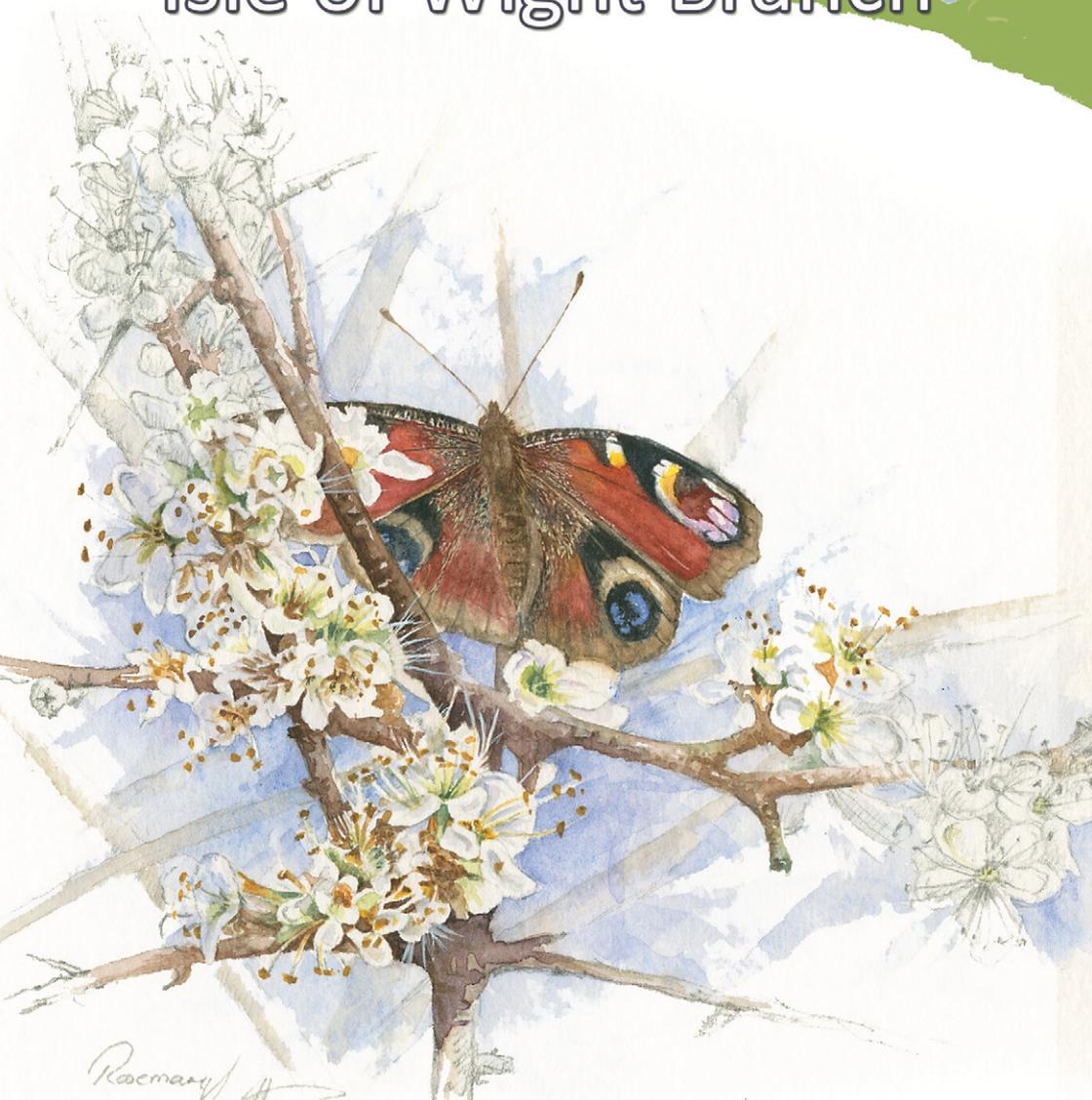


# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 112



Butterfly  
Conservation

April 2022



# Branch Reserves Walks 2022



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## Wednesday 8 June, from 2.00 to 3.30pm Magdalen Hill Down

*Leaders:* David and Anna Stewart

*Directions:* Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404 (SU512295; satnav. SO21 1HE).

*Aiming to see:* Common Blue, Brown Argus, Green Hairstreak.

## Friday 17 June, from 2.00 to 3.30pm Yew Hill

*Leader:* Rupert Broadway

*Directions:* Meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at Junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451269; satnav. SO22 4JT).

*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary; White-letter Hairstreak.

## Wednesday 20 July, from 11.00am to 1.00pm Magdalen Hill Down

*Leaders:* David and Anna Stewart

*Directions:* Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404 (SU512295; satnav. SO21 1HE). Bring a picnic to enjoy after the walk.

*Aiming to see:* Lots of summer grassland favourites.

## Wednesday 3 August, from 11.00am to 1.00pm Yew Hill

*Leader:* Rupert Broadway

*Directions:* Meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at Junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451269; satnav. SO22 4JT).

*Aiming to see:* Chalk Hill Blue.

## Wednesday 17 August, from 11.00am to 1.00pm Magdalen Hill Down

*Leaders:* David and Anna Stewart

*Directions:* Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404 (SU512295; satnav. SO21 1HE).

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue; Brown Argus.

For any enquiry about the walks at Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill, please contact Fiona Scully: email [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org) or phone **07918 073651**.

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## In this issue

There is much to look forward to in the season ahead, not least the packed field trips programme and reserve walks listed within these pages, 36 in all: five on Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill, 23 across Hampshire and eight on the Isle of Wight, all visiting many of the very best places to see wildflowers, butterflies and day-flying moths.

In addition to the top-quality sites, I am particularly pleased to be able to follow up on the local butterfly and moth havens featured in the two most recent Newsletters – the inspirational neighbourhood meadow near Whitchurch (October '21) and Francis Plowman's piece on Monks Walk (April '21) – with more 'local patches'. My thanks to Andy Bolton and to Jon Holden-Dye for their insightful contributions regarding their own treasured haunts. I'd love to be able to do more of these, so please keep them coming.

And my thanks also to Kevin Ross for another interesting update from his 'local patch' in North Baddesley. If you've not seen a nest of new-born weasels before, you're in for a treat on page 21.

**Kevin Freeborn,**  
**Newsletter Editor**



## Chairman's Message

As the butterfly season commences, and the short winter days are behind us, I want to start by giving a warm welcome to you all, but especially to those new members who have recently joined the Branch. Every member that joins Butterfly Conservation helps the organisation grow stronger, enhancing our ability to achieve much needed conservation action for butterflies and moths.

It is now a year since I wrote my first Chairman's message and, a lot has happened in that time. 2021 was of course another difficult year with the Covid pandemic, but I'm hopeful that the worst of this is now behind us, and we can look forward with greater optimism to a brighter 2022. Our Branch Committee has been strengthened with the addition of Suzie Brown (Membership Secretary) and Sarah Crawford (Branch Secretary), but we still have vacancies in a number of key roles, so if you would like to help, I'd be very pleased to hear from you. Covid restrictions limited public engagement opportunities over the last couple of years, but we intend to rectify this in 2022, by attending various shows and events around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. If you would like to help organise or participate in any of these, please let me know, as the more volunteers we have, the more we can achieve.

Butterfly Conservation launched its 2021-2026 Strategy in October 2021 (see pp10-11), outlining how it intends to improve the fortunes of butterflies and moths over the coming years. The overall vision is *a world where butterflies and moths thrive and can be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere*. I've said more about this in my Chairman's Introduction to the 2021 Butterfly Report, so rather than reiterate here, I would simply encourage you all to visit Butterfly Conservation's website for further detail. Rest assured that our Branch will play a full part in delivering the various conservation goals, and your contribution, and that of other volunteers, will be a vital part of this.

We are fortunate to have three Butterfly Conservation nature reserves in Hampshire, and between them 38 of the 46 regular Hampshire and Isle of Wight butterfly species were recorded in 2021. So, if you want to see butterflies that you've never seen before, these reserves are a great place to start. You may already have read the exciting news confirming

Brown Hairstreak as a breeding species at our Bentley Station Meadow reserve (articles by Steve Lockett in December 2021 and February 2022 e-Newsletters). Fiona Scully (South Downs Project Officer) also gives regular updates of what's happening on our two chalk downland reserves, at Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill. These updates include details of practical conservation tasks and other events on our reserves, so if you would like to get involved with volunteering on any of these reserves, you'd be very welcome (see pp6-7).

If you've never visited one of Butterfly Conservation's nature reserves before, I can highly recommend a visit, at any time of the year, as there's always something to see. By the time you receive this Newsletter, hibernating species such as Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma will have emerged from dormancy, and it won't be long before rarer butterflies like Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper are on the wing at Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill. If Bentley Station Meadow is your nearest reserve, be sure to visit in late April or May, to see the beautiful Orange-tip butterfly, which flies early in the season, and breeds in good numbers in the damp meadow habitat.

If you'd like to find out more about butterflies, and to socialise with like-minded people, why not attend one of the many field meetings on offer throughout the year. Once again, I am extremely grateful to Ashley Whitlock who has arranged a full programme for Hampshire (pp25-29), and Kay Shaw who has done likewise for the Isle of Wight (pp30-31). There's still a chance that some events may have to be cancelled due to Covid constraints, or other reasons, so make sure you check the Branch website regularly, for the latest advice. Even if a trip is indicated as taking place it may be that advance registration is required if there are restrictions on numbers.

Incidentally, if you don't currently receive the Branch e-Newsletters, but would like to, all you need to do is contact BC Head Office to adjust your mailing preferences. Similarly, if you would like to receive all Branch Newsletters electronically, rather than as printed copy, to help reduce Branch costs and our carbon footprint, this can be done through BC Head Office. The Branch website and Social Media pages (see pg.32), are also great places to find out what's going on. You can also contribute yourself, and let others know what butterflies and moths you've seen.

After many years as joint Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, I need to let you know that Linda Barker has given

notice of her intention to step down from this role at the end of 2022. We are in the process of subdividing the role by local authority areas to spread the workload, but at this stage I just wanted to advise of the situation, and to give special thanks to Linda for all that she has done for the Branch, in this role, and others, over so many years.

In recent news, I also need to report that Steve Wheatley (South-East England Regional Conservation Manager), left Butterfly Conservation at the end of March, and we currently await his successor. Steve played a key role in developing the South-east England Regional Action Plan, and over the last 18 months inherited responsibility for overseeing the management of Bentley Station Meadow nature reserve. On behalf of the Branch I would like to wish Steve all the best for the future.

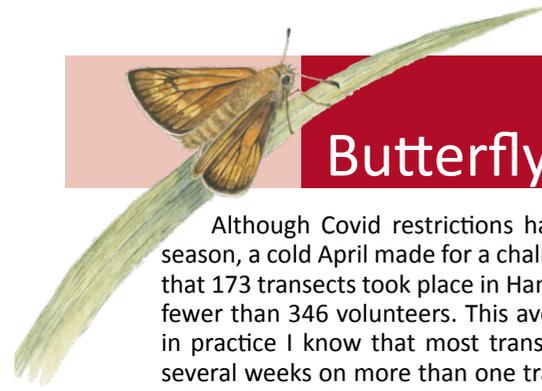
Finally, I would like to give notice that this year's Branch AGM and Members' Day has been arranged for **Sunday 6 November 2022**. Although the Covid situation has meant that we haven't had an indoor AGM and Members' Day for two years now, we remain optimistic that this year will be better, and have booked our regular Littleton Hall venue. We sincerely hope we are able to proceed as planned, but will of course have a Zoom event as back-up. Whichever option prevails, it would be great to see you all, so please mark the date in your diary.

With very best wishes for the coming season; stay safe and enjoy nature!

**Andy Barker,  
Branch Chair**



*Silver-washed Fritillary. Dan Powell*



## Butterfly Transects 2022

Although Covid restrictions had limited impact on the 2021 butterfly transect season, a cold April made for a challenging start. Even so, it's great to be able to report that 173 transects took place in Hampshire and Isle of Wight during 2021, involving no fewer than 346 volunteers. This averages out at precisely two per transect, although in practice I know that most transects involve several people, and many of you do several weeks on more than one transect. A big thank you to all involved, as the data collected really helps us determine the trends in butterfly species at local, regional, and national levels. See the 2021 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Annual Butterfly Report for a summary of last year's season.

Increasingly, people are recording day-flying moths, and we hope in time to be able to produce some long-term trend graphs comparable to those for butterflies. For those who are interested, the updated 25-year trend graphs for all Hampshire and Wight butterflies are now available on the Branch website, at

**<http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/trans25trends.php>**

The transect season begins on 1st April, so by the time you receive this Newsletter, most rotas will have already been arranged, and 2022 transect recording will have begun. Even so, we are always looking for additional volunteers and have a number of existing sites where additional transect walkers would be welcome to fill gaps in the rota. Don't worry if you've never done a butterfly transect before, or if you don't feel completely expert, as we'll provide training on the method, and wherever possible we'll try to give the opportunity to shadow an experienced recorder, so that you can see what's involved.

Because the methodology relies on warm sunny conditions, the main requirement is that you have a degree of flexibility in your availability to do the transect. Ideally, you'd need to have availability on at least four of the seven days in the transect week (and not reliant upon weekends only) in which you are due to record. Hopefully at least one of these would offer the warm sunny conditions that butterflies need to be on the wing, and for a successful count to be achieved.

The specific transects we would like some extra help with are at Magdalen Hill Down, and West Wood, both near Winchester, plus Stockbridge Down, Ampfield Wood, and a site near Romsey. If you would like to be involved in either of the Winchester sites, please contact Iain McIntosh **[iain@bay-trees.co.uk](mailto:iain@bay-trees.co.uk)** or for the other three sites email Andy Barker **[aj3barker@btinternet.com](mailto:aj3barker@btinternet.com)**

To finish, we'd just like to wish you all a successful and enjoyable recording season.

**Andy and Linda Barker,  
Butterfly Transect Coordinators**



## Reserves News

This winter has seen lots of activity on the reserves, trying to catch up with all the scrub growth – an almost impossible task! But the volunteers are undeterred and it's great out working together, especially on those bright sparkly winter days. It's very rewarding clearing thickets of bramble to reveal old anthills beneath. It all adds up and every bit is beneficial for the butterflies.

### Magdalen Hill Down

The chalk board has records of quite a few sightings of stoats and spectacular displays from 8 Red Kites which frequently fly over Magdalen. Spring birds such as Black Caps have made an early appearance. Fence repairs due to be carried out in March/April have been kindly funded by the SDNP. Weekly hedge laying sessions continue with Hans Taylor and the Winchester College students who have laid a 40-metre section of hedge. The cows have grazed down Pathfield really well, but the sheep aren't getting the grass height down on the Original hillside. We'll put some smaller cows in as reinforcement to maintain the short, downland turf so essential for Chalk Hill Blue.

### Yew Hill

A digger was used on four days to clear dogwood and to create a couple of small chalk scrapes to restore the wildflower meadow at Yew Hill by the Southern Water reservoir. Completely swamped by dogwood and hawthorn, it needed a reset after nearly losing it to succession. There is still a huge amount of hawthorn scrub to dig up and clear so it's work in progress. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers are booked for a weekend to dig up hawthorn saplings at the end of March. This, together with BC volunteers, should help restore this species-rich meadow. After grazing Hill Top since October, the sheep will return to graze the main reserve in March.

### Reserve Volunteer Dates

As the cut and burn season ends and nesting season begins, we'll down tools and take up butterfly survey and identification walks, including **transect training** for those new to walking transects. I will be leading these walks at Magdalen Hill Down on **Mondays 9, 16 and 23 May** starting at **11.00am**. All welcome, including those with experience to share their identification tips.

Summer work parties will begin in June at Magdalen. Dates TBC on the volunteer bulletin and website. Tasks will be keeping transect routes and footpaths open and clearing clematis and ragwort. We always welcome more reserve volunteers. If you have a spare Monday or Wednesday, please do come and join us.

### Livestock Looker needed for Sundays at Yew Hill

Would you enjoy a weekly wander up to Yew Hill near Oliver's Battery and Compton to check on the sweetest and friendliest sheep? If so, please do get in touch. You will be part of a team who do daily checks on the sheep.

Email [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org) or phone **07918 073651**.



*Reserves team, taking a well-earned break.  
Replacing a sign at Yew Hill. Fiona Scully*

### Events

#### Early Bird and Breakfast Walk

Saturday 21 May 6.00am, Magdalen Hill Down. Meet at the cemetery entrance.

Listen to early morning bird song, enjoy a breakfast and see what's been caught in the moth trap overnight. In the company of: Dave Stuart on birds and moth expert Tony Davis, tbc. £10 to cover breakfast.

To book attendance, please email [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org) There are limited spaces.

#### Big Butterfly Count Launch

Friday 15th July, Magdalen Hill Down

Watch out for announcements on further details nearer the time.

#### Reserve Butterfly Walks

See the inside front cover of this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you on the reserves soon.

**Fiona Scully,  
South Downs Landscape Officer**



## Conservation News – South East England Region

Last night I had my first butterfly dream of the year. This always tells me the new butterfly and moth season is upon us. I've no doubt it will be another exciting and fascinating season.

Lovely spring species like the Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper, Orange-tip and Green Hairstreak will soon be flying. As with previous years, Butterfly Conservation's highest conservation and recording priority butterflies in this area will be Duke of Burgundy and Adonis Blue (on the chalk), Grayling and Silver-studded Blue (on the heaths), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (in the woods), Marsh Fritillary, and Glanville Fritillary on the southern slopes of the Isle of Wight.

As with the butterflies, Hampshire and Isle of Wight's assemblage of rare moths is as rich as anywhere else in the UK. Reddish Buff, Shoulder-striped Clover, Drab Looper, Striped Lychnis, Scarce Burnished Brass, Sand Dart, and (the not so-common) Common Fan-foot are all Hampshire specialities that will benefit from searches, surveys, monitoring and conservation action.

Grayling continues to be one of the butterflies that give me occasional sleepless nights. This special butterfly was once widespread, not just on heaths but also on many chalk sites. It is now only found on three chalk sites in the South East – two of these on the Isle of Wight (the other site being a single slope in Sussex). It is a relief to know Jim Baldwin and others on the island are on-the-case with this one.

This will be my last update as Regional Conservation Manager. I am leaving Butterfly Conservation and the South East and I am relocating to Scotland for a while; Mountain Ringlet, Northern Brown Argus, and Large Heath are some of the butterfly species I will be looking forward to spotting and recording. The Highland Branch of Butterfly Conservation has already booked me for a talk at their Spring AGM!

It has been such a memorable experience to work in and around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight over the last seven years. I have had the opportunity to visit so many lovely sites, work on some species that occur nowhere else in the South East, and some that occur nowhere else in the UK.

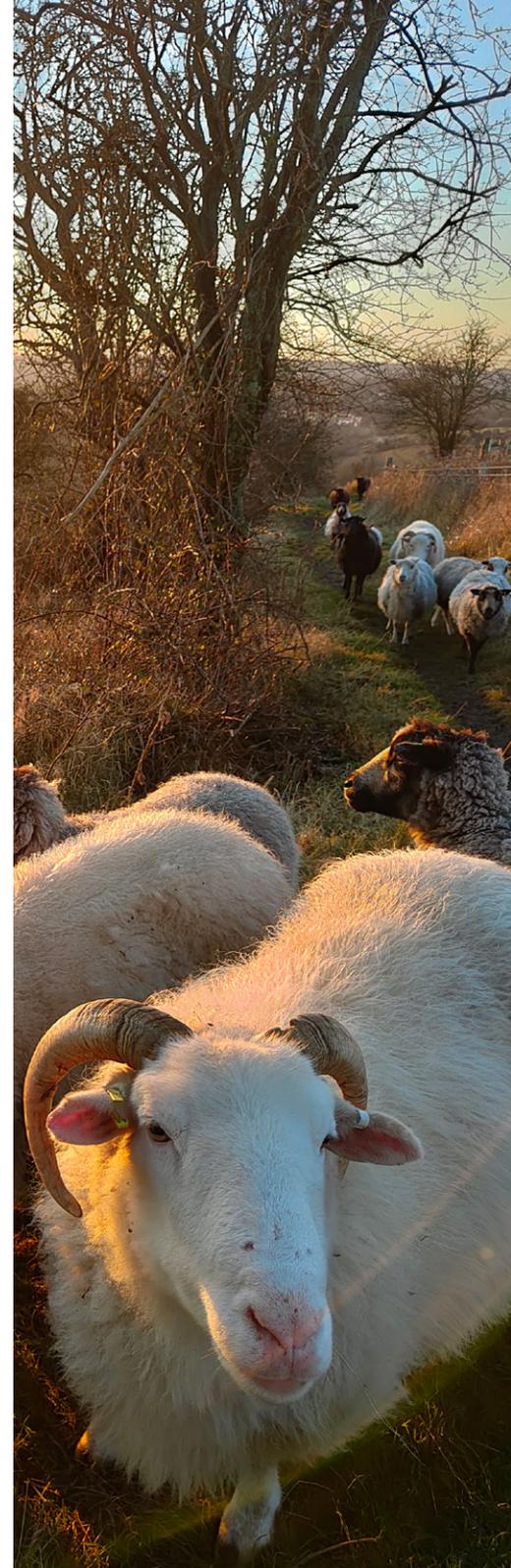
I'm incredibly grateful to the Branch who helped me to develop our Regional Action Plan, especially Andy Barker and Penny Jeffreys. This has defined my role and directed my work over the last five or six years. Since the launch of the

Action Plan in 2016 we have made really significant progress and delivered some really important conservation work for the region's rarest and most threatened butterflies and moths. It is a relief to know species like Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue, Brown Hairstreak and Striped Lychnis are all doing really well in Hampshire. The brilliant dedication of Bob Annell, Mike Wall and the Recording Committee, plus the army of transect walkers and others that have recorded these changes, has contributed more valuable data than anywhere else in the UK. This has directly helped me and will continue to help Butterfly Conservation carefully direct resources to where we can all have the most positive impact.

My successor will be inheriting a unique opportunity and will be lucky enough to work with some of England's most knowledgeable and most dedicated conservation volunteers and professionals. My thanks go to all those who support BC and to everyone who has helped me specifically over the last seven years. I know the moths and butterflies will be in excellent hands.

**Steve Wheatley,**  
**Ex-Regional Conservation Manager,**  
**South East England**

*At the end of a winter's day,  
Magdalen Hill Down.  
Fiona Scully*





## BC Strategy 2021–26

RECOVER. TRANSFORM. INSPIRE.

SAVING BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

OUR 2021-2026  
STRATEGY

We Choose Hope.

Nature is in crisis in the UK. We are facing unprecedented loss thanks to both the climate crisis and a frightening crash in biodiversity. As many of you will know, since 1976, 76% of butterflies have declined in abundance or distribution while our larger moths have declined by 33% since 1968. We live in a world where many people are amazed to see butterflies and moths as they become increasingly uncommon. This is an untenable situation. Particularly as we know it doesn't have to be this way.

So, we are choosing another way. We choose hope and positive action to create a world where butterflies, moths and our environment thrive. We choose to fight for what we believe in. To do this Butterfly Conservation has just created the most ambitious plan of action – **Saving Butterflies and Moths** – we have ever produced in our 53-year history.

Our plan enables key activities which will allow us to recover populations of butterflies and moths across the UK. It will also allow us to expand our outreach further and connect more people to nature in new ways. We will work even more closely with other conservation organisations, government and landowners together to fight for our wildlife. We will also act strategically to tackle threats to species and manage land sustainably all across the UK.

We will recover, transform and inspire to save our butterflies and moths.

So, we actively choose a positive future, where land use is more sustainable, where threatened species are recovering and where

butterflies and moths thrive alongside people. Saving Butterflies and Moths provides a pathway to that future. With our bold new approach and ambitious plans, we know that we can make a radical difference for butterflies, moths and the natural world we all love.



“Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. The twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss are pushing much of the natural world to the brink – including many of our most treasured species. In the UK, the majority of our butterfly and moth species are in worrying decline.”

***Chris Packham,  
Vice-President of Butterfly Conservation***



## Nectar Sources for the Autumn Garden

A surprising butterfly year was complemented by the discovery of two plants very attractive to autumn vanessids. As that late summer buddleja, rather erroneously named 'Autumn Beauty' fades, it is neatly superseded in late September by the remarkable repeat flowering of the *Buddleja davidii* cultivar 'Border Beauty', raised by Dutch nurseryman Henry Schiphorst in 1962, its deep lilac panicles attracting a bevy of second-brood Peacocks amid the ever-present Red Admirals.

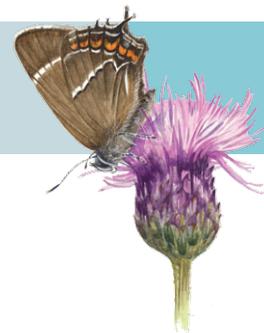


'Border Beauty' in October.  
*Tithonia rotundifolia* 'Torch'.  
Andrew Brookes

However, perhaps the bigger surprise was not a buddleja but an annual, the Mexican sunflower *Tithonia rotundifolia* 'Torch' seen in a Boarhunt farm garden smothered by Small Tortoiseshells, despite its location in the shade of a north wall. The flowers are a vivid orange-red borne on almost supine stems.

Sources of both can be found on the RHS Plant Finder service:  
[www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/plant-finder](http://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/plant-finder)

Andrew Brookes



## White-Letter Hairstreak and Disease-Resistant Elms

The White-letter Hairstreak (WLH) *Satyrrium w-album* has long been an uncommon sight in the two counties. In 1974, it was described by Goater as being 'rare, local, and elusive', and this before the second, three times more lethal, strain of Dutch elm disease (DED) devastated its sole foodplant, mature elm. By 2009, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology had estimated a 98% decline in numbers of the butterfly nationally since 1984. However, patient observation of disease-resistant cultivars and species, planted almost exclusively as ornamentals in urban areas, has suggested otherwise in Hampshire. There are now areas of Portsmouth, Andover, and Basingstoke where the butterfly is almost common owing to the enterprise of Hillier Nurseries, Winchester, since World War II.

While most of Hillier's early stock derived from their arboretum ultimately proved susceptible to DED, there were exceptions that made a profound difference. The first of these was the anomalous White Elm *U. laevis*, the least-known of the three European species. With no genetic resistance to DED, the tree synthesizes an antifeedant deterring the vector bark beetles. However, White Elm is unsuited to street planting owing to its shallow root system, and instead, Hillier raised Siberian Elm *U. pumila* from seed, the tree commonly planted in the 1960s to alleviate the monotony of the massive town expansion schemes in the north of Hampshire. In 2019, more WLH were reported from this elm on the Saxon Fields estate in Andover than any other location in the two counties. Hillier ceased propagation in the mid-1970s, and later began importing the American cultivar 'New Horizon', propagated under licence in Germany.

By the end of the last century, 'New Horizon' had become the street elm of choice in much of western Europe. A hybrid of Japanese Elm and Siberian Elm, it was no surprise the tree proved popular with the WLH, its disjunct population in the Far East thriving on both species. Now



Left: 'Ademuz' at Boarhunt. Andrew Brookes  
 Above: 'New Horizon' hosting WLH in central Portsmouth. Andrew Brookes  
 Right: LUTÈCE hosting WLH at Newport, IoW. Caroline Dudley  
 Far right: Siberian Elm, Basingstoke. Paul Harfield

widely planted across England, an avenue in the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens supports a WLH colony only two miles from the centre of London. Alas, sold only as a root-balled 'standard', it is simply too expensive (prices start at £360 each) and too cumbersome for large-scale rural planting. Moreover, neither the tree nor its foliage resembles our native or archaeophytic elms, and it is unable to increase naturally by suckering from roots.

With the publication of Butterfly Conservation's South Central Regional Action Plan in 2000 came a seminal objective for the WLH: to assess the potential of the latest high-resistance elm cultivars as hosts for the insect in the countryside. Accordingly, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch initiated trials, importing bare-root whips from Europe and America. NB: the Forestry Commission's own elm breeding programme was stillborn owing to the spending cuts of the Thatcher era.

The first of these cultivars to be planted was LUTÈCE in 2001. A hybrid of Wych, Field, and Himalayan Elm, this very adaptable tree is now the most commonly-planted rural elm, no more so than on the Isle of Wight, where Natural Enterprise (formerly Island2000 Trust) planted over 5000,

several found colonized by the WLH in 2015. Such is the popularity of LUTÈCE, it is now propagated under licence in the UK, the only elm to be so.

Italian hybrids followed soon after, nearly all with the xerophytic Siberian Elm as male parent to create trees better adapted to the Mediterranean climate, but their import is now proscribed owing to the prevalence of Elm Yellows in Italy. The only exception is 'Fiorente', as it is also propagated in Germany. 'Fiorente' has become increasingly popular owing to its single stem, exemplary stature and, unlike its compatriots, tolerance of waterlogged soils.

More recently, the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid raised five highly resistant cultivars of the native field elm *U. minor*, an unprecedented achievement for a purely European species. The finest of these is 'Ademuz', a robust single-stemmed tree which has thrived everywhere, and now imported en masse by farmer Peter Shallcross, a dedicated member of BC Wiltshire Branch. The tree is already making an impact on the countryside, with 1,000 purchased in 2021 by the South Downs National Park Authority. First planted at the Great Fontley trial plantation in 2014; colonization by the WLH is keenly anticipated.

For further details on disease resistant elms please see:

<https://resistantelms.co.uk>

**Andrew Brookes and Paul Harfield**



## Moth Highlights at Great Haughurst Copse, Axmansford

Although I've been learning about and recording moths in my own woodland edge garden at Axmansford since about 2010, when the opportunity came up to do some trapping at a new location, albeit just a ¼ mile distant, I gladly accepted. The owners purchased the property in 2019, partly as a means to keep themselves occupied in retirement by utilising their woodland management skills. Although their house comes with a fairly large rural garden, more interestingly this blends into a 28-acre block of woodland, the majority of which is ancient semi-natural and was formerly in a coppice cycle in decades past.

The objectives are to restore and reinvigorate the woodland so that once again it can genuinely be considered a managed woodland, with all the benefits that brings in terms of wildlife, plants and the whole ecosystem. The aim is to achieve this with significant community help and involvement and regular volunteer work parties take place using hand tools and saws for thinning, coppicing and dead hedging to deter deer. A large number of native shrub whips have been planted, and the bridleway passing through has been transformed from sticky clay quagmire to a hard firm surface thanks to grants for repair from the British Horse Society and Hampshire County Council.

*Light Crimson Underwing. All photos Andrew Bolton*



The majority of the land is high quality biodiverse native woodland which overlooks damp streamside meadows with alders and willows. However, part of the site consists of a block of very dense mature conifers; the ambition is to thin and harvest a large proportion of these to allow light to the woodland floor and thus increase biodiversity; access for the necessary large machinery remains a difficulty to overcome.

Anyway, on to the moths! I ran my Robinson type moth trap with 125w mercury vapour bulb on three occasions here in 2020 and eight times in 2021, and already we have seen a remarkable 260 species – here are some of the highlights:

Common name	Scientific name	Dates	Number seen	Status
Double Kidney	<i>Ipimorpha retusa</i>	Jul 20, Aug 21	1 + 1	Local
Alder Moth	<i>Acronicta alni</i>	Jun 21	6	Local
Festoon	<i>Apoda limacodes</i>	Jul 21	1	Notable b
Small Black Arches	<i>Meganola strigula</i>	Jul 21	5	Notable a
Light Crimson Underwing	<i>Catocala promissa</i>	Jul 21	1	Red Data Book
Mocha	<i>Cyclophora annularia</i>	Aug 21	1	Notable b
	<i>Argyresthia ivella</i>	Jul 20, Aug 21	1 + 1	Notable b –only county record.
	<i>Metalampra italica</i>	Aug 21	1	immigrant/adventive new 10km square record
	<i>Falseuncaria ruficiliana</i>	Aug 21	1	Local - new 10km square
	<i>Caryocolum blandella</i>	Aug 21	1	Notable b – new 10km square

**Double Kidney** – A localised resident of damp woodland, fens, riverbanks and marshes whose larval foodplants are willows and black poplar. I'd only ever seen this moth once before, so to find it two years running at this location is pleasing.

**Alder Moth** – The distinctively marked Alder Moth has one annual generation in May/June and the larvae feed on oak, elm, birch and goat willow, in addition to alder itself. I'd wanted to see this species for a long time and finally it turned up.

**Festoon** – Another moth that had been high on the wish list. The larval foodplant is oak, growing in broadleaved woodland and hedgerows, so I'm not sure why this moth isn't seen more often, although there are signs of a recent upturn, possibly related to climate warming.

**Light Crimson Underwing** – Prize of the year! A very scarce Red Data Book species normally confined to the New Forest and South Wiltshire. However this is not the whole story, as very recently it has begun to spread further north in Hampshire, reaching Harewood Forest near Andover and evidently beyond. A few days after this sighting, several individuals were seen at Pamber Forest. Once again this could be a range expansion due to climate warming.



*Mocha*

**Mocha** – A personal first, this prettily marked moth would have been a second generation of the year example, its caterpillar being limited to field maple in the wild.

**Argyresthia ivella** – Occasionally found in old orchards and isolated wild apple trees, this distinctive micro moth was the only County Record when found in 2020. It was seen again in 2021.

**Metalampra italica** – An interesting mystery, this species was found new to the UK in Devon in 2003, having previously not been recorded outside of Italy. Since then it has spread rapidly with over 100 sightings by 2019; the larvae feed under the dead bark of oak.

**Falseuncaria ruficiliana** – One of many in the large Tortricidae family, this is a localised species with habitat niches on downland, heathland and mosses. The larvae have quite specific tastes, feeding within the seed heads of Cowslip and Lousewort.

**Caryocolum blandella** – This is a rarely seen micro moth whose larvae feed only on the seeds and shoots of Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*. It has been recorded at only three other locations in mainland Hampshire so far this century.



*Mating  
Poplar Hawk-moths*

My grateful thanks go to Graham Dennis and Mike Wall for their skill and knowledge. Also to the owners at Great Haughurst Copse for their help, enthusiasm and coffee. For more information about Great Haughurst Copse, see <https://www.ghcopse.co.uk>



## North Baddesley Highlights

My nature haven at North Baddesley had 29 species of butterfly recorded in 2021. Naturally, there were winners and losers, largely reflecting the weather during respective flight seasons.

A few species were seen in very low numbers. Most disappointing, perhaps, was the virtually non-existent Orange-tip, and I fear it will take years to get their numbers back to where they were. Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Purple Hairstreak numbers were also very poor. Day time flying moths were recorded in similar numbers to previous years apart from Speckled Yellow, only seen in very low numbers.

The majority of species though increased in numbers yet again. The biggest increase, surprisingly, was Clouded Yellow. I always get Clouded Yellows here but in 2021 they were seen everyday for months, the highest count in one day being six. Painted Lady appears to have bred here again and was present all season.



Reptile recording went very well with the highest total during a one-hour count being: Adder – 13 (most seen to date), Grass Snake – two, Common Lizard – four, and Slow Worm – 39. I had two members of staff from the New Forest National Park looking round with me at the time and both were amazed, commenting that they had never seen anything like it. They said it would have taken them months in the New Forest to see the amount of adders they saw here in one hour! I must be doing something right.



*Weasel nest with new-born kits  
and melanistic Slow Worm.  
Kevin Ross*

The best new mammal discovery on my reserve last year was finding a Weasel nest with new-born kits under a reptile panel. Bird-wise, the highlight was hearing and then seeing a Nightjar in the meadow. You just never know what you might see next here and nothing exemplifies that than more than spotting a very rare melanistic (black) Slow Worm, seen several times in the long grassland.

As always, you are very welcome to visit and look round my reserve.

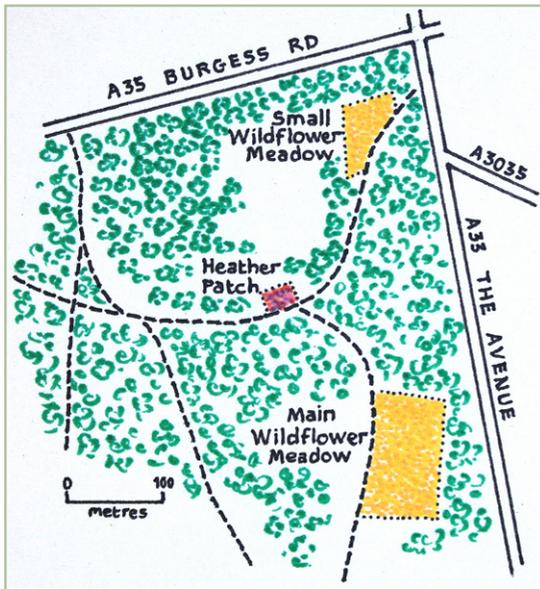
**Kevin Ross**

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## My Local Patch ... Southampton Common



Southampton Common, north-east corner

I live in Southampton; within a stone's throw of the University, and adjacent to arterial roads. And yet, I can exit my front door, enter the northernmost gate of the Common, and be watching a Speckled Wood patrolling its patch, within 45 seconds. From there, it's a very short walk down to the crossroads at the top of Coronation Avenue. For this article, I'm going to concentrate on the north-east part of the main Common.

At the aforementioned crossroads, head east along Carriage Drive North (towards The Avenue/Burgess Road junction). On the right, there's a grassy area that the council appears to be wilding (at least, in part). After a short while, on the left, we see a lovely patch of heather that *has* been a feeding station to a good population of Holly Blue. In 2020, I spent a very agreeable ten minutes photographing a Silver-washed Fritillary by the side of the main path, here.

At the south-east corner of the grassy area on the right, there's a rough path through to the north end of the main wildflower meadow. (Note: it was this path where I was lucky to find a nectaring Purple Hairstreak in 2019.) The meadow is an area of approx. 0.75 hectares (a football pitch), bisected by a north-south narrow pathway. Here, I have found abundant Small Skipper, Small Copper, Common Blue, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, Six-spot Burnet moth, Mother Shipton, and Silver-Y, with occasional visitors such as Clouded Yellow,

Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell. There's a significant ant presence, as evidenced by the ant hills, shield bugs and other insects. For the first time, last year, I found a White-letter Hairstreak - nectaring on Ragwort, for 45 minutes.

In the case of the Clouded Yellow, in 2020, the individual hung-around for a couple of days, patrolling the paths around the meadow. I think it may have lost its bearings, and was happy to enjoy the nectar on offer while waiting for a mate to appear.



Meadow Brown. Rosemary Powell

Back up on Carriage Drive North, and heading past the reservoir towards The Avenue, you will find a lovely mini wildflower meadow (approx. 0.1 ha). Here, I have found Small Copper, Small Heath, Common Blue, Small and Large Skipper, plus the 'usual suspects' – Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Marbled White. This is quite remarkable for such a tiny patch of land. Nearby, Peacock and Red Admiral can be found, basking on the path and bramble.

**Jon Holden-Dye**



## Branch Field Trip Programmes 2022

**Please be aware that the Field Trip Programmes for Hampshire and for the Isle of Wight have been drawn up in the hope that walks and site visits can be enjoyed throughout the season.**

**Be mindful that these can only take place in line with any Government and Butterfly Conservation guidelines in place at the time of each planned field trip.**

Please **check the Branch website** regularly for the latest advice.

Alternatively, and nearer the time of each field trip, do check postings on social media and in particular the Branch **Facebook** site: **www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight**

### **If the weather is looking dodgy...**

If inclement weather is forecast, then please phone the leader of the event. Field trip dates may change if the five-day forecast suggests a planned meeting is likely to be affected by rain and/or stormy conditions.

**Field trips are for everyone.** Walks have been arranged across both counties at a variety of interesting sites, aiming to see target species associated with each location at the optimum time in the season.

These field trips can be enjoyed by everyone, whether butterfly-novice or expert. Photographers, children (with adult supervision) and first-time field trippers, **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!** Please wear suitable footwear, and it is often desirable to bring a packed lunch.

Rough ground over fields and woods could, most regrettably, make access difficult for those with mobility issues. Please check with the walk leader if in doubt.

The Hampshire field meetings programme is organised by **Ashley Whitlock**; the Isle of Wight programme by **Kay Shaw**. Contact details for each are given respectively at the end of each programme listing and in the Useful Contacts directory on page 32 of this Newsletter.



## Hampshire Walks 2022

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited in our walks for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest.

**Note: the grid reference given is for the parking location/meeting point which is *not always* at the site of the walk's focus.**

**Sunday 24 April**, meet at 10.30am

**Matley Heath, New Forest (SU332073)**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the FC Matley Heath car park, on the B3056 between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu Road Station. Bring a packed lunch. **NB This venue may change at short notice as car park may close in early spring due to ground nesting birds in the vicinity.**

*Aiming to see:* Emperor moth.

**Sunday 1 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Little Butser Hill and Pillow Mound (SU711200)**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display). This is a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch. Good Duke of Burgundy colony with skylarks, buzzards and (possibly) cuckoo, and spectacular views towards Ashford Hill and the Meon Valley.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper.

**Sunday 8 May**, meet at 9.30am

**Beacon Hill NNR, Exton (SU598227)**, site: Natural England; and **Stephen's Castle Down**

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the reserve car park, which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. **NB There is no parking at Stephen's Castle Down so a car will have to ferry field trippers to the site from Beacon Hill. Please note the meeting time as this could take some time!** Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus.

**Sunday 15 May**, meet at 10.30am

**New Copse Inclosure and Lymington River, New Forest (SU315024)**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the car park at Ivy Wood on B3055, about 1 mile east of Brockenhurst. In the afternoon the walk will be extended along the Lymington River looking for dragonflies and other invertebrates so bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Wednesday 18 May**, meet at 10.30am  
**West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount (SU420292)**, site: Forestry England and HCC

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in Spindle Trees car park, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Sunday 22 May**, meet at 10.30am  
**Stockbridge Down (East car park SU387344)**, site: National Trust

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge and 6 miles west of Winchester on the B3049. Park in the east car park or in the west car park (SU374346) and walk onto the reserve and turn right. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Thursday 26 May**, meet at 10.30am  
**Martin Down NNR and Kitts Grave, (SU036200)**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's main car park off A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. Bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we may look for Duke of Burgundy near the lower car park.  
*Aiming to see:* Marsh Fritillary, Adonis Blue and Small Blue.

**Wednesday 1 June**, meet at 10.30am  
**Bentley Wood (SU258291)**, site: Trustees of Bentley Wood

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet at Bentley Wood car park, just across the Wiltshire border, reached along a track signed off Scouts Lane, which runs between West Dean and Middle Winterslow to the east of Salisbury. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, and Argent and Sable Moth.

**Sunday 5 June**, meet at 10.30am  
**Coulter's Dean, Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU733198)**, site: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in the country park car park, off Kiln Lane, about ½ mile south-west of Buriton. Coulter's Dean is a small reserve within the country

park with excellent displays of Cowslips. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper and various orchid species.

**Sunday 26 June**, meet at 1.30pm  
**Broxhead Common (SU806369)**, site: Hampshire County Council  
*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in the cricket ground car park off Broxhead Farm Road, B3004, 1 mile north of Bordon.  
*Aiming to see:* Silver-studded Blue.

**Wednesday 29 June**, meet at 10.30am  
**Danebury Hillfort (SU329377)**, site: Hampshire County Council  
*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet at Danebury Hillfort car park signposted off Old Stockbridge Road, 2 miles north-west of Stockbridge. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary and Wall Brown.

**Sunday 3 July**, meet at 9.30am  
**West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount (SU420292)**, site: Forestry England and HCC

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in Spindle Trees car park, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor and Silver-washed Fritillary (including Valezina) in West Wood; Dark Green Fritillary on Pitt Down.

**Wednesday 6 July**, meet at 9.30am  
**Whiteley Pastures and Botley Wood (SU532096)**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in the Whiteley Outlet Village car park, opposite Marks and Spencer (max. 3 hours free before payment) reached off Whiteley Way from M27 J9. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Sunday 10 July**, meet at 9.30am  
**Pamber Forest and Silchester Common (SU616621)**, site: HLOWWT  
*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340  
*Directions:* Meet in Pamber Forest car park, on Impstone Road, Pamber Heath. Bring a packed lunch.  
*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Wednesday 13 July**, meet at 9.30am

**West Harting Down** (SU739156), site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Charlton village. From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Charlton turn left before the Red Lion and then cross the railway. The lane (to Ditcham Park School) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Silver-washed, Dark Green Fritillary, and Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

**Sunday 17 July**, meet at 9.30am

**Creech Wood, Forest of Bere** (SU648112), site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the Forestry England car park, off Bunkers Hill, approx. ½ mile south-west of Denmead.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Sunday 14 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Noar Hill and Selborne Common** (SU737321), site: HLOWWT

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the lane south from Selborne by Charity Farm, where there is limited verge parking only: please park considerately. Bring a packed lunch. Noar Hill walk in the morning followed by Selborne Common after lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak, Brown Argus and Clouded Yellow.

**Wednesday 17 August**, meet at 9.30am

**Shipton Bellinger** (SU229456)

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the village hall car park. Bring a packed lunch as there will be a visit to another local site in the afternoon.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak and Wall Brown.

**Sunday 21 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Broughton Down** (SU304327), site: HLOWWT

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* To avoid rough track up to the reserve (SU296325), park in Buckholt Road, west out of Broughton, or in the village, from which walk along Queenswood Road, bear right along the B3084 then go left along Buckholt road; where this ends take the middle of the three ongoing tracks to climb to the reserve. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper.

**Wednesday 24 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Butser Hill** (SU711200), site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display). This is

a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue and Clouded Yellow.

**Wednesday 31 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Beacon Hill NNR, Exton** (SU598227), site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the reserve car park, which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue and Clouded Yellow.

**Sunday 4 September**, meet at 10.30am

**Old Winchester Hill NNR** (SU645214), site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's car park, which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper and Clouded Yellow.

**Wednesday 4 September**, meet at 10.30am

**Portsdown Hill, Fort Widley** (SU662064),

site: Portsmouth City Council

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet at Fort Widley car park, off B2177, just east of Fort Widley.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow and Small Copper.

Debrief on the 2022 season at the Churchillian pub, Portsdown Hill.

**Ashley Whitlock, Field Trips Organiser**

*Tel:* 02392 731266

*Mobile:* 07752 182340

*Email:* ashleyrwhitlock@virginmedia.com

*Ashley Whitlock Butterflies and Moths website:* [www.purple-emperor.co.uk](http://www.purple-emperor.co.uk)



*Speckled Wood. Dan Powell*



## Isle of Wight walks 2022

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited in our walks for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest.

**Note: the grid reference given is for the parking location/meeting point which is *not always* at the site of the walk's focus.**

**Saturday 23 April**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 24 April)  
**Firestone Copse (SZ558910)**; site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet at Firestone Copse main car park. A woodland walk with uneven paths; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Brimstone, Comma, Orange-tip, Peacock.

**Saturday 21 May**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 22 May)  
**Mottistone chalk pits (SZ420845)**; site: National Trust

*Leader:* Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07788 881401

*Directions:* Meet in the Jubilee Car Park, Lynch Lane, Brighstone. A downland walk with uneven ground, steep slopes and chalk pits; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, Glanville Fritillary.

**Saturday 28 May**, meet at 10.30am (or, if wet, Sunday 29 May)  
**Compton Chine (SZ367854)**; site: National Trust

*Leader:* Sue Davies, Tel: 07702 151312

*Directions:* Meet in the NT Afton Down chalk pit car park off the A305 Military Road. On the No.12 bus route. A downland walk with some steep steps and uneven ground; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Glanville Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Small and Adonis Blue.

**Saturday 25 June**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 26 June)  
Newtown Meadows and Walter's Copse (SZ423906);  
site: National Trust

*Leader:* Nikki Kownacki, Tel: 07929 614423

*Directions:* Meet at the entrance to the Meadows Butterfly Walk on Town Lane, parking at the National Trust car park (charge) close by.

*Aiming to see:* White Admiral, Marbled White, Ringlet, Brown Argus.

**Saturday 16 July**, meet at 1.15pm (or, if wet, Sunday 17 July)  
**Kemphill Moor Copse, Havenstreet (SZ558910)**;  
site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet at Firestone Copse car park (OS National Grid reference above) as limited parking available at the site. Transport provided to Kemphill Moor Copse. Passengers can be dropped off at the Rowlands Lane entrance (SZ569896). This is a woodland ride walk.

*Aiming to see:* White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (including Valezina) and Purple Hairstreak.

**Saturday 23 July**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 24 July)  
**Mount Joy, Carisbrooke (SZ496883)**

*Leader:* Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07788 881401

*Directions:* Meet in Whitepit Lane, Carisbrooke, by the fish and chip shop near the junction with Elm Grove, and close to the junction with footpath N24, along which the walk up to Mount Joy proceeds. Some steps are encountered on the route. Car parking is very limited so leave plenty of time to find a space.

*Aiming to see:* Chalk Hill and Common Blue, Brown Argus and Wall Brown.

**Saturday 6 August**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet Sunday 7 August)  
**Arreton Down, Arreton (SZ533874)**, site: HLOWWT

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet in Arreton Down car park off Downend Road. On the No.8 bus route, getting off at the Robin Hill Country Park stop. A downland walk, uneven and steep ground in places; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue and Wall Brown.

**Saturday 3 September**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet Sunday 4 September)

**The Revetment, Ventnor (SZ568775)**

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet in Wheelers Bay Road car park, Ventnor. On the No.3 bus route. A coastal 'undercliff' walk with steep steps from the car park down to the revetment.

*Aiming to see:* Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and Wall Brown.

**Kay Shaw, IoW Field Meetings Organiser**

Tel: 07562 974343

Email: [kay1950shaw@btinternet.com](mailto:kay1950shaw@btinternet.com)



Glanville Fritillary. Rosemary Powell



## Useful Contacts

[www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

 <https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight>

 <https://twitter.com/HantsloWBC>

 [https://www.instagram.com/hampshire\\_iow\\_butterflies/](https://www.instagram.com/hampshire_iow_butterflies/)

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**Branch Secretary:** Sarah Crawford, email. [sarah-sen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah-sen@hotmail.co.uk)

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**WCBS Co-ordinator:** Jacky Adams, tel. 02380 813671, email. [jackyna7579@gmail.com](mailto:jackyna7579@gmail.com)

**Moth Recorder, Hampshire (not a BC specific role):** Mike Wall, email. [mike@hantsmoths.org.uk](mailto:mike@hantsmoths.org.uk)

**Moth Recorder, Isle of Wight:** Jim Baldwin, tel. 01983 721137, mobile. 07528 586683, email. [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com)

**Isle of Wight Group Leader:** Jim Baldwin, tel. 01983 721137, mobile. 07528 586683, email. [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com)

**Isle of Wight Field Meetings organiser:** Kay Shaw, tel. 07562 974343, email. [kay1950shaw@btinternet.com](mailto:kay1950shaw@btinternet.com)

## Butterfly Conservation Team

**Regional Conservation Manager:** vacant – new appointment expected by early summer

**South Downs Landscape Officer (includes MHD and Yew Hill management):** Fiona Scully, email. [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Bentley Station Meadow Volunteer Reserves Officer:** Steve Lockett, email. [posteve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:posteve@hotmail.co.uk)

## Newsletter Production

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Cover painting: Spring Peacock

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please send your Lepidoptera-related newsworthy pieces and features to Kevin Freeborn... and you don't have to wait until August!

**The deadline for the autumn Newsletter, edition no. 113, is 14 August 2022**

## Lepidoptera Tale Piece... your story behind the picture

Not wishing to waste time while waiting to visit my elderly father in nearby Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, I walked along Portsdown Hill, camera in hand in early October 2021. I could see the hospital at the foot of the hill as I focused on a lovely Red Admiral feeding on ivy floret. Later that evening when downloading the day's photographs, the one of the Red Admiral clearly showed the figure '98' in black in the centre of its hind-wing. Apart from the '8' on the Clouded Yellow, I had never seen 'numbers' appearing in butterfly markings. The weird thing about this was the coincidence of the number with my father's age. How strange was that!?

*Francis Plowman*

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of Hampshire and IOW Branch.



Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268). Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. Vat. No. 565 9070 16.

## Lepidoptera Tale Piece ...



*...for the full story, go to the inside back cover.  
Red Admiral 'no.98' – Francis Plowman*