



Butterfly
Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Branch
Celebrating our 40th Anniversary!
1982 - 2022

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch
E-newsletter

June 2022

Dear Branch Member,

Please see the latest news from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch, below...

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New Butterfly Red List published

An important update to **the Butterfly Red List** was released on the 25th May. This report provides a comprehensive review of the status of all butterfly species in the UK. From the Press Release:

- *24 species of butterfly are now listed as threatened – including 8 that are Endangered – representing a substantial increase compared with the previous assessment.*
- *The risk of extinction is increasing for more species than decreasing.*
- *There is some hope for species that have been the focus of intense conservation work and have been brought back from the brink of extinction.*

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is warning that time is running out to save some of Britain's best-loved insects, with the latest Red List assessment of butterflies published today, revealing a 26% increase in the number of species threatened with extinction.

Using data gathered by volunteers through the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and Butterflies for the New Millennium recording scheme, scientists from Butterfly Conservation have put together the new Red List, which assesses all the butterfly species that have bred regularly in Great Britain against the rigorous criteria of extinction risk set out by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The new Red List is published today in the journal *Insect Conservation and Diversity*.

Of the 62 species assessed, four are extinct in Britain (Black-veined White, Large Tortoiseshell, Large Copper, and Mazarine Blue) with 24 (41% of the remaining species) classed as threatened (8 Endangered, 16 Vulnerable) and a further five (9%) as Near Threatened.

Richard Fox, Head of Science for Butterfly Conservation UK has written [a blog piece](#) and [this BC website article](#) discusses the report (inc. a link to the report itself).

Branch 40th Anniversary

In case you haven't noticed on the Branch website, **we're celebrating 40 years since the inception of the Hants & IOW branch**. There will be an article in the October edition of the full Branch Newsletter, looking back over some of the achievements and successes, with a focus, as ever, on the future.

Andy Barker (Hants & IOW Branch Chair)

Branch Committee vacancies - can you help?

The Branch relies on a large team of volunteers to help with all aspects of what it does to promote the conservation of butterflies and moths. This includes everything from practical conservation work on our nature reserves, coordination of butterfly and moth recording, running a programme of field meetings, attending shows and events, giving talks, and much more.

The Branch has a small Committee of elected members to help organise and oversee the various Branch activities, as well as liaising with Butterfly Conservation staff and other organisations. Like most charities, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people to fill key roles, when they become vacant. The Branch Treasurer will be stepping down from the Committee at the forthcoming November AGM, and the Branch Secretary has recently resigned, due to a change in personal circumstances. In view of this, **we urgently need two volunteers** to fill these roles, and stand for election at the November AGM. Our Branch, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, is one of the biggest and longest established of all the Butterfly Conservation branches, so if you are willing to help, and ensure the continuation of all the great work that we do, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Further details of the specific requirements for each role, can be supplied on request. Many thanks for your support.... **(If you're curious to find out more, please email aj3barker@btinternet.com .)**

Andy Barker (Hants & IOW Branch Chair)

2021 Garden Butterfly Survey

As always a big thank you to all those recorders who participated in the Garden Butterfly Survey. Records were received from 57 gardens, which is actually the fewest since this survey became quantitative in 2016.

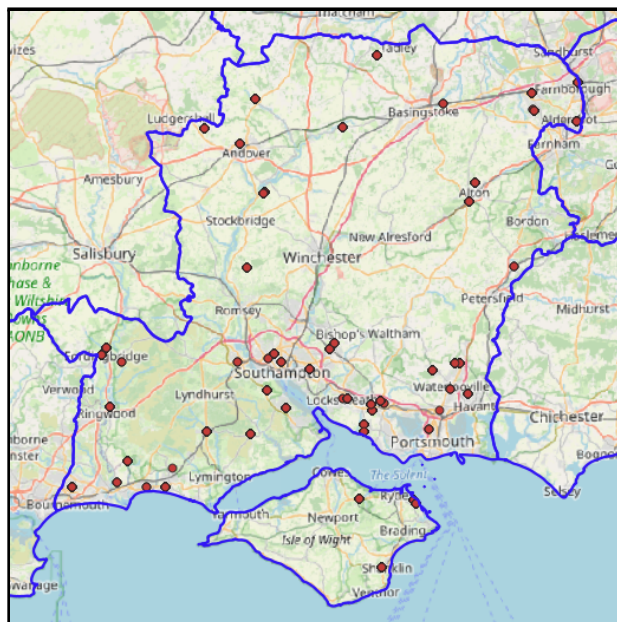
A total of 5,137 records were received, amounting to 8,791 butterflies of 33 different species.

Species	Records	Individuals	Position (by Records)					
			2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Small White	903	1,789	1 (1)	1	1	1	2	1
Red Admiral	656	1,302	2 (4)	4	3	8	1	3
Large White	609	1,058	3 (3)	2	2	2	6	2
Brimstone	364	495	4 (7)	6	7	6	3	4
Meadow Brown	350	703	5 (2)	7	5	5	9	7
Peacock	347	774	6 (6)	5	9	10	8	6
Gatekeeper	331	636	7 (5)	9	6	9	10	10
Holly Blue	298	340	8 (17)	3	13	3	7	5
Speckled Wood	268	296	9 (11)	8	4	4	5	9
Comma	222	296	10 (8)	10	10	7	4	11

Small White was once again the most abundant species recorded, followed by Red Admiral, with Holly Blue falling back to eighth place from third in 2020. Comma has remained in tenth position for the last three years.

The bracketed figures denote the species records position in the Common Species Table in our 2021 Annual Butterfly Report. Note that, once again, Holly Blue appeared to fare better in gardens than in the wider countryside.

Individuals	Gardens
1	2
2-9	11
10-29	9
30-100	16
100+	19
<p>Once again, a garden near Andover recorded over 1,000 butterflies. 65% of the participating gardens were in South Hampshire, 28% in North Hampshire and 7% on the Isle of Wight.</p>	



In 2021, gardens participating in the survey covered less than 4% of the tetrads (2km squares) within our Branch boundary - even fewer than in the previous year. So if you are interested, please sign up at [Garden Butterfly Survey](#) as our gardens are becoming a very special environment and haven for butterflies and other insects, etc. The website has been re-constructed and even those who submitted records previously will need to register again (but then can be linked to their historical entries).

Enjoy your gardens this year and I look forward to receiving your 2022 records.

Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder)

Reserves & Volunteering News

Magdalen Hill Down

It's an intoxicating time of year, with the warm sunshine bringing the best butterfly activity. Magdalen saw the early emergence of Small Blues and the Adonis. The Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreaks seem to be doing well, which gives some hope when you hear of all the declines.

We have four rather fat, and very relaxed-looking cows grazing the Allotments and western end of the Reserve. The forty sheep on the Hillside are keeping the turf height short, to favour the Adonis and Chalkhill Blues.

The permissive footpath along the boundary of the Extension has been re-opened.

The path which goes down the centre of the field will be reopened, once the Skylarks have finished nesting.

School visits are now contracted-out to Winchester Science Centre, who are continuing to deliver our outdoor learning sessions.



British White cows



Horseshoe vetch on the chalk scrapes

Yew Hill

We have reduced the number of sheep to 15, as the reserve was becoming over-grazed. It's not practical to move the sheep off somewhere and then have to transport them back, so hopefully this number will keep a nice sward height to ensure a variety of flowers.

The Southern Water meadow area is looking better. The chalk scrapes do get full sun, despite being so near to the trees. **There is still a huge amount of scrub to clear...**

Bentley Station Meadow

Volunteer Reserves Officer Steve Lockett is monitoring the site and helping with school visits (see "Bentley Station Meadow school visit", below). Any queries, please email him direct: posteve@hotmail.co.uk

There is something very comforting about visiting your favourite or local nature reserve, so I hope you enjoy your visits. Any issues please do get in touch.

Chilcomb Sports Ground Butterfly Scrape (SU499289)

Hampshire County Council kindly gave us funding to plant and manage a chalk scrape, in order to increase diversity in the recreation ground and provide a vital habitat patch for the Small Blue and Striped Lychnis moth, amongst others. We have also left an area of long grass.

The area was planted in April by our volunteers during an extremely dry, hot spell. Armed with water canisters, the plug plants were watered a few times, but the ground was baked! Thankfully, the seeds germinated following rain, and little specks of green are now covering the chalk (although the plants are still struggling from lack of rain).

The plan is to install a signboard to explain about chalk grassland plants and the life cycle of the Striped Lychnis moth, and Small Blue.

Striped Lychnis moth Surveys - help needed!

We need volunteers to help survey for the Striped Lychnis caterpillar which can be found munching on the Dark Mullein plants that flower in July. I know some of you are familiar with this caterpillar, but training in ID will be given to anyone interested.

Twyford Waterworks Visit - Volunteer Exchange visits

- **Monday, 11th July meet 10am at the waterworks**, Twyford (SU492248). Volunteers are invited to visit the Twyford Waterworks with a special guided tour of the waterworks, and the surrounding species-rich chalk grassland.

Please email me - fscully@butterfly-conservation.org - to book a place.

- **Monday 18th July meet 10am Magdalen Hill Down.** The Twyford Waterworks volunteers will be visiting Magdalen, so please do join me to show them around the reserve.

Events

Volunteer Summer BBQ - Wednesday 20th July starts 6.30pm

Meet at Magdalen Hill Down, cemetery entrance. Parking is at the BC car park up the track from the stone masons. Please bring your own sausages/burgers, mug and camping chair. All are welcome!

Each day, volunteers are helping with livestock checks, walking transects, and helping with practical tasks. This all takes time and commitment. **The summer BBQ is our thank you to all the volunteers who make everything possible.** (A Volunteer Bulletin was sent out to volunteers in May.)

I might organise a Magdalen volunteer task Monday in June - if so, I will email volunteers to fix a date.

Enjoy the long summer days and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Fiona Scully (BC South Downs Landscape Project Officer)

Bentley Station Meadow school visit

I was contacted by the Head of Early Years, at Frensham Heights School about a visit to the reserve (twenty-one 3-to-5 year olds). So, I said "Yes, I'd love to host them", thinking what could go wrong?

They arrived by train (I think this was the highlight of the trip, actually!), and met me at the reserve entrance - I think they were a little disappointed that I wasn't Steve Backshall...

The helpers divided the party into small groups in order to explore the meadow; sadly, the dull weather meant no flying butterflies. However, we did scare up a few Speckled Yellow (*P. macularia*) moths, found a mat of Grasshopper eggs, and a couple of Drinker (*E. potatoria*) moth caterpillars. Common spotted-orchids (*D. fuchsii*) and Ragged robin (*L. flos-cuculi*) demonstrated the difference that water plays in where plants grow.

There was just enough time for a quick sweep-net exercise, and bug pots of beetles, spiders, and bugs were passed around, with only a few of the children recoiling in horror. The hand lens was an object of much fascination.

I hope one or two little minds will become interested in butterflies and our natural world as a result of their visit.

P.S. I have been invited to Binsted Primary School to give a talk on butterflies and pollinators - **if anyone has any tips / photos / ideas about how to make this a successful and interesting event, I'd love to hear your ideas.** Email me on posteve@hotmail.co.uk - Thanks!

Steve Luckett (Reserves Advisory Group; Volunteer Reserves Officer, BSM)

Wilder Countryside Butterfly Scheme (WCBS)

If you would like to record butterflies but can't commit to carrying out a regular transect walk, would you be able to help with the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey?

This is a UK wide 'light touch' recording scheme for monitoring butterfly numbers across the country. Results from these surveys feed into national statistics that inform policy makers about the health of the environment.

Volunteers take 'ownership' of a randomly selected 1km OS grid square, walking two parallel transect lines through the square at least once in July and once in August, identifying and recording any butterflies seen. Walks need to take place in good weather and follow the same methodology used for butterfly transects.

No experience is necessary - just an interest in butterflies, a willingness to learn, normal eyesight and the ability to get to and from the square and to walk the route safely.

Because squares are selected randomly they can cover any type of habitat, including urban areas and farmland as well as more natural areas. In some cases the landowner's permission is required before walks can take place.

A number of squares have been identified in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which require walkers for 2022. These include some squares which already have a route

established, as well as others that have not yet been walked. A full list of available squares can be found [here](#), on the Branch website.

If you are interested in getting involved in butterfly recording and would be able to undertake two walks a year (one in July and one in August), at one of these sites, please contact Jacky Adams on 07521 577035.

Jacky Adams (WCBS Co-ordinator)

2022 Butterflies in Churchyards

During the week commencing Saturday 4th June a number of UK churches have been involved with the 'Churches Count on Nature' event, run by charities A Rocha UK, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales. Last year 17,232 records were received embracing over 1,500 different species. All recorded on the [National Biodiversity Network](#).



Some of you may already be involved with this event, but this could be an opportunity for us to boost butterfly records in churchyards by visiting perhaps a couple of times during the peak season of July/August, and adding these records to one of our accepted systems which will eventually reach the same database. Please ensure you include 'Churchyard' in your Site Location field.

The Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation have been monitoring around 50 churchyards for some years now, so that seems to be an ideal target for our membership!

Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder)

The MyDECIDE monitoring project

Butterfly Conservation is a partner in [the DECIDE Citizen Science insect monitoring project](#), which this year is running a related project called **MyDECIDE**. Volunteers are sought, to sign up - the more the merrier! Participants will receive an email each month until October, which will summarise their recent butterfly recording activity and provide suggestions for new places to visit in the coming months, where more records would be particularly valuable. If interested and you can help, information is available at [MyDECIDE](#)

Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder)

HBIC talk by our Branch Chair

[An assessment \(short video\) by Andy Barker of how butterfly recording in Hampshire has changed over the last two decades](#), including a look at how the data can be used to show change for particular butterflies (and one moth!). Presented at this year's **Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)** annual Recorders' Forum, in HBIC's 20th Anniversary year.

Andy Barker (Hants & IoW Branch Chair)

Website refresh

Visitors to [the branch website](#) will notice that it has been refreshed and now better supports mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. We've also made it more secure (https). Over the coming months, visitors can expect to see the updates to the content of the various pages. Bob Whitmarsh, our branch webmaster, welcomes all feedback. See the ['About > Committee & Contacts'](#) section of the website.

Dates

First sightings (since Feb. 2022 e-Newsletter) see the website Events > News page			
February 9	Comma	Francis Plowman	Monks Walk, Gosport
February 17	Brimstone	Roy Symonds	Private garden, Waterlooville
February 18	Small Tortoiseshell	Kevin Freeborn	Home
February 25	Peacock	Andrew Brookes	Cosham
March 18	Small White	Ashley Whitlock	Home, Southsea
March 21	Speckled Wood	Francis Plowman	Monks Walk, Gosport
March 21	Clouded Yellow	Jim Baldwin / Andy Butler	Ventnor, IOW
March 25	Orange Tip	Frank Haggard	Just north of Andover
April 5	Green-veined White	Francis Plowman	Monks Walk, Gosport
April 11	Grizzled Skipper	Mark Tutton	Butser Hill NNR
April 13	Large White	Francis Plowman	Monks Walk, Gosport
April 13	Green Hairstreak	Peter Hunt	Freshwater, IOW
April 15	Duke of Burgundy	Mark Jones	Noar Hill
April 19	Small Blue	Peter Hunt	Freshwater, IOW
April 25	Dingy Skipper	Ashley Whitlock	Butser Hill NNR
April 25	Small Heath	Ashley Whitlock	Butser Hill NNR
April 26	Wall Brown	Peter Hunt	Freshwater, IOW
April 26	Small Copper	Peter Hunt	Freshwater, IOW
May 2	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Robin Dryden	Pignal / Parkhill Inclosures
May 3	Common Blue	Francis Plowman	Monks Walk, Gosport
May 3	Brown Argus	Peter Hunt	Freshwater, IOW
May 6	Adonis Blue	Andy Barker	Magdalen Hill Down
May 8	Glanville Fritillary	Peter Hunt	Compton Chine, IOW
May 14	Large Tortoiseshell	David Murdoch	Stockbridge Down
May 14	Marsh Fritillary	Nick Freeman	Broughton Down
May 28	Large Skipper	Alison Vincent	Magdalen Hill Down
May 31	Meadow Brown	Nic Burns	Peartree Green

Work parties, etc. (see the website Events > Work Parties page, for latest info)	
Mon., 11th Jul. (10:00)	Twyford Waterworks volunteers exchange visit
Mon., 18th Jul. (10:00)	Magdalen Hill Down, reverse visit by Twyford Waterworks volunteers
Finally, a reminder: The Volunteers' Summer BBQ at Magdalen Hill Down , Wednesday 20th July, starting at 18:30. See Fiona's "Reserves & Volunteering news" article above, for further details.	

**Note: Steve Luckett is at Bentley Station Meadow most Tuesday mornings. If you're available to help, contact him first (email posteve@hotmail.co.uk / tel. 07530 044278)*

Open Garden event:

A reminder about Alison Taylor's Open Garden event at "South Lodge", Bottom Road, Longstock, Nr Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6DP - **Thursday 16 June, 2pm to 6pm**. Ice

creams and cold drinks for sale. No disabled access. Dogs on leads allowed. Adults £4, under 16s free.

See the Butterfly Conservation "[Open Gardens](#)" brochure, for further information on this, and other events around the country.

Social Media links

