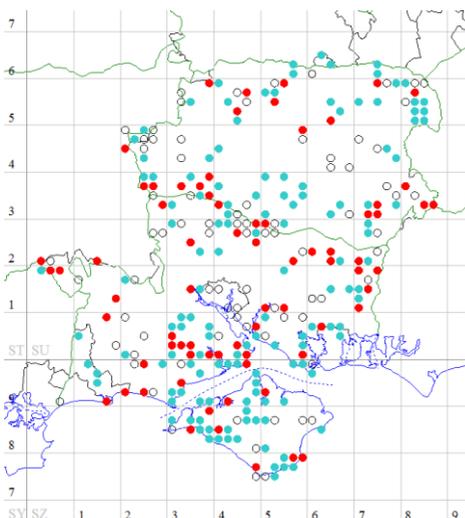
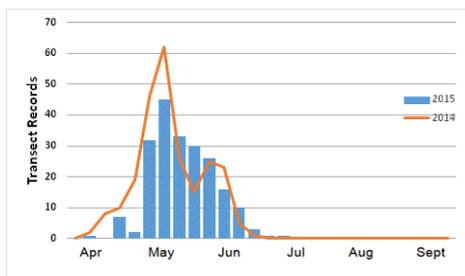


BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	62
No of 2015 individuals	170
No of 2015 tetrads	36
No of post 2005 tetrads	271

Earliest on Database	31 May 2010		
Earliest 2015	29 Jun Walters Copse Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	28 Aug Whippingham John Rowell		
Latest on Database	25 Sep 2003		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	6	2	1

Another unspectacular season for this species, with a flight period of 27 days, shorter than in 2014 and unreliable weather through most of this time, other than the scorching 01 July. The species was recorded on only four transects during 2015; Pamber Forest with an Annual Index (AI) of 19, Whippingham (Fields) AI of nine, Bartley Heath with an Annual Index of three and RSPB Hazeley Heath with an Annual Index of one.

Compared with 10 – 15 years ago, there are less than half the number of transects currently reporting this butterfly, and the Annual Indices are considerably lower although on a brighter note Pamber Forest had its best total since 2010. The highest individual count was of ten, recorded both at Sleeper’s Copse, Ashford Hill (Andy Bolton) on the ninth of July and at Browdown (South) (Francis Plowman) a day later. The only egg record (three) on a sunny woodland edge from branches at head height, was at Westfield Copse, Axmansford on 31 March (Pete Eeles & Andy Bolton).

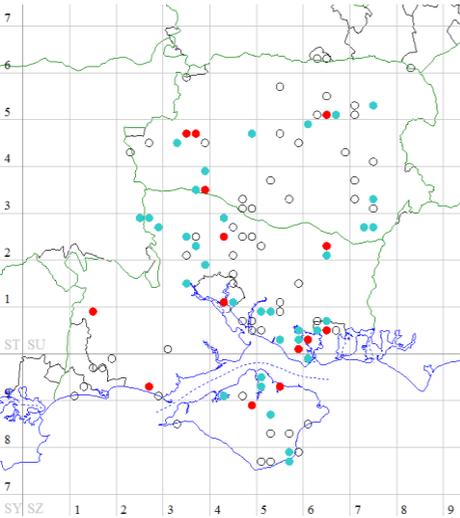
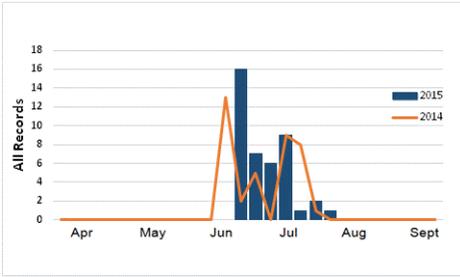


BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	247
No of 2015 individuals	439
No of 2015 tetrads	74
No of post 2005 tetrads	255

Earliest on Database	29 Mar 2012		
Earliest 2015	14 Apr Testwood Les Stride		
Latest 2015	10 Jul Noar Hill Anthony James		
Latest on Database	30 Jul 2007		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	20	5	17

The smallest and most common of the British hairstreaks had a below average year. Overall the transect data indicates a 37% drop from last year. However over the past ten years, 2006-2015, a selection of transects have averaged 8% more than 1996-2005 (150 to 163). Although if three new transects were stripped out the result is 150 to 140 (6% drop). The recent trend is increased fluctuations year on year. In the 1996-2005 period the drop from highest to lowest was 47%, (195 to 102) whereas for 2006-2015 that drop was 84% (307 to 49)! Two transects not included in the selection list recorded double figures, 11 each. The highest number recorded, again came from a field record at Butser Hill, 27 on 03 June 2015 (compared with 70 last year this is consistent with the overall drop in 2015 from 2014).

The flight period started five days earlier than 2014 and lasted ten days longer. Unlike last year there wasn't a dip in late May, just a gradual decline from the peak in early May.

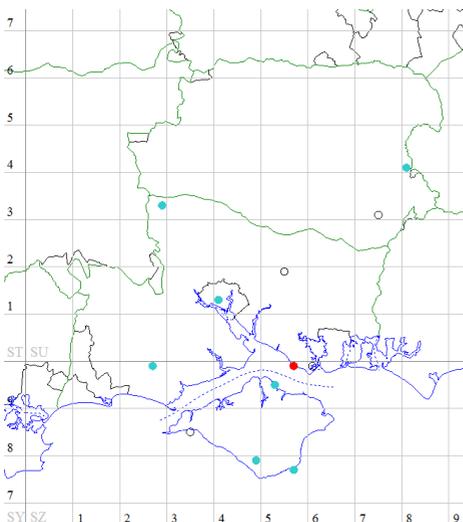
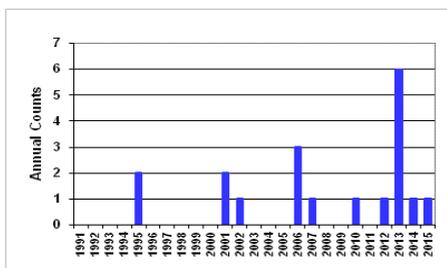


BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	20
No of 2015 individuals	61
No of 2015 tetrads	14
No of post 2005 tetrads	88

Earliest on Database	25 May 2011		
Earliest 2015	24 Jun Cosham Paul Harfield		
Latest 2015	08 Aug Crabtree Wood Nicola Williams		
Latest on Database	23 Aug 2004		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	1	-	1

The number of records increased from 12 to 18 last year, with a commensurate rise in the number of locations. Dismal though these numbers remain, there were two reasons for optimism. At Towngate, Newport, IoW, the butterfly was found to have colonized several of the LUTECE Elm disease-resistant hybrid cultivars raised by the Dutch (Rob Wilson). As over 4000 LUTECE have been planted across the island by Natural Enterprise, similar levels of colonization elsewhere would transform the status of the butterfly. Meanwhile, the butterfly's colonization of the most widely planted elm cultivar in the UK, 'Sapporo Autumn Gold', was confirmed by Elizabeth Goodyear in Hertfordshire.

The second cause for optimism was the submission of records from hitherto unknown White-letter Hairstreak sites such as Studland Common at Milford on Sea (Keith Metcalf), Mockbeggar Lake at Ringwood (John Levell), and at West Meon on the old Valley Rail Path (Paul Harfield), again suggesting the apparent scarcity of the butterfly is owing in no small part to under-recording rather than actual numbers. The Defence Munitions base at Gosport remains the two counties' stronghold, with 13 seen on 21 June (David Tining).



BC Priority status	N/A- Migrant
No of 2015 records	1
No of 2015 individuals	1
No of 2015 tetrads	1
No of post 2005 tetrads	10

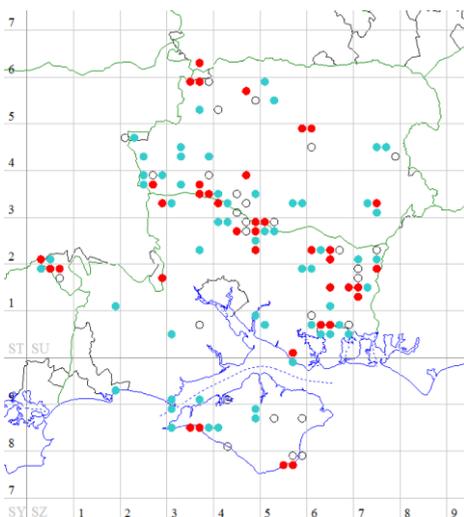
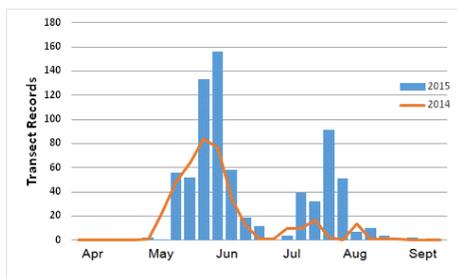
Earliest on Database	04 Jul 2010		
Earliest 2015	18 Aug Gosport Francis Plowman		
Latest 2015	18 Aug Gosport Francis Plowman		
Latest on Database	31 Oct 2001		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	Not Applicable		

This little butterfly has a huge distribution range outside Europe including Asia and Africa. In Europe it is only permanently resident in the Mediterranean region, where it is continually brooded. The species regularly migrates northwards each year but only rarely reaching as far as the British Isles. As the larval foodplant includes various members of the pea family, including cultivated peas and beans, any migrating butterflies to our shores are potentially able to breed.

Although traditionally a very rare migrant, Long-tailed Blues made a migration in 2006 followed by an even larger migration in 2013 when the species was seen at 9 sites along the coast from Devon to Kent. Mating pairs, eggs and larvae were also found which confirmed that this species had successfully bred in the UK. It is thought that climate change may be responsible for these recent migrations and they may become more regular in years to come.

In August 2015, more than 60 records were made from Dorset to Suffolk in what is thought to have been the second largest migration of this species in UK history, only exceeded by the 2013 migration.

Although most of the sightings were made in Sussex, there was one record for Hampshire in 2015. This was of a single adult near the MOD range at Brown Down, near Gosport on 18 August (Francis Plowman).



BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	334
No of 2015 individuals	1,243
No of 2015 tetrads	38
No of post 2005 tetrads	110

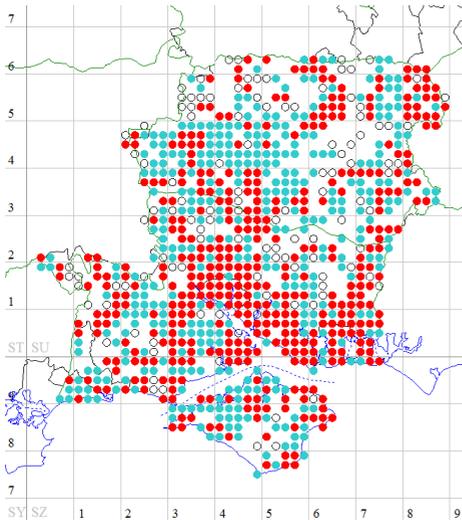
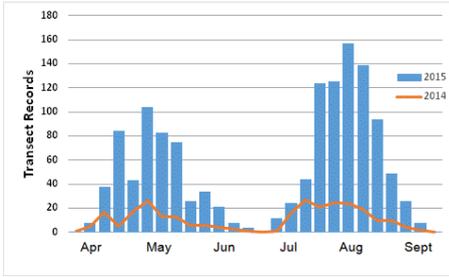
Earliest on Database	30 Mar 2012		
Earliest 2015	12 May Sparsholt Sue Stileman		
Latest 2015	20 Sep Old Winchester Hill Alan McVittie		
Latest on Database	21 Sep 1991		
Transect Site Trends	Down> 20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	-	9	17

Our smallest butterfly enjoyed a welcome resurgence in 2015. Two in every three transects recorded an increase of more than 20% and none recorded a decrease of more than 20%.

The restored habitat at Old Down, Basingstoke is staking a good claim to be the county stronghold for the species with 207 counts for the year, up 63% on 2014. Counts at The Mountain (+134%), Martin Down South (+185%) and Magdalen Hill Down (+107%) all saw good increases over 2014. The re-seeded chalk grassland at Sparsholt College is also going from strength to strength with a total count of 89 for 2015, which is four-times the average count for 2008-14.

The first sighting was three weeks later than 2014 but extended until the 20 September, almost equalling the latest date on the database. Numbers built up to a peak first brood count of 31 at Old Down on 10 June (Jill Lincoln). Off transect, 17 were recorded at Suddern Hill near Porton Down on 23 May (Andy & Linda Barker). The second brood was clearly defined with an interesting count of 30 on 1 August near Sutton Scotney (David Murdoch). This was one of only four double-figure second brood counts.

Only four records were received from the Isle of Wight totalling five sightings.



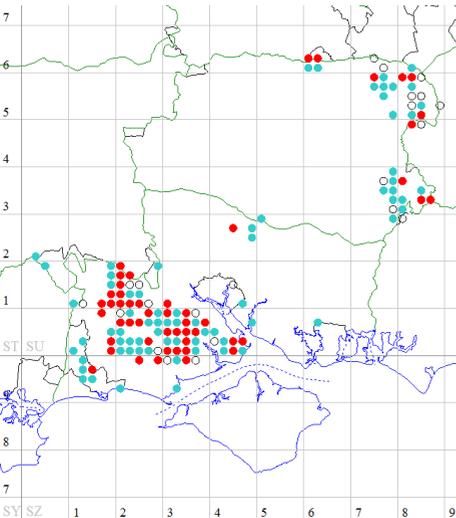
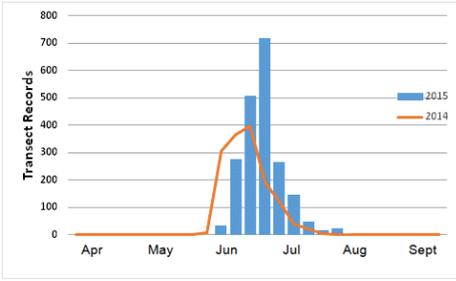
BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	2,183
No of 2015 individuals	3,689
No of 2015 tetrads	412
No of post 2005 tetrads	829

Earliest on Database	14 Jan 2013		
Earliest 2015	06 Apr Hawkhill/Wheelers Bay Derek Hankinson/Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	20 Oct Monks Hill Francis Plowman		
Latest on Database	06 Dec 2006		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ±20%	Up >20%
	4	6	77

After two poor seasons, the Holly Blue perked up in 2015 to give a much better performance. Many transects recorded their best annual indices since 2007 and some, such as Testwood Park House and Anton Lakes, recorded their best counts to date. 77 monitored sites recorded significant increases on the previous year, compared to only 10 recording similar or lower numbers.

The Shipton Bellinger area provided some of the highest individual counts with 30 recorded by Ashley Whitlock on 17 August, 14 on 06 August (Andy & Linda Barker) and the same number on 22 August (Paul Harfield) (perhaps no coincidence that these were all reported during the peak Brown Hairstreak season!). Elsewhere the Holly Blue did well in July and August at Brockishill (John Ruppensbery), at Magdalen Hill (Gordon Coster) and at Lords Wood East (Graham Manchip) indicating a strong summer brood. Paul Harfield noted egg-laying on Hebe in Hedge End on 21 August.

Emergence in 2015 was relatively late with records starting to trickle in from April. The Holly Blue lasted well into September with two records from Whippingham Fields in October (John Rowell) and a single from Hill Head to finish off the season (Francis W Plowman).



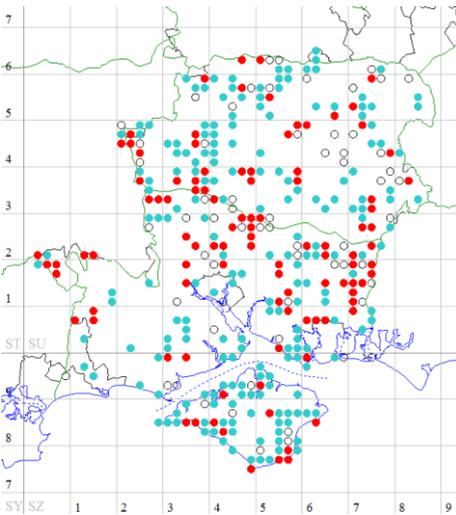
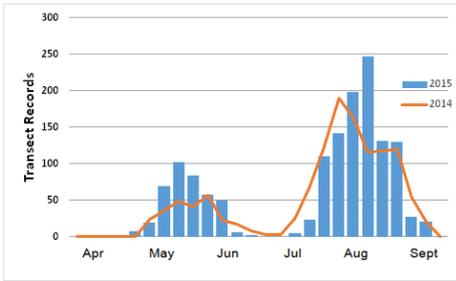
BC Priority status	High
No of 2015 records	394
No of 2015 individuals	6,045
No of 2015 tetrads	50
No of post 2005 tetrads	140

Earliest on Database	09 May 2011		
Earliest 2015	10 Jun Hasley Bob Taylor		
Latest 2015	17 Sep Hasley Judy Hunt		
Latest on Database	30 Oct 1921		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	1	4	8

This species had a better year in 2015, although numbers were distorted by a huge count of 2,085 at Fair Cross Heath in the New Forest on 24 June 2015 (John Ruppertsbery). Not surprisingly, the recorder's find on a sunny morning was described as 'a wonderful experience' involving nearly-hatched females and many pairings, with some parts heaving with butterflies – but not for long.

Transects, on the other hand, only occasionally showed a significant increase and these involved relatively small populations. The benchmark Bramshott Common transect Annual Index of 714 was marginally above the 2014 count and far short of the 1,684 recorded in 2013. A new transect at Hasley registered 414 and is one to watch, with earliest and latest sightings originating here. Otherwise the season was over in August, as usual, with the next latest sighting at Shatterford, New Forest on 30 August (Paul Brock), one of very few records in the second half of August.

The New Forest remains one of the strongholds for Silver-studded Blue, accounting for some of the highest numbers, with 261 at Ocknell Plain on 30 June (John Ruppertsbery). By way of an example about timing of population explosions of adults, John Ruppertsbery returned to Fair Cross Heath on 4 July, recording only 251.



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	780
No of 2015 individuals	2,416
No of 2015 tetrads	103
No of post 2005 tetrads	343

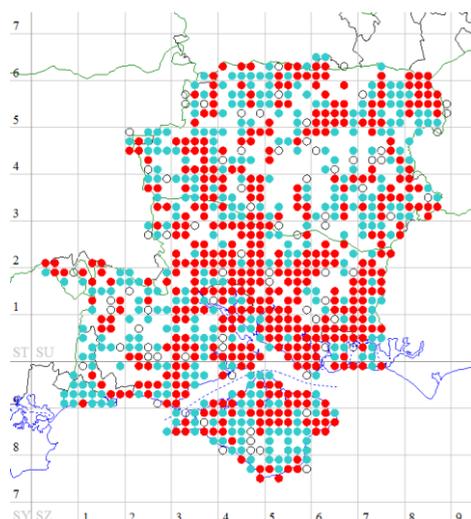
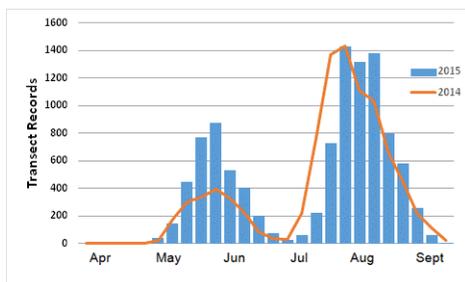
Earliest on Database	08 Apr 2002		
Earliest 2015	04 May Several locations & Recorders		
Latest 2015	28 Oct Afton Down Sam Knill-Jones		
Latest on Database	31 Oct 2005		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	24	10	14

Earliest sighting occurred at Magdalen Hill Down (Alan Thornbery, Penny Jeffries), Whippingham Fields (John Rowell) and Mottistone Down (Robin Lang).

This species had a reasonably poor year in 2015, with 15% fewer records, and 9% fewer individuals seen than in 2014. The transect records showed a 10% decrease. The earliest records were in the first week in May, around a fortnight later than in 2014, when a total of 11 individuals were seen at five different locations across three sites on the same day. The latest record was three weeks later than in 2014, but there were only two sightings in October.

Magdalen Hill Down (original) topped the transect records, showing a 73% increase to record 400, replacing Ventnor (Coombe Bottom) which saw a 45% decrease to record 133, below the record of 289 at Whippingham Fields.

Magdalen Down recorded the highest individual count, 106, on 21 August 2015 (Andy & Linda Barker), and also the next six highest counts, with Bonchurch Down next with 30 individuals seen on 6 September 2015 (Andy Butler). After a first brood peak in late May, numbers decreased rapidly in June and did not recover until late July, peaking slightly later in August than last year, then rapidly decreasing after the first week of September.



BC Priority status	Low
No of 2015 records	3,835
No of 2015 individuals	16,731
No of 2015 Tetrads	459
No of post 2005 tetrads	867

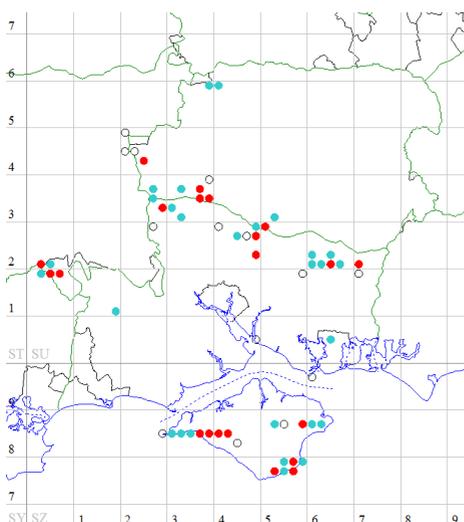
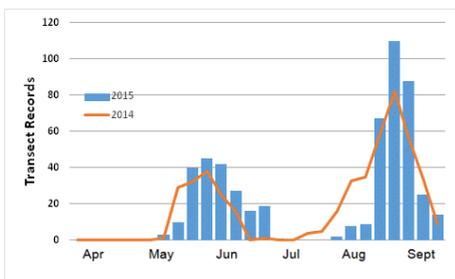
Earliest on Database	08 Apr 2011		
Earliest 2015	19 Apr Wheelers Bay Andy Butler		
Latest 2015	06 Oct Whippingham John Rowell		
Latest on Database	12 Nov 1990		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	49	20	25

This delightful little butterfly appeared in slightly larger numbers than in 2014. Of the 111 transect monitored sites, where the butterfly is present, 25 showed an increase of more than 20%, 20 showed no change and surprisingly 49 showed a decrease of more than 20%.

The year started rather slowly with low numbers being recorded until around 23 May when records increased particularly on the Isle of Wight. Other good counts of over 20 were made at localities such as Magdalen Hill Down, Old Burghclere Quarry, Martin Down, Butser Hill, Porton Down and Old Winchester Hill.

Excellent counts were made at a number of other sites including 82 at Bonchurch Down on 27 May and 50 at Butser Hill on 21 June (both Ashley Whitlock).

Numbers improved during the second brood, which seems to have started around 23 July and rapidly increased with 69 at Whippingham Fields on 30 July (John Rowell), 50 at Brook House Meadow on 01 Aug (David Murdoch) and 89 at Magdalen Hill Down on 21 Aug (Andy and Linda Barker). There were counts of 50 or more from sites such as Noar Hill, Old Winchester Hill, Shepherds Chine and Butser Hill. The highest count of the year came from Whippingham Fields where John Rowell counted 141 on 22 August.

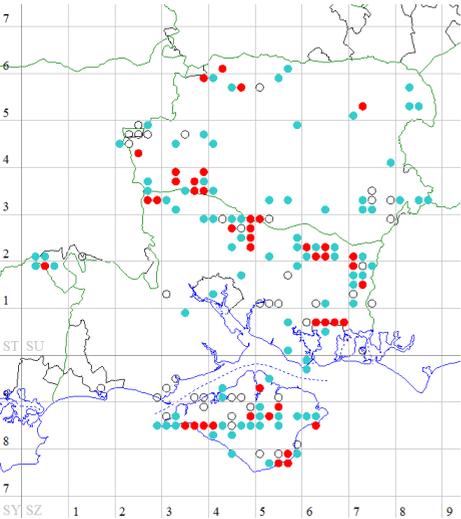
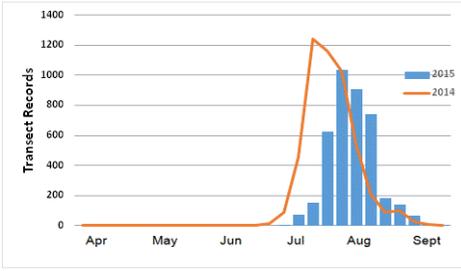


BC Priority status	High		
No of 2015 records	224		
No of 2015 individuals	967		
No of 2015 tetrads	22		
No of post 2005 tetrads	61		
Earliest on Database	26 Apr 2011		
Earliest 2015	17 May Mottistone Robin Lang		
Latest 2015	30 Sep Martin Down Mike Fussell		
Latest on Database	15 Oct 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
	8	2	4

Although a majority of transects showed a > 20% decrease in numbers, others showed increases, and on balance the cumulative tally of Adonis Blues seen on transect was much the same as 2014. In total, the species was seen at nine Isle of Wight sites and seven in Hampshire, with Bonchurch Down and Martin Down producing the highest counts and most records. The possible colonisation at Magdalen Hill Down, reported last year, hangs in the balance.

The first brood began a week later than 2014, but the peak for each brood was broadly similar. The season started on the Isle of Wight, with two at Mottistone Down on 17 May (Robin Lang), but Hampshire was not far behind, with five at Martin Down on 21 May (Linda Smith). This brood peaked with 55 at Bonchurch Down on 27 May (Ashley Whitlock), and concluded with a singleton at Martin Down on 09 July (Linda Smith).

The second brood began with one at Bonchurch Down on 07 August (David Mears), peaking with a maximum of 66 at Martin Down on 07 September (Linda Smith). The final sightings were of three on the Martin Down Transect on 30 September.



BC Priority status	Medium
No of 2015 records	647
No of 2015 individuals	8,626
No of 2015 tetrads	48
No of post 2005 tetrads	165

Earliest on Database	17 Jun 1990		
Earliest 2015	09 Jul Various Locations Various Recorders		
Latest 2015	02 Oct Oxenbourne Down Ashley Whitlock		
Latest on Database	31 Oct 2011		
Transect Site Trends	Down > 20%	Within ± 20%	Up > 20%
	13	4	5

The first adults of 2015 emerged at Magdalen Hill Down (Dave Evans) and St. Catherine’s Hill (Francis Plowman, Chris Piatkiewicz), a week later than 2014, and not surprisingly it was the warm south-facing chalk downlands near Winchester that produced these. The season peaked in early to mid August, with Magdalen Hill Down, Old Winchester Hill, St. Catherine’s Hill and Stockbridge Down all having peak counts of 200+. The highest of these was 466 at Old Winchester Hill on 15 August (Barry Proctor). The season was almost over by mid September, but the final sighting was at Oxenbourne Down on 2 October (Ashley Whitlock).

Despite the high counts mentioned above, it was undoubtedly a poor season. No fewer than 13 out of 22 transect monitored sites showed a > 20% decline in numbers. Butterfly Conservation’s two reserves were not exempt from this, and whilst Magdalen Hill Down still ranks among the top four sites in the county, the population at Yew Hill has fallen to worryingly low levels. Only five sites showed transect count increases of >20%, but it is worth noting that both Old Winchester Hill and Mottistone Down had tallies that doubled the previous year. The reasons for the changing fortunes from one site to the next are not well understood, but are almost certainly due to a combination of factors.

The earliest and latest sightings for 2015 are summarised with the all-time earliest and latest dates for our area held on the Branch database. Please interpret these all-time dates with caution as our records for earlier years are far from complete.

Species	Earliest on Database	Earliest 2015	Latest 2015	Latest on Database
Dingy Skipper	12 Apr 2011	12 Apr	25 Jul	03 Sep 1993
Grizzled Skipper	26 Mar 2012	09 Apr	24 Jun	30 Nov 2012
Essex Skipper	26 May 2007	17 Jun	29 Aug	21 Sep 1996
Small Skipper	16 May 2011	06 Jun	06 Sep	19 Sep 1991
Silver-spotted Skipper	13 Jul 1997	31 Jul	17 Sep	11 Oct 1986
Large Skipper	28 Apr 2007	07 May	17 Sep	22 Sep 2013
Orange-tip	10 Mar 1990	03 Apr	18 Jun	22 Sep 2011
Large White	02 Feb 2007	31 Mar	01 Nov	07 Dec 2012
Small White	09 Jan 1991	05 Apr	02 Nov	08 Dec 2007
Green-veined White	03 Mar 1989	06 Apr	20 Oct	28 Oct 1999
Clouded Yellow	08 Feb 2005	06 Apr	02 Nov	30 Dec 2007
Brimstone	01 Jan 2001	09 Jan	09 Dec	29 Dec 1999
Wall	05 Apr 2000	19 Apr	31 Oct	06 Nov 2003
Speckled Wood	11 Jan 2013	06 Apr	14 Nov	15 Dec 2011
Small Heath	08 Apr 1997	20 Apr	09 Oct	29 Oct 2011
Ringlet	25 May 2011	07 Jun	06 Sep	11 Oct 2011
Meadow Brown	30 Apr 2011	23 May	02 Nov	07 Nov 2010
Gatekeeper	24 Mar 1999	27 May	26 Sep	19 Oct 1995
Marbled White	31 May 1990	07 Jun	09 Sep	25 Sep 2003
Grayling	21 May 2011	30 Jun	25 Sep	08 Oct 1986
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	17 Apr 2003	27 Apr	16 Jun	09 Jul 1950
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	03 May 2007	13 May	03 Jul	31 Aug 1991
Silver-washed Fritillary	Late May 1893	10 Jun	11 Sep	20 Sep 2010
Dark Green Fritillary	28 May 2010	07 Jun	30 Aug	08 Sep 2012
White Admiral	Late May 1893	19 Jun	17 Aug	04 Oct 2003
Purple Emperor	20 Jun 2007	27 Jun	08 Aug	23 Aug 2013
Red Admiral	01 Jan*	02 Jan	29 Dec	31 Dec*
Painted Lady	01 Jan 2013	08 Apr	29 Dec	31 Dec 1987
Peacock	01 Jan*	08 Feb	11 Nov	31 Dec*
Small Tortoiseshell	05 Jan 1999	08 Feb	23 Dec	25 Dec 2013
Comma	09 Jan 1998	17 Feb	04 Dec	22 Dec 2013
Marsh Fritillary	22 Apr 2007	17 May	08 Jun	11 Jul 2006
Glanville Fritillary	08 Apr 2007	04 May	06 Jul	09 Jul 2010
Duke of Burgundy	09 Apr 2011	09 Apr	21 Jun	02 Oct 2011
Small Copper	05 Mar 2009	09 Apr	25 Oct	27 Nov 2003
Brown Hairstreak	24 Jul 2011	30 Jul	11 Sep	16 Oct 1986
Purple Hairstreak	31 May 2010	29 Jun	28 Aug	25 Sep 2003
Green Hairstreak	29 Mar 2012	14 Apr	10 Jul	30 Jul 2007
White-letter Hairstreak	25 May 2011	24 Jun	08 Aug	23 Aug 2004
Small Blue	30 Mar 2012	12 May	20 Sep	21 Sep 1991
Holly Blue	14 Jan 2013	06 Apr	20 Oct	06 Dec 2006
Silver-studded Blue	09 May 2011	10 Jun	17 Sep	30 Oct 1921
Brown Argus	08 Apr 2002	04 May	28 Oct	31 Oct 2005
Common Blue	08 Apr 2011	19 Apr	06 Oct	12 Nov 1990
Adonis Blue	26 Apr 2011	17 May	30 Sep	15 Oct 2011
Chalk Hill Blue	17 Jun 1990	09 Jul	02 Oct	31 Oct 2011

* Recorded on this date in several years

This table was compiled by Dr Andy Barker and is based on 111 Hampshire & Isle of Wight transects with data for both 2014 and 2015.

Species	>20% Decrease 2015	Within \pm 20% NO CHANGE	>20% Increase 2015	0/15 1+/14 Loss	1+/15 0/14 Gain
Dingy Skipper	14	8	11	5	6
Grizzled Skipper	14	5	7	3	5
Small/Essex Skipper	52	26	28	1	-
Silver-spotted Skipper	2	1	3	2	1
Large Skipper	50	20	29	9	7
Orange-tip	44	25	21	6	4
Large White	8	14	72	1	3
Small White	23	19	49	1	-
Green-veined White	31	36	22	4	2
Clouded Yellow	31	11	11	26	10
Brimstone	11	33	49	2	-
Wall	5	2	1	3	1
Speckled Wood	44	27	17	2	2
Small Heath	26	12	22	7	10
Ringlet	48	24	22	1	8
Meadow Brown	25	32	49	-	-
Gatekeeper	15	26	63	-	-
Marbled White	27	25	46	5	7
Grayling	8	3	6	4	3
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1	3	3	1	-
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	1	2	-	-	-
Silver-washed Fritillary	20	17	24	4	9
Dark Green Fritillary	8	11	14	6	7
White Admiral	13	7	13	5	10
Purple Emperor	3	-	5	3	5
Red Admiral	66	18	13	4	3
Painted Lady	8	12	49	6	33
Peacock	27	25	42	1	1
Small Tortoiseshell	60	16	14	7	3
Comma	25	28	38	11	6
Marsh Fritillary	1	-	1	-	1
Glanville Fritillary	-	1	-	-	-
Duke of Burgundy	1	1	3	1	1
Small Copper	30	18	27	14	15
Brown Hairstreak	-	2	-	-	-
Purple Hairstreak	6	2	1	3	1
Green Hairstreak	20	5	17	10	12
White-letter Hairstreak	1	-	1	1	1
Small Blue	-	9	17	-	6
Holly Blue	4	6	77	2	31
Silver-studded Blue	1	4	8	-	1
Brown Argus	24	10	14	6	8
Common Blue	49	20	25	6	3
Adonis Blue	8	2	4	3	1
Chalk Hill Blue	13	4	5	1	1



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
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