



June 2023

Dear Branch Member,

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

In this issue:

Branch Walks - a reminder	Pete Eeles
Branch Newsletter - editor required	Pete Eeles
Butterfly Recorders wanted - Southampton	Andy Barker
Farmland butterfly surveys	Andy Barker
Events Notice	Suzie Brown
Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme - update	Jacky Adams
Reserves & volunteering News	Fiona Scully
Magdalen Hill Down - Engagement Projects	Kate Merry
Isle of Wight Group - update	Jim Baldwin
Dates	
Social Media links	

Branch Walks - a reminder

Can I please request that all attendees of branch walks adhere to the instructions of the walk leader, and also respect any signage requesting visitors to both **stick to marked paths, and refrain from entering restricted areas**. I know it's easy to get carried away when looking to photograph various subjects, but it is imperative that local wildlife, such as nesting birds and plant life, does not suffer from 'off route' incursions.

Pete Eeles (Branch Chair)

Branch Newsletter - editor required

Our current Branch Newsletter editor, Kevin Freeborn, is taking-on a new role, and regretfully will be relinquishing editorship of the (biannual) Newsletter. Consequently, **a replacement editor will need to be in place for the Spring 2024 edition**. Ideally, the new editor would shadow Kevin during production of the Autumn 2023 edition.

If you fancy the challenge, please [email Rupert Broadway](mailto:rupert.broadway@bcs.org.uk) (Chair of the Engagement Sub-Committee) (rupert.broadway@bcs.org.uk), to register your interest.

Kevin has kindly provided the following 'job spec.':

Previous editorial, journalistic or publishing experience is a distinct advantage. Other qualities needed in addition to a keen interest in butterflies and moths are: a balance of enthusiasm and cool-headedness, good organisational skills, a competent standard of English, a good eye for making things flow and fit together, experience of fact checking or proofreading, and must be encouraging in terms of eliciting articles, with some reserves of patience and persistence to bring the Newsletter to publication.

For reference, previous editions of the Newsletter can be found [here](https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=newsletters) (<https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=newsletters>)

Pete Eeles (Branch Chair)

Request for Butterfly Recorders - Southampton

Clare Connolly, Southampton City Council's newly-appointed Senior Ranger for the west of Southampton, needs **help with a new transect at Lordsdale Greenway (SU 39372 14323)**. She needs some volunteer butterfly recorders to walk the transect this summer, and hopefully in future seasons. Please [email Clare](mailto:clare.connolly@southampton.gov.uk) (clare.connolly@southampton.gov.uk) if you can help.

Andy Barker (C&R Sub-Committee Chair)

Farmland butterfly surveys – volunteers needed !

Researchers at The University of Reading are looking for keen butterfly recorders to take part in a study on farmland biodiversity and farmer engagement. This work is part of [SHOWCASE](https://showcase-project.eu/) (<https://showcase-project.eu/>), a research project exploring how to increase biodiversity in agricultural landscapes across Europe. An important way of doing this is through citizen science – connecting farmers and volunteer naturalists to monitor farmland biodiversity. This, of course, includes butterflies.

This part of the SHOWCASE project has two key aims:

- To gather valuable data on farmland biodiversity, primarily butterflies.
- To engage farmers with biodiversity monitoring, in a variety of ways.

Transects have been established on several farms throughout Hampshire using the methods of the Wider Countryside Butterfly Monitoring Survey (WCBMS).

We would like to hear from you, if **(a)** you already have monitoring sites on farmland, and/or engage with farmers on these sites, or **(b)** are interested in monitoring butterflies on new farmland sites, and communicating with farmers about butterfly surveys.

As part of this study, you will be put in contact with the farmer/landowner on whose land you will carry out monitoring **during July and August**, and invite them to engage in some way with your monitoring (or results of the monitoring). This can take place in any way that you, and/or the farmer, chooses – from a phone call to discuss the butterflies you observed on their land, to the farmer accompanying you on the transects. At the end of the surveying season, we will host a workshop to discuss findings throughout the monitoring season and also provide questionnaires to both farmers and recorders to gain insights into their experiences interacting with each other and the biodiversity on the farms.

For more information, please [email Dr.Stuart Edwards](mailto:s.edwards@reading.ac.uk) (Post Doctoral Researcher) (s.edwards@reading.ac.uk)

Andy Barker (C&R Sub-Committee Chair)

Events Notice

Saturday 5th August 2023 New Members and Members Day - Look out for our social and informative invitation to Members from Butterfly Conservation - an opportunity to meet up and experience a tour of our flagship Reserve at Magdalen Hill Down and hear from our speakers on Gardening for Butterflies and Moths, Recording to contribute to National Data Sets, Reserve Management, Getting the most from Photography and Observations on the enigma of the full Lepidoptera Lifecycle within our environment.

Sunday 5th November 2023 AGM - Could you be the next membership secretary or events co-ordinator or Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme co-ordinator? Stay tuned for news on this year's Photography Competition, speakers and social event to culminate the 2023 season. Would you like to help volunteer with refreshments or preparations on this day? If so please [email Suzie Brown](mailto:hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk) (hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk)

Saturday 1st July 2023 Bucklers Hard Conservation Awareness Day - the Branch will have a presence, so please come along and say Hello!

Engagement sub-committee on Events and Volunteers

Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme - update

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 all types of habitat, including urban and farmed areas. 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, 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. You will need to be aged 18 or over, have an interest in butterflies and eyesight good enough to spot and identify those flying in your square. You will need to be able to reach 'your' square and walk it safely. 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 2023. 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 on [the Branch website Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey page](https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=wider_countryside) (https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=wider_countryside).

If you are interested in getting involved in this butterfly recording scheme please [email me](mailto:jackyna7579@gmail.com) (jackyna7579@gmail.com), or give me a ring on 07521 577035.

Jacky Adams (Branch WCBS co-ordinator)

Reserves & volunteering News

Magdalen Hill Down

The cowslips put on an exceptional display this year, and with the warmth and rain there was a sudden spurt of growth which came late this spring. Despite the delayed start,

there have been good numbers of Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, Green Hairstreak, Small Copper and Orange Tip.

Yew Hill

The sheep have left now after a winter of grazing and the main reserve is looking good. It's not likely to be grazed again until Autumn. Although the new reservoir will bring much wider benefits, it is sad to lose Hill Top. No work has started so far and we do hope that the lower section of Hill Top can be brought back into management.

Bentley Station Meadow

Following Steve Lockett moving to new pastures, Paul Tinsley-Marshall advertised the Volunteer Warden role and was fortunate to find **Megan Hooker**, who has just started as the new Volunteer Warden for Bentley. Megan has an excellent environmental background and is looking for more practical experience on the ground. So welcome to Megan, who will be able to introduce herself properly in the next newsletter and meet the volunteers. She has already been out to Magdalen to help with the Site Safety inspections and is doing her induction.

Chilcomb Sports Ground Butterfly Scrape

After last year's drought, it's a relief to see this in full bloom. It was seeded and plug planted from Boston Seeds, who confirm it's all native seed. It's just the Kidney Vetch is, well... enormous! But it's alive and filled with bees.



Volunteer Field Trip – Isle of Wight, led by Jim Baldwin

We were blessed with the weather, a day of everlasting sunshine. Nine of us went on a 'cruise', then drove to Wheelers Bay where we were met by Jim Baldwin and Andy Butler, who showed us **Glanville Fritillaries** at the bottom of the chalk cliff. Then, on to Compton Down, as well as a visit to Mottistone Down managed by the National Trust. Incredible chalk grassland sites with Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Brown Argus, and Wall Brown all making an appearance with a total list of 18 species. It was a very informative visit with non-stop butterflies throughout the day. A special thanks to Jim and the volunteers who made the day go so well.



IoW field trip: Wheeler's Bay, taking a break, a beautiful Glanville Fritillary (© Fiona Scully)

Please note that **the next field trip is on Monday, 12th June, to Martin Down**, and will be led by Pete Durnell (HCC Sites Manager). There are a few spaces still available, so please [email me \(fscully@butterfly-conservation.org\)](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org), if interested.

Wishing you all a wonderful, healthy and happy summer.

Fiona Scully (BC South Downs Landscape Project Officer)

Magdalen Hill Down - Engagement Projects

Youth Rangers

This summer Magdalen Hill Down will play host to a group of up to 10 aspiring young conservationists embarking on the first ever trial of a BC-led 'youth rangers' scheme. Young people aged 13–17 will be invited to take part in three trial sessions during the summer holidays; learning about butterflies, moths, and reserve management, while gaining practical experience in conservation.

It is hoped feedback from the trial will help set a direction for future sessions and wider rollout across BC reserves. If you'd like to find out more or know of a local young person who might be interested in taking part please email Engagement Officer, [Megan Lowe \(mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org\)](mailto:mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org).

School Visits

We are all set to welcome visiting school groups back to Magdalen Hill Down this summer. The team at the **Winchester Science Centre** will once more be taking on delivery of the visits on our behalf, having received training and support from our team. The site has been refreshed and restocked with equipment for the children to use, thanks to support from the Hampshire Branch.



The Education area at Magdalen Hill Down (© Kate Merry)

This year we are hugely grateful for the support of a new volunteer who will be providing a much-needed extra pair of hands! If you know a school who would enjoy a free visit to this beautiful reserve, please [email the Winchester Science Centre](mailto:education@winchestersciencecentre.org) directly (education@winchestersciencecentre.org).

Kate Merry (BC Engagement Manager)

Isle of Wight group - update

White-letter Hairstreak survey

The White-letter Hairstreak survey on the Isle of Wight commences in June, to survey elm trees to see if they hold a colony of this elusive butterfly. I would welcome anyone interested in helping with the survey. The optimum time for watching White-letter Hairstreak tends to be between 08:30-11:00am, although they can also be seen in flight in the early evening. If you are interested or would like further details, please contact me either [by email \(wightmoths@gmail.com\)](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com), or my mobile 07528 586683.

Other events

The Isle of Wight Group will be supporting **the Big Butterfly Count in July** with walks and talks at Carisbrooke Castle, on 15th and 16th July, and at the Donkey Sanctuary, Wroxall (dates to be confirmed).

I will also be at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Sandown on 1st July as part of the **Focus on Conservation and Science (FOCAS) Festival**.

Jim Baldwin (County Moth Recorder (Isle of Wight) / Isle of Wight Group Leader)

Dates

Branch, and branch-related Events

Saturday, 1st July	Bucklers Hard Conservation Day	Contact Suzie Brown
Saturday, 5th August	Branch New Members / Members Day	Contact Suzie Brown
Sunday, 8th October	Blackmoor Apple Day	Contact Suzie Brown
Date to be confirmed	Test Valley Wood Fair	Contact Suzie Brown
Sunday, 5th November	Branch AGM and Members Day, Littleton Village Hall	

[Branch Field trips](#)

Full details of Hampshire walks 2023 [here](#). Full details of **Isle of Wight** walks [here](#).

Saturday, 24th June (25th, if wet) (13:30)	Newtown, Meadows Butterfly walk, and part of Walters Copse	Target Species: White Admiral, Marbled White, Brown Argus, Ringlet
Sunday, 25th June (10:30)	Old Winchester Hill (SU640208)	Target Species Chalk Hill Blue, possible White Letter Hairstreak
Wednesday, 28th June (09:30)	Beaulieu Heath (New Forest) (SU355000)	Target Species: Silver Studded Blue, Early Grayling, Clouded Buff Moth, Common Lizard, Dartford Warbler, Nightjar

Saturday, 1st July (2nd, if wet) (10:30)	Tennyson Down, near Freshwater	Target Species: Dark Green Fritillary, Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue
Sunday, 2nd July (09:30)	Alice Holt Forest (Abbotts Wood Inclosure) (SU815480)	Target Species: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary
Wednesday, 5th July (09:30)	West Wood & Pitt Down (SU435295)	Target Species: Dark Green Fritillary, Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak
Sunday, 9th July (09:30)	Micheldever Wood (SO24 9UB) (SU53013753)	Target Species: Purple Emperor, Silver-Washed Fritillary, and White Admiral
Wednesday, 12th July (09:30)	Basingstoke Canal (part) / Odiham Common (SU752526)	Target Species: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, good flora and fauna
Saturday, 15th July (16th, if wet) (13:30)	Kemphill Moor Copse, Rowlands Lane, Havenstreet (SZ569896)	Target Species: White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (inc. <i>ab. Valesina</i>), Purple Hairstreak
Sunday, 16th July (09:30)	West Harting Down (SU737157)	Target Species: Purple Emperor, Silver-Washed Fritillary, Dark-Green Fritillary, Hummingbird Hawk Moth
Saturday 22nd July (23rd, if wet) (13:30)	Mount Joy, Carisbrooke (SZ49248787)	Target Species: Chalk Hill & Common Blue, Wall Brown, Brown Argus
Saturday, 5th August (6th, if wet) (13:30)	Arreton Downs	Target Species: Chalk Hill Blue, Wall Brown, Brown Argus
Sunday, 13th August (09:30)	Shipton Bellinger (SU222465)	Target Species: Wall Brown, Brown Hairstreak, good flora and fauna
Wednesday, 16th August (10:30)	Noar Hill (SU745316)	Target Species: Brown Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow
Wednesday, 23rd August (10:30)	Idsworth Down / Charlton Down (SU735151)	Target Species: Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, Dark Green Fritillary, poss. Silver Spotted Skipper
Sunday, 27th August (10:30)	Butser Hill (SU712205)	Target Species: Adonis Blue, Silver Spotted Skipper
Wednesday, 30th August (10:30)	Beacon Hill NNR (SU605227)	Target Species: Silver-Spotted Skipper, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow & spectacular views
Saturday, 2nd September (3rd, if wet) (13:30)	The Revetment, Ventnor	Target Species: Clouded Yellow, Hummingbird Hawk Moth
Sunday, 3rd September (10:30)	Old Winchester Hill (SU640208)	Target Species: Adonis Blue, Silver-Spotted Skipper, Clouded Yellow

Accompanied Reserves Walks

Friday, 16th June (11:00-13:00)	Yew Hill	With Rupert Broadway. Contact Fiona Scully for details.
Wednesday, 19th July (11:00-13:00)	Magdalen Hill Down	With Dave & Anna Stewart. Contact Fiona Scully for details.

Friday, 4th August (11:00-13:00)	Yew Hill	With Rupert Broadway. Contact Fiona Scully for details.
Friday, 18th August (11:00-13:00)	Magdalen Hill Down	With Dave & Anna Stewart. Contact Fiona Scully for details.

[First sightings \(since February e-Newsletter\)](#)

February 18	Small Tortoiseshell	Enham
March 24	Peacock	Miller's Pond LNR, Southampton
March 25	Small White	Bitterne
March 27	Holly Blue	Bitterne
April 3	Comma	Monk's Walk, Gosport
April 3	Specked Wood	Monk's Walk, Gosport
April 4	Large White	Hardway, Gosport
April 7	Orange Tip	Holt Park Estate, Hook
April 9	Green-veined White	North Baddesley
April 20	Small Copper	Browdown (South)
April 20	Duke of Burgundy	Noar Hill
April 23	Green Hairstreak	Freshwater, IoW
April 29	Grizzled Skipper	Freshwater Bay, IoW
May 2	Dingy Skipper	Butser Hill
May 7	Clouded Yellow	Pignal Inclosure, Brockenhurst
May 11	Wall Brown	Coastal path, Bembridge, IoW
May 11	Painted Lady	Bembridge Trail, IoW
May 13	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Pignal Inclosure, Brockenhurst
May 13	Common Blue	Ventnor Revetment, IoW
May 13	Brown Argus	Ventnor Revetment, IoW
May 14	Small Heath	Old Winchester Hill NNR
May 17	Small Blue	Martin Down
May 21	Adonis Blue	Magdalen Hill Down
May 22	Marsh Fritillary	North Baddesley
May 29	Large Skipper	North Baddesley

Social Media links



Branch FB



Our Reserves FB



Branch Twitter



Branch Insta



Branch WWW