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Dear Branch Member,

Please find the latest news from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch...

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2025 Branch Butterfly Records

This review is based on 2025 butterfly records received up to and including 7th January 2026. Currently they are 'preliminary' awaiting a final check.

Occupied Tetrads					
Year:	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Occupied Tetrads:	1,062	1,033	1,061	994	1,065
Records:	140,884	102,334	150,860	106,704	115,001
Individuals:	496,469	340,242	555,895	404,646	431,788
Recorders:	4,718	3,810	4,531	2,908	4,253
Recorded Days:	317	319	309	303	293

The following tables illustrate the tetrad coverage (i.e. distribution) of 2025 species as was formally issued as part of the Hampshire & IOW Annual Butterfly Report.

The actual annual number of tetrads occupied by each species are available on request.

Common Species Summary

Species	2025 Tetrads	2025 Records	Rank (by Tetrad)				
			2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Small White	881	16,654	1	4	4	2	1
Large White	876	15,367	2	5	5	3	2
Meadow Brown	836	15,230	3	1	1	1	3
Gatekeeper	818	11,591	4	2	2	4	5
Red Admiral	818	8,045	5	3	3	5	4
Peacock	740	6,330	6	6	6	6	6
Comma	732	5,576	7	9	9	9	8
Speckled Wood	726	10,747	8	8	8	8	11
Brimstone	692	8,197	9	7	7	7	7
Green-veined White	627	4,964	10	26	10	13	14
Common Blue	611	5,654	11	13	13	11	16
Holly Blue	536	2,655	12	15	15	12	17
Small Copper	514	2,193	13	14	14	17	13
Ringlet	490	3,383	14	11	11	14	9
Painted Lady	450	1,237	15	17	17	15	15
Marbled White	434	3,136	16	12	12	16	10
Small Tortoiseshell	395	906	17	18	18	10	12
Orange-tip	386	1,910	18	16	16	18	18
Small Heath	355	3,777	19	21	21	21	20
Large Skipper	302	1,860	20	19	19	20	21
Small Skipper	297	1,358	21	20	20	19	19
Silver-washed Fritillary	225	1,609	22	22	22	22	22
Brown Argus	200	949	23	23	23	24	23
Clouded Yellow	186	477	24	37	37	23	31

- The top five positions were occupied by Small White, Large White, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper.
- Clouded Yellow up to 24th from *circa* 37th over the previous years.
- Brown Argus, Silver-washed Fritillary & Small Skipper remain fairly constant at 23rd, 22nd & 21st.
- Green-veined White has re-established itself in mid-table after an apparent exceptionally low distribution in 2024.

Scarcer Species Summary

Species	2025 Tetrads	2025 Records	Rank (by Tetrad)				
			2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Purple Hairstreak	122	349	25	29	29	32	29
White Admiral	119	444	26	25	25	27	26
Essex Skipper	113	257	27	24	24	25	25
Green Hairstreak	101	357	28	10	26	28	27
Silver-studded Blue	99	905	29	27	27	29	28
Brown Hairstreak	96	341	30	28	28	39	38
Grayling	89	483	31	30	30	33	33
Dark Green Fritillary	79	486	32	32	32	26	24
Wall	73	230	33	34	34	34	36
Dingy Skipper	69	461	34	31	31	31	30
Small Blue	61	445	35	35	35	36	35
Grizzled Skipper	60	334	36	33	33	35	32
Chalk Hill Blue	58	888	37	36	36	30	34
Purple Emperor	42	102	38	41	41	37	41
White-letter Hairstreak	31	61	39	38	38	38	37
Glanville Fritillary	27	131	40	40	40	41	40

Adonis Blue	23	289	41	39	39	40	39
Duke of Burgundy	18	156	42	42	42	42	42
Silver-spotted Skipper	13	50	43	43	43	43	44
Marsh Fritillary	13	115	44	44	44	44	45
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	10	163	45	45	45	45	43
Large Tortoiseshell	8	14	46	47	47	47	46
Long-tailed Blue	4	7	47	46	46	46	48
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	-	-	-	-	-	-	47

- No records received for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary since 2021.
- Purple Emperor had a good year with a substantiated record from the New Forest - the first in many years.
- Pearl-bordered Fritillary appeared in an additional New Forest tetrad, although this was most likely a 'planting' which may not establish itself.
- Although Large Tortoiseshell only moved one position up the table, it was seen in eight tetrads, its best distribution since 2021.
- Not evident from the above, but 'Hairstreak' species were recorded in significantly more tetrads during 2025 (and actually in 2024 as well). Perhaps a specific focus on these at another time.

Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder, Hampshire & Isle of Wight)

Transect Surveyor - Test Valley

Butterfly transect surveyors needed for beautiful rural site in south Test Valley, Hampshire! **Mill Lane Meadows in Sherfield English** is a 12.8-hectare site, comprising two grassland fields, ponds and a small amount of alder-car woodland. We have reptile, harvest mouse and dormouse surveys in place, but are really lacking representation for butterfly and moth surveys. For more information of the site please take a look at our webpage: [Sherfield English SANG | Test Valley Borough Council](#). Any help much appreciated!



Gemma Clinch PrCMA (Reserves Office [South], Test Valley Borough Council)

Email: cscience@testvalley.gov.uk

BC National Volunteer Award



One of our esteemed branch members, Andy Barker, has been honoured at this year's **Butterfly Conservation Volunteer Awards 2026**.

Andy received a **Special Recognition Award** - a volunteer who deserves special recognition for such things as long service, extraordinary dedication to a specific species or landscape, advancing our understanding of a species or subject.

See the [full story here](#).

The Editor

Magdalen Hill Down

It was an exceptional spring for Cowslips, and Magdalen Hill didn't disappoint. During May there were good numbers of both Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, as well as Adonis Blue. There were also records of the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth. MHD looked breathtakingly beautiful this spring. With the Sainfoin bursting into pink blooms, and the yellow of Buttercups and Birds Foot Trefoil, the succession of wildflowers continues as the weeks go by.

Caroline Mountain led a pond survey where we were delighted to find three newts! Also found were dragonfly and damselfly larvae, diving beetles, pond snails and freshwater shrimps.

For grazing, we had unseasonably low rainfall in May, so not much growth so far. The fifteen sheep on the Hillside will come off after shearing. Thankfully, they have nibbled-down a lot of scrub regrowth. There are also four cows grazing on the Hillside - they will remain here over summer.

Yew Hill

The reserve is looking good, and we will be having a meeting with Southern Water to catch up with:

- progress on the reservoir construction;
- the huge mountain of chalk from excavation;
- the impact on the wider landscape; and
- access.

The meadow area outside the reserve is not currently being managed by Butterfly Conservation until a new agreement is made once the works are complete.

Bentley Station Meadow

All is well! We have a couple of groups booked to visit with Bentley school and Haslemere Natural History Society later this month so looking forward to that.

A few Reserves photos from the past couple of months...



Green Hairstreak (MHD)



Pond survey (MHD)



The sheep chilling (MHD)



Cows trying to avoid the blazing sun (MHD)



A newt from our pond (MHD)



Beautiful meadow! (BSM)

All photos © Fiona Scully

Volunteer work days schedule

The volunteer work party dates are on the [Hampshire Branch website](#) (summarised in the Newsletter [here](#)). In essence: **Mondays at Magdalen Hill, first Wednesday of each month at BSM and fortnightly Thursdays at Yew Hill.** **NOTE: 2025/2026 work parties are now completed!**

Butterfly Walks on the Reserves

Please keep checking for updates on [the branch website](#). Current planned walks are summarised [in the Dates section](#) of this e-Newsletter.

[Fiona Scully \(BC Reserves Officer, South East England\)](#)

Email: fscully@butterfly-conservation.org

Snippets

- **Volunteers (registered on [Assemble](#)) & car parking:** Forestry England works in partnership with Butterfly Conservation to support butterfly monitoring on their forest estate. They have generously agreed that Butterfly Conservation volunteers who are registered on Assemble and carrying out UKBMS or WCBS surveys at these sites can continue to park for free between 1 April and 30 September 2026, for the duration of their survey visit. Full details should be in a message in your Assemble Inbox.
- One for your diaries: **This year's [Big Butterfly Count](#)** runs from Friday, July 17th to Sunday, August 9th.
- If you have any comments or suggestions for your regular e-Newsletter, please email me, the editor (enewsletter@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk).

Dates

An electronic calendar (.ics), covering all Field Trips & Reserves Walks, is available from [the Butterfly Walks webpage](#), or just copy/paste this link into your Calendar application, to **subscribe** (don't 'download' - you won't get automatic updates, if events change): https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/BC_Hants_walks.ics

[Branch, and branch-related Events \(check website for updates\)](#)

2026 Events to be announced.

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[Branch Field Trips 2026 \(check website for updates\)](#)

Hampshire walks and Isle of Wight walks...

When	Where	Target species
Wed 17 Jun	New Forest - Hawkhill Inclosure	Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue, Clouded Buff Moth
Wed 24 Jun	West Wood / Pitt Down	Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled White, Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary
Sat 27 Jun	Newtown Meadows / Walter's Copse	White Admiral, Marbled White, Brown Argus, Ringlet
Sun 28 Jun	Creech Wood / Forest of Bere	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Wed 1 Jul	West Walk / Forest of Bere	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Sat 4 Jul	Mottistone Down	Dark Green Fritillary, Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue
Sun 5 Jul	Basing Wood	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Wed 8 Jul	Abbotswood Inclosure	Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary
Sun 12 Jul	Micheldever Road / Abbotstone Down	Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (ab. Valesina)
Wed 15 Jul	Queen Elizabeth Country Park / West Harting Down	Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary, Hummingbird Hawk Moth
Sat 18 Jul	Kemphill Moor Copse	White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (inc. ab Valesina), Purple Hairstreak
Sat 1 Aug	Mount Joy, Carisbrooke	Chalk Hill Blue, Common Blue, Wall, Brown Argus
Wed 5 Aug	Old Winchester Hill NNR	Clouded Yellow, Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue
Wed 12 Aug	Shipton Bellinger	Brown Hairstreak, Magpie Moth, Wall Brown
Sat 15 Aug	Brading Downs	Chalk Hill Blue, Brown Argus
Wed 19 Aug	Noar Hill	Brown Hairstreak, Common Blue, Clouded Yellow
Wed 2 Sep	Beacon Hill at Exton	Clouded Yellow, Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Argus
Sat 5 Sep	Thorness Bay fields	Clouded Yellow, Wall, Brown Argus, Small Copper

[Accompanied Reserves Walks \(check website for updates\)](#)

Email [Fiona Scully](#) to book a place on a Reserves walk.

When	Where	Target species	Information
Fri 12 Jun, 11:00-13:00	Magdalen Hill Down	Marbled White, Green Hairstreak, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small	Meet at the top of the track past the stonemasons (Blackwell

		Copper, and Burnet moth	& Moody), off Alresford Road, SO21 1HE
Thu 16 Jul, 10:30-13:00	Bentley Station Meadow	Purple Hairstreak, Silver-washed Fritillary, and summer flowers	Booking essential!
Wed 12 Aug, 11:00-13:00	Magdalen Hill Down	Chalkhill, and Adonis Blues	As per 12th June (see above).

[First sightings \(06/04/2026 - 07/06/2026\)](#)

Note: Data extracted from [Branch 'News' webpage](#) (so, **NOT official!)**

6th April	Grizzled Skipper	Stockbridge Down
7th April	Green Hairstreak	Freshwater Bay
13th April	Large White	Portsdown Hill (East)
18th April	Small Blue	Freshwater Bay
22nd April	Wall	Yarmouth
23rd April	Common Blue	Freshwater Bay / Stockbridge Down
	Dingy Skipper	Stockbridge Down
	Small Copper	Stockbridge Down
	Duke of Burgundy	Stockbridge Down
27th April	Glanville Fritillary	Compton Chine
30th April	Painted Lady	Tiptoe
5th May	Brown Argus	Afton Down
11th May	Small Heath	Boarhunt
24th May	Adonis Blue	Martin Down
	Marsh Fritillary	Martin Down
	Large Skipper	North Baddesley
	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Brockenhurst
25th May	Clouded Yellow	North Baddesley
27th May	Meadow Brown	Yarmouth
30th May	White Admiral	Yarmouth
	Marbled White	Yarmouth
31st May	White-letter Hairstreak	Gosport
1st June	White Admiral	Browndown (North) Gosport

Volunteering opportunities

We need help with the following:

Transect walkers required (enquiries to [Andy Bolton](#))

Site	Parking	Contact	Background info
Mill Lane Meadows, Sheffield English			See article (above)

[WCBS square surveys](#) (a selection - there are more!)

Where (postcode)	NGR co-ords
Ecchinswell (RG20)	SU5060
Ropley Dean (SO24)	SU6231
Kingates & Whitwell area, Isle of Wight (PO38)	SZ5177
Wootton Common, Isle of Wight (PO33)	SZ5291

Blackheath Down, Tidpit (SP6)	SU0717
Shelley Common (SO51)	SU3118
Leigh Park (PO9)	SU7108
The Warren, Horndean (PO8)	SU6813

For further info, contact [Chris Piper](#)

[Reserves Volunteering \(check website for updates\)](#)

Please check the website for updates.

2025/26 season ended	Magdalen Hill Down	Please contact Fiona Scully for details.
2025/26 season ended	Yew Hill	
2025/26 season ended	Bentley Station Meadow	

Social Media links



Branch FB



Our Reserves FB



Branch X
(Twitter)



Branch Insta



Branch WWW

Administrivia

- **To unsubscribe from these Branch e-Newsletters**, please send an email, mentioning you are a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch (ideally with your Membership No.), to membership@butterfly-conservation.org.uk to request this action.
- **The Branch e-Newsletters webpage**, containing past issues, etc., can be found [here](#).