

Spring/Summer 2019

Number 67

SURREY *Skipper*

46
field trips
for 2019



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Butterfly Conservation
Surrey & SW London



*Saving butterflies, moths
& our environment*

Branch Committee

Chair: Simon Saville (first elected 2016)	07572 612722
Conservation Adviser: Ken Willmott (1995)	01372 375773
County Butterfly Recorder: Harry Clarke (2013)	07773 428935, 01372 453338
Field Trips Organiser: Mike Weller (1997)	01306 882097
Membership Secretary: Ken Owen (2015)	01737 760811
Moth Officer: Paul Wheeler (2006)	01276 856183
Skipper Editor & Publicity Officer: Francis Kelly (2012)	07952 285661, 01483 278432
Transects & WCBS Coordinator: Bill Downey (2015)	07917 243984, 020 8949 5498
Treasurer: Peter Camber (2011)	020 8224 2957
Oaken Wood: Harry Clarke & Bill Downey	see above
Social Media: Francis Kelly (& Mick Rock)	see above
Website: Francis Kelly & Ken Owen	see above
Committee member: Clive Huggins (2014)	020 8942 7846

Other contacts

County Moth Recorder: Graham Collins see butterfly-conservation.org/surreymoths

Media

surreybranch@gmail.com

Websites butterfly-conservation.org/surrey butterfly-conservation.org/surreymoths
 Recording irecord.org.uk FACEBOOK Branch page ..Butterfly Conservation in Surrey
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 Branch groupSurrey Moths

Surrey Skipper

thank you to all contributors

	copy deadline	published online
Spring	Feb 28	mid-Marchincludes new season's field trips
Autumn	Sep 29	mid-Octoberpreviews AGM & Members' Day

■ The full *Surrey Skipper* is published online only. A *Small (essential) Skipper* is posted to the 13% of members for whom we do not have an email address.

■ **Front-page photo** (winner of Members' Day Photo Show in November):

Adonis & Chalkhill Blues at Denbies Hillside. **Richard Stephens**

LINK [Photo Show entries and full result](#)

LINKS [When reading on screen, click underlined link to visit webpage](#)

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Chairman

Simon Saville

AFTER the heatwave of June and July, I am wondering what the new season will bring. It has been a mild winter, and all these conditions are generally bad indicators of the season to come. Let's hope not.

Much has been going on. First, congratulations to Gail Jeffcoate, who was given the prestigious Marsh Award at the National Members' Day in November (*see next page*). Gail has kindly donated the financial prize to the Branch. At her request, it will be used to support the Small Blue project.

Work parties for the Small Blue project continued through the winter, led by Project Officer Fiona Haynes. A lot of excellent work has been done – mainly scrub clearance – and we thank all who volunteered. The funded Small Blue project ends in July, so we are taking steps to continue work parties on the North Downs. If you are interested, please contact Fiona.

Work has also continued at Oaken Wood in Chiddingfold. This had a major positive impact on the Wood White, which had two excellent broods last year. Thanks to Jayne Chapman, Harry Clarke and all those who have worked so hard on this Reserve.

A record number of 120 transects were walked in our area last year, counting a remarkable 212,000 butterflies. Thanks to coordinator Bill Downey for his tireless efforts, and to the dedicated walkers who diligently counted butterflies through the summer. See Bill's report on page 10.

JOHN FOULSHAM, generous host with Daphne of the annual Vale End field trip, died peacefully on March 1 aged 93. We offer our condolences to Daphne and the rest of their family.



Whether on a work party, walking a transect, or just enjoying the outdoors, it is important to stay safe. Two of our volunteers have told us that they contracted Lyme Disease from tick bites last summer. This can be a serious illness, and needs prompt treatment with antibiotics. I suggest that you brief yourself on the symptoms of

Lyme Disease (there are lots of good websites) and always check your skin for ticks after visiting the countryside. It is a good idea to carry tick-removal tweezers.

LINK *Lyme Disease*
NHS information & advice

We are working on our Annual Report 2018, which will be primarily an online publication (as last year). Look out for the email alert. Once again, we will produce hard copies for volunteers and key external stakeholders.

Mike Weller has again organised an impressive programme of field trips (page 15). New sites include Knepp Wildland (Purple Emperors), Ditchling Common (Black Hairstreak), and Tooting Common in London. I look forward to meeting you on some of these walks.

This year brings an increased focus on London. I am pleased to report that May Webber has started as Project Officer for BIG City Butterflies. Read her introduction on page 6, and see the separate article on London's Lepidoptera (page 14).

Let's look forward to a great summer!

■ Our annual New Members' Day is planned for Sat 6 July at Ashted Common. Invitations will be sent directly to members who have joined in the last two years.

Marsh Award Gail Jeffcoate

GAIL JEFFCOATE received a Marsh Lepidoptera Award for Lifetime Achievement at BC's AGM in November. Chair Jim Asher read out the citation:

“Gail has dedicated herself to the conservation of Lepidoptera since the 1980s. She is an expert on chalk downland butterflies and downland management, and her work on the National Trust Box Hill Committee has been pivotal in the management there.

She has done a remarkable job with her two specialist species – the Small Blue and Adonis Blue – and played a key role in getting Surrey's Small Blue project established so successfully.

Gail has been an active member of Butterfly Conservation in Surrey for many years and has served as Transect Co-ordinator, County Recorder and as part of the Surrey Nature Partnership Biodiversity Working Group.

She has been walking transects since 1995, including Oaken Wood, Box Hill Viewpoint, Denbies Landbarn and Denbies Hillside.

At a national level, she served on the Conservation Committee for many years and was co-author of The Millenium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain & Ireland.

Gail did a great deal of recording on the Isle of Man from 2003-2014 and helped to raise the profile of butterflies on the island. She is well-respected for her expertise, persistence and accuracy and is always willing to share her knowledge.

She has inspired many other Lepidoptera enthusiasts and the conservation activities of the Surrey branch are much stronger thanks to her input over the years.”



Photo:
Ilija Vukomanovic

Previous Winners

2017 Dr Mark Young
2016 Rob Petley-Jones
2015 Adrian Fowles
2014 Margaret Vickery
2013 Richard Sutcliffe
2012 Philip Sterling
2011 David J Simcox
2010 Roy Leverton
2009 Dr John Langmaid
2008 Alan Stubbs
2007 Matthew Oates
2006 Roger Dennis
2005 Barry Goater
2004 Paul Harding
2003 Roger Smith
2002 Dr Jeremy Thomas
2001 Dame Miriam Rothschild
2000 Dr Ernest Pollard
1999 Col Maitland Emmett

■ Ken Willmott received a BC 40th Anniversary Marsh Award in 2008.

LINK The Marsh Christian Trust was founded in 1981 by current Chairman, Brian Marsh OBE. It supports charities and people who are making a difference, through a Grants Programme and Awards Scheme.

Steve Wheatley

BC Conservation Manager — South East

LAST year was exceptionally good for many butterflies and coincided brilliantly with Butterfly Conservation's 50th Anniversary celebration.

It was a year when there was not enough time to see everything the summer offered. Even so, it was lovely to hear reports of superb numbers of Adonis Blues and Holly Blues. In other parts of the South East, Duke of Burgundy had a really good year and so did Heath Fritillary. Then came some lovely late-season Clouded Yellows and Small Coppers.

The winter has been spent compiling and comparing data from last season, writing reports, advising land managers and reporting back to funders on all the news. We are especially grateful to the organisations and individuals who supported our projects in 2018. So much was achieved by Surrey Branch in 2018 that it is a pleasure to report back on it all.

The Wood White did really well in 2018, and the habitat created by the work parties at Oaken Wood is looking excellent. On a crisp and sunny late winter day it is easy to imagine Wood Whites drifting delicately through the new areas. It is one of the Highest Priority butterflies nationally (as evidenced in our newly published UK Conservation Strategy 2025). It is also one of my top three favourite butterflies.

In addition to all the hard work by volunteers at Oaken Wood we have put together a great Wood White project for this area. The mountain of application paperwork was completed in January and a funding application has been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We await their decision.

Our fundraiser, Laura Popely, is now busy looking for the additional match-



funding that will ensure we can deliver the project.

The Small Blue Stepping Stones project has created an excellent network of habitat patches that will be fascinating to visit over the coming seasons, not just for Small Blues, but for Silver-spotted Skippers, the pale Chalkhill Blues, and the striking Adonis Blues. There will be lots of walks, searches, surveys and recording over the summer, and

we encourage everyone to record the butterflies they see (don't assume someone else will submit the sightings).

Midsummer nights in 2019 will be spent looking again for Heart Moth (another of the South East's top priority species). Our 2018 survey confirmed Surrey remains the UK hot-spot for this rare oak-feeding moth. Our challenge in 2019 is to focus on the populations found last year to try to better understand its habitat needs. There is no lack of oak! The more knowledge we can gather, the more effectively we can advise land managers on creating the right kind of habitat.

Other important searches in 2019 could take place on the heaths. We encourage anyone visiting the lovely Thames Basin Heaths or Wealden Greensands from late-June onwards to report their sightings of Silver-studded Blue and Grayling.

The winter can seem very long when you are waiting for your first sightings of the season. In January I start dreaming about butterfly sightings (as I do every year). On January 5 I even dreamt I saw a butterfly (a Peacock) but it turned out to be a bee (a dream bee). By the time you read this I hope you will have seen your first butterflies of 2019, and the new exciting season will be off and flying.

Big City Butterflies

May Webber

Hello! My name is May Webber. I am Development Officer for the exciting new project, *Big City Butterflies*. First, a little bit about me!

I have been passionate about butterflies and moths for as long as I can remember. At the age of 11, I became a member of BC (Upper Thames Branch) and I purchased my first moth trap aged 13. Since then, I have been volunteering with many wildlife organisations and submitting sightings to county moth recorders.

I regularly travelled across the UK in search of rare species, courtesy of my mother, who would be designated driver! A personal highlight was seeing the Large Heath in the Lake District. At the age of 12, I had a sharp eye and won the title of “top egg spotter” in my Upper Thames Branch!

I graduated with a Biological Sciences degree in 2016. During my time as a student, I volunteered with Blanca Huertas, curator of butterflies at the Natural History Museum. I certainly prefer working with



live insects than with dead specimens, but it was a fascinating opportunity to learn the importance of museum collections and get my taxonomy up to scratch!

With my experience of volunteering in London, I was thrilled to get the job as Project Development Officer. This pioneering project will inspire Londoners to discover butterflies and moths, and connect with their local green

spaces. This is something close to my heart as it has been a constant battle of mine to convince people that London is rich in Lepidoptera.

London has more than 1,568 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) with >3,000 parks and open spaces, so the potential for engagement and conservation is huge! The people we reach through this project will have opportunities to learn how they can help butterflies and moths to thrive alongside them. But BC needs help to make important discoveries in return.

■ *continued next page*



May Webber, age 12, searching blackthorn for Brown Hairstreak caterpillars.

Otmoor, June 2005.
Jim Asher

We will be asking Londoners to help us determine how populations of butterflies and moths in the capital are faring through increased recording efforts.

The inner London boroughs within Surrey and SW London branch are Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark. These three boroughs hold many brilliant sites for Lepidoptera, for example Brockwell Park, which will play key roles in allowing BC to test new approaches to urban conservation.

Big City Butterflies project aims include:

- Increase quality and connectivity of green spaces
- Increase levels of recording and monitoring
- Engage with new audiences
- Engage people in the rich diversity of butterflies and moths to make a stronger connection with their local green space.

These aims will be met through habitat management workshops, public events, community engagement, and school workshops, which I will be coordinating.

For example, an application has been submitted to have a pitch at the Lambeth Country Show in July, a large festival celebrating the outdoors, which will reach new audiences and hopefully sign up new members.

Although it is just the first month in my role, I have received such a warm response from many potential collaborative partners across London such as; The Conservation Volunteers, Holland Park Ecology Centre, Meanwhile Gardens, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Barbican Wildlife Garden, and many more.

I have no doubt this project will be a success and I look forward to sharing the journey of the project with you!

Put a spring in your step

*An essential reference for
anyone with any interest
in Surrey's wildlife.
And at only £16 it is
an absolute bargain.*

**Steve Chastell, Chair
Surrey Bird Club**

Butterflies of Surrey Revisited



Fewer than 100 copies left

Steven Willmott
George, Harry E. Clarke, Francis Kelly
Members of Butterfly Conservation Surrey branch

£16 (+ £3 p&p) from Branch Treasurer, Peter Camber

Small Blue Project

Fiona Haynes

Fiona Haynes is Officer for BC's Surrey Small Blue "Stepping Stones" Project, on a part-time contract for two years to July 2019

AS we near the end of a busy winter period on the Small Blue Project, we are determined to leave the sites in a much better state than they were two years ago, with the best possible potential for the future.

The Project finishes in July and we are considering its legacy and how to build on the work that we have all put in. We are still lining up more sites for potential work.

We work mainly on the scarp slope of the North Downs between Guildford and Dorking, attempting to link the isolated populations of Small Blue that are currently at each end of this area. We hope that the Project will benefit many other species including Adonis Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Grizzled, Dingy and Silver-spotted Skippers, Chalk Carpet moth and other invertebrates and plants.

Our management focusses on providing plenty of bare ground, seeding it with Kidney Vetch for the Small Blue, and managing the competitive scrub species that are so good at overtaking our chalk grassland and old quarries.

Many sites are lacking in bare ground, which is an essential part of the habitat for so many species of invertebrate, not just our beloved Lepidoptera. Kidney Vetch needs the bare ground to get established, and by keeping enough bare ground in these areas we can ensure that the plant can seed itself and spread, providing opportunities for the Small Blue to expand its range.

We have worked on around 20 sites and had 56 volunteer tasks at the last count. That is over 3,300 hours of volunteering on



practical habitat management. Over 120 scrapes have been created, varying in size from two to approximately 50 square metres. Half of these scrapes were created using a digger; the other half were created by our hard-working BC volunteers with spades and mattocks.

Although we have been seeding these scrapes with

locally sourced Kidney Vetch seed, many other foodplants are naturally germinating in these scrapes that will benefit our other target species. For example, Horseshoe Vetch, Marjoram, Salad Burnet, Wild Strawberry, Barren Strawberry, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Creeping Cinquefoil.

We have been working with all our Project partners – National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Guildford Borough Council. We have had joint practical tasks this winter with these organisations as well as with Lower Mole Project staff and volunteers, benefitting from their help with providing extra volunteers and assisting with the logistics of getting us and our equipment to the more remote work sites.

This has also been an invaluable opportunity to discuss long-term plans for the management of these potential Small Blue sites with the staff that directly manage them. All organisations are stretched in terms of resources, and I feel that our help is greatly appreciated.

Our thoughts now turn to how to keep up the good work once the Project is over. Scrape Stewards have been recruited to help maintain the scrapes on specific sites. They will visit the sites a few times during the year, weeding out unwanted species such as bramble and buddleia, and keeping an eye on how the Kidney Vetch is developing, and any grazing effects.



Small Blue Project volunteers, Pewley Down, Feb 2. Gillian Elsom

They will seed the scrapes when seed is available and report back to Bill Downey on any issues. We are also formulating a way of continuing our volunteer tasks, working with our partners to ensure a brighter future for these restricted species.

We will survey some of the main sites for Small Blue as we did last year. We will also have various volunteer tasks through to the end of July, including more scrape creation tasks at new sites.

One of the greatest successes of the Project has been working with so many like-minded, enthusiastic and interesting volunteers on a wide range of Project sites. We have worked in partnership with other organisations and helped to raise the profile of the branch within Surrey.

We have benefitted from working on so many amazing sites for wildlife, while undertaking valuable and much-needed habitat management.

LINK [Small Blue Project: work parties](#)

Transects

Bill Downey

THERE were 120 transects walked in 2018 with over 212,000 butterflies recorded.

This represents both the most transects walked in VC17 during a year and the most butterflies recorded.

I have said that 100 routes would be a maximum – and there does need to be an upper limit, as with more transects the network becomes harder to maintain.

However it is difficult to say no when enthusiastic new walkers come forward. One of BC's four strategic aims is "*to inspire people to understand and deliver species conservation*". Encouraging more people to engage in monitoring fits this bill.

Conservation volunteering and species monitoring are two sides of the same coin and at workparties it is noticeable how many of the volunteers are either transect or WCBS walkers.

Many activists come to monitoring from outside the branch, but many subsequently join. I note that BC CEO Julie Williams is



instigating a push for more volunteers and that recent appointments support the training and recognition of those who give their time for free. So for the time being I will continue to grow this network – albeit at a slower pace than in the past.

I start planning on Jan 1, and there is only a three

month window to do the ground work and train new walkers. One never knows if a new transect will come to fruition until it actually does, but I am hopeful of six new routes for 2019: *see next page*.

Surrey transects 2013+

	<i>Transects received</i>	<i>Walkers</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Section Records</i>	<i>Butterflies</i>
2013	47	72	40	17,000	72,100
2014	59	87	40	23,700	83,900
2015	82	103	42	29,600	103,200
2016	93	115	42	31,200	102,900
2017	105	115	42	41,100	176,000
2018	120	152	42	53,900	212,100

My thanks to the 2018 retirees for your many contributions.

John ChristliebBay Pond

Kama Cooper-WaldenLeith Hill Place

Barri RollandNonsuch Park

Martin BrownWimbledon Common
Daniel Greenwood: former LWT ranger at Sydenham Hill Woods, who has gone on to pastures new.

Walking a transect

A TRANSECT is a fixed-route, weekly walk, typically 1–3km, lasting 30–90 mins.

Volunteers record butterflies in a 5m band in suitable weather in the 26 weeks Apr–Sep, 10.45–15.45. Data is managed by the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

If you would like to walk a transect or help with an existing one (many are shared), please [email Bill Downey](#)

On our website's [Transects page](#):

How to view UKBMS data online

Surrey transect data to download

- Sort by species to see their sites & flight periods
- Sort by sites to see their species
- Transect walkers: see your own records at a glance

More Surrey transect data: pages 22-27

New transects for 2019

■ Frensham Ponds & Mare Hill

Common: I am working with two Waverley rangers, who would like to improve monitoring at these heathland sites. We plan a training day in April.

■ **Bookham Common:** at our AGM in 2017 Matthew Oates could not understand why the branch does not have a transect at one of our most important butterfly sites. The structure is now in place.

■ **Colley Hill:** there is little monitoring along the chalk of the Buckland Hills and a route here would plug this gap. The NT ranger is keen to have butterfly monitoring on the site in accordance with their Land, Outdoors and Nature policy.

■ **Ranmore Common:** NT would like a transect along the rides they have been widening in these woods. It would complement the walks at Polesden Lacey.

■ **Brockwell Park, Herne Hill:** a new transect for the Inner London Borough of Lambeth. It is the likely pilot site for the Big City Butterflies project, measuring how a more favourable form of grassland management could benefit biodiversity in London's green spaces. So it is important to start monitoring at the outset.

■ **Earlswood Common:** an interesting site on the sandy soils south of Reigate, with hairstreaks and a possible hideout for the Grizzled Skipper.

Transects with most species

Surrey 2018

Hutchinson's Bank	37	Quarry Hangers, Chaldon	31	Box Hill Dukes	29
Headley Warren	34	Sheepheas	31	Brockham Limeworks	29
Chipstead Downs	33	Betchworth Quarry	30	Gatwick North	29
Newlands Corner West	32	Box Hill Viewpoint	30	Norbury Park grassland	29
Box Hill Zig Zag	31	Clandon Wood	30	Pewley Down	29
Denbies Landbarn	31	Denbies Hillside Secretary's	30	The Mount, Guildford	29
Juniper Hill, Epsom Downs	31	Newlands Corner East	30		
Marrow Downs	31	Oxted Downs	30		

Surrey on board

SURREY Chair Simon Saville was one of six candidates elected to BC's Board of Trustees at November's National AGM. He joins existing Surrey members Karen Goldie-Morrison & Michael Johnston.

David Hanson (right), who retired last year after 20 years as National Treasurer, was awarded a Vice-President certificate.

Three other Vice-Presidents are also Surrey members: Ian Hardy, Julian Gibbs & Tony Hoare.



Photo by Ilija Vukomanovic

David Hanson accepts his Vice-President certificate

Oaken Wood

Bill Downey

THE Conservation Group has again worked a full season of winter workparties, with the last session on March 7.

This season is the third of a four-year recovery programme. BC's plan is to manage for the Wood White and rare moths such as the Betony Case-bearer, and to maintain liaison with the Forestry Commission.

Work this winter has focused on:

- Taking out small scrub and clearing out the ditch alongside Track Two – which runs along the south of the reserve.
- Installing deer fencing in two locations.
- Continuing the cutting and widening of the rides.
- Thinning out much of the Aspen, which was shading the Betony ride.
- Opening up Glade Three, in the woodland section close to the pond.

■ Clearing scrub from Track Three - running along the west side and one of the best Wood White areas.

Oaken Wood is very different to how it was three years ago and it is good to see much more sunlight coming into the reserve. A lot more Wood Whites were recorded there in 2018 – although it was a good year for the species – and we hope this trend will continue in 2019.

The Conservation Group has also supported the Small Blue Stepping Stones Project. If you would like to receive information about upcoming workparties, you can 'opt in' using this link:

[Conservation Group mailing list](#)



Oaken Wood volunteers: Jane Lowe, Geoff Pierce, Simon Riley, Bill Downey, John Tallon, Phil Darley, Sarah Henson, Dave Thomson, Philippa Mckee, Lucy Halahan, Harry Clarke.

Feb 2019, Steve Wheatley

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

Bill Downey

OF the 36 WCBS monads allocated to Surrey, 23 were walked in 2018. Virtually all the squares in the northern, central and eastern parts of VC17 are now taken – and there is a possible walker this year for the last remaining at Westminster.

However in the south and west of our area there are unclaimed squares, which are proving difficult to fill. The survey involves just four walks during the season along a 2km length – not so onerous as walking a transect.

If you could survey any of the vacant monads please [email Bill Downey](#)

My own experience is that butterfly monitoring gives me such a reward for the effort that I put in – and I hope that would be your experience too.

■ The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey monitors abundance away from hot-spots.

[LINK](#) [WCBS branch page](#)

Monad	Location	Walker	Monad	Location	Walker
SU8736	Hindhead		TQ1354	Bookham	Harry Clarke
SU8737	Beacon Hill		TQ1662	Chessington	
SU8748	Badshot Lea	Clare Grindrod	TQ2042	Newdigate	Jo Hurren
SU8960	Camberley		TQ2059	Epsom	Janet Cheney
SU9038	Bowlhead Green	Harry Clarke	TQ2355	Tadworth	Nicola Sainsbury
SU9047	Seale		TQ2562	Belmont	Morag Loader
SU9133	Haslemere		TQ2654	Mugswell	Janet Cheney
SU9150	Ash Green		TQ2657	Banstead Wood	Alison Gilry
SU9351	Normandy		TQ2759	Woodmansterne	Morag Loader
SU9364	Windlesham		TQ3045	Salfords	
SU9647	Compton	Gill Hanson	TQ3069	Norbury	Malcolm Bridge
SU9760	Chobham		TQ3079	Westminster	Danielle Wagner
SU9951	Guildford		TQ3269	Upper Norwood	Mike Pearce
TQ0071	Runnymede		TQ3279	Borough	Janet Cheney
TQ0944	Peaslake	Gill Hanson	TQ3378	Bermondsey	Simon Saville
TQ0960	Cobham	Roz Szanto	TQ3559	Hamsey Green	David Gough
TQ1144	Holmbury St Mary	Bill Downey	TQ3566	Shirley	Malcolm Bridge
TQ1247	Wotton	Graham Revill	TQ4352	Limpsfield Chart	Jim Yeeles

Other surveys

Bill Downey

■ **Brown Hairstreak:** I was unable to organise egg searches this winter. I plan look to resume these later in the year although I do not yet have any particular sites in mind.

■ **Purple Hairstreak:** there is a proposed methodology (canopy count) for PH transects and I want to start this in 2019. Many thanks to the people have expressed interest – I have not forgotten you.

■ **White-letter Hairstreak:** I intend to continue searching new locations in 2019 – wearing my hat as Species Champion. 2018 was an excellent year for the species and it was found more or less wherever there is suitable elm habitat. I detailed the new locations in the autumn Skipper but now want to track the species south and west to the Sussex and Hampshire borders.

[ELMS DOWNLOAD](#) [950 Surrey sites](#)

London's Lepidoptera

Simon Saville

The BIG City Butterflies project prompted me to look at the butterflies and moths in our branch's part of London –

Inner boroughs: Wandsworth, Lambeth, Southwark. **Outer boroughs:** Richmond, Kingston, Merton, Sutton, Croydon.

A remarkable total of 26 butterfly species were recorded last year on our six Inner London transects:

- Small, Essex & Large Skippers
- Brimstone, Large, Small & Green-veined Whites, Orange-tip
- Green, Purple & White-letter Hairstreaks
- Small Copper, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Holly Blue
- Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary
- Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet

Three additional species were seen on our eight Outer London transects: Clouded Yellow, White Admiral, Small Heath.

White-letter Hairstreaks have been seen all across SW London, including built-up

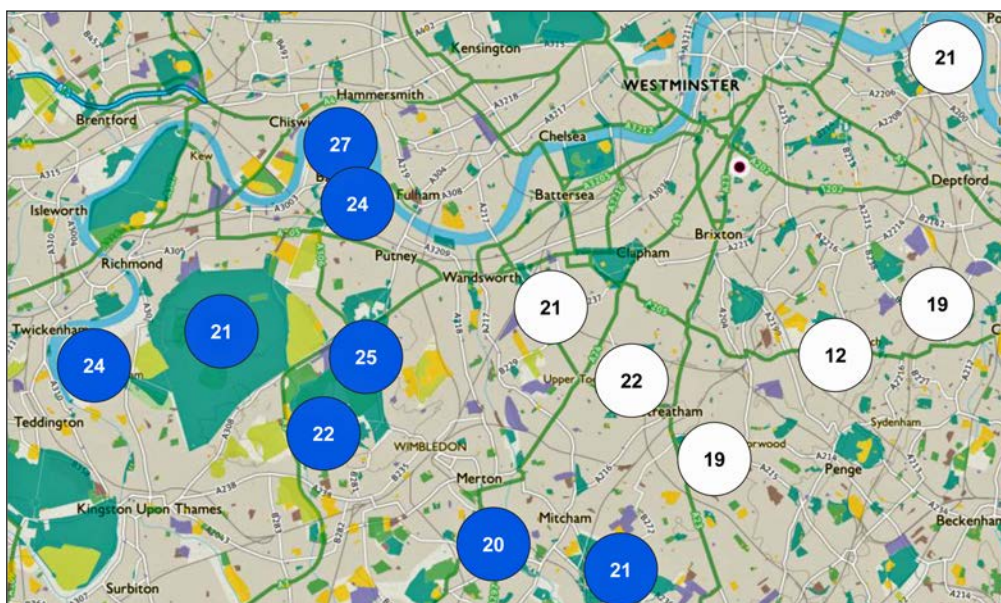
locations. It just seems to need Elms.

I run a moth trap in northern Lambeth. Species counts are low – 81 macros and 58 micros – but there are some interesting finds.

Moths listed in the books as notable or local seem well established in London, e.g. Small Ranunculus, Toadflax Brocade, Jersey Tiger and Tree Lichen Beauty. Gypsy Moth and Oak Processionary are now widespread in London. Among the micros, I had some Ringed China Mark and lots of Box Tree Moths. This latter is ravaging Box hedges across south London (including mine) and is continuing to spread.

It seems that London's micro-climate, caused by the Urban Heat Island effect (4-7C warmer than the countryside), together with the Thames gateway for migrants, and the prevalence of parks and gardens, makes it a good home for moths.

Hopefully, the BIG City Butterflies project will shed more light on London's under-recorded Lepidoptera. One thing is for sure: there is *#NatureUnderOurNoses* in London if we care to look!



London transects and their total butterfly species in 2018 (west to east)

- Outer** Ham Lands 24, Richmond Park 21, Wimbledon Common 22 & 25, Barnes Wetland Centre 27, Barnes Common 24, Morden Hall Park 20, Mitcham Common 21
- Inner** Wandsworth Common 21, Tooting Common 22, Streatham Common 19, Sydenham Hill Woods (*limited walks*) 12, One Tree Hill 19, Stave Hill Ecological Park 21

Field trips

Mike Weller

FIELD trips are open to branch members and their guests, who normally do not need to contact the leader in advance. Non-members are welcome but should contact MW in advance.

■ Postcode & grid reference indicate meeting place.

■ Unless stated otherwise, walks start at 11am, lasting until mid-afternoon. Lunch, drinks, walking boots, hat, sunscreen & close-focusing binoculars are advised.

NO DOGS PLEASE

■ Canceled/postponed dates will be posted on

www.butterfly-conservation.org/surrey

■ To join our contacts, please email surreybranch@gmail.com



APRIL

25 Thu **MORNING ONLY** Ham Lands TW10 7RS, TQ169731: car park south of Thames at north end of Ham Street, Petersham. *Early flyers* **Leader: MB**

MAY

- | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|
| 1 Wed | Sheepleas, West Horsley KT24 6AN, TQ088525: car park behind St Mary's church, south of A246 between East & West Horsley. <i>Spring Skippers, Green Hairstreak, Vanessids</i> | CH |
| 7 Tue | West Hanger GU5 9TE, TQ070493: West Hanger car park, west side of Staple Lane, 1m N of A25. <i>STEEP! Spring Skippers</i> | FK |
| 11 Sat | MORNING ONLY Newdigate Brickworks RH5 5DN, TQ20324260: SWT car park. Coming south along Hogspudding Lane (aka New Barn Lane), turn first left into Mulberry Place then keep left. <i>Spring Skippers, Green Hs</i> | RS |
| 12 Sun | Denbies Hillside RH5 6SR, TQ141503: Ranmore NT car park east. <i>STEEP! Spring Skippers & Blues, Green Hairstreak</i> | RE |
| 14 Tue | Sidney Wood GU6 8JG, TQ02673526: car park on south side of Dunsfold Road, 1m west of A281 Alfold Crossways; afternoon car share to Oaken Wood . <i>Spring Skippers, Wood White</i> | FK |
| 15 Wed | Hutchinson's Bank CR0 9AD, TQ377619: Farleigh Dean Crescent, east of Featherbed Lane, 1.5km south of A2022. <i>Spring Skippers, Green Hairstreak</i> | MB |
| 21 Tue | Brookwood Cemetery GU24 0JE, SU946560: Avenue de Cagny, Pirbright Green. <i>Grizzled Skipper, Green Hairstreak</i> | FK |
| 25 Sat | Norbury Park KT23 4BP, TQ146543: cul-de-sac end of Downs Way, Great Bookham, south of A246 Leatherhead–Guildford road. Park considerably in residential road. <i>Downland species</i> | MW |
| 26 Sun | Merrow & Pewley Downs GU1 2QP, TQ022499: car park on right at top of High Path Rd or Grove Rd, off A246 Epsom Rd. <i>Small Blue</i> | CH |
| 29 Wed | Hutchinson's Bank : see May 15. <i>Spring butterflies</i> | MB |

JUNE

- 1 Sat **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Howell Hill SM2 7HS, TQ236622:
St Paul's church at roundabout junction of A232 & Northey Avenue, Cheam.
Park considerably in residential roads. *Small Blue* MW
-
- 2 Sun **Denbies Hillside:** see May 12. *Adonis Blue* RS
-
- 5 Wed **10.30-3.30** River Tillingbourne & ponds GU5 9BE, TQ04374789: park in field on south side of Chilworth Rd (A248), opp. Vale End, 0.5km west of Albury.
Common Blue, Scarce Chaser. Joint meeting with Dragonfly Society. **FK**
-
- 13 Thu **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill BN6 8SQ, TQ335181:
car park on B2113, Folders Lane East, 400m east of B2112. *Black Hairstreak* RS
Car share: meet 9.20 Ryka's car park RH5 6BY, Burford Bridge roundabout on A24 below Box Hill. Please arrange with Mike Weller before Wed 12th.
-
- 16 Sun **Box Hill** KT20 7LB, TQ179513: NT car park opposite shop.
Beware cyclists! *Dark Green Fritillary, orchids* DW
-
- 18 Tue **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Fairmile Common KT11 1BG, TQ12089 61764:
Lakewood car park, **EAST** of A307, 2.25km NE of Cobham, south of A3 flyover.
Silver-studded Blue MW
-
- 19 Wed **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Roundshaw Downs CR8 3QL, TQ305628: Plough Lane, north of Foresters Drive, Wallington; park on street. *Skippers & Browns* DW
-
- 20 Thu **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Tooting Common SW16 1RU, TQ29407189:
Tooting Bec Lido car park, north of A214, opposite Aldrington Rd.
Tube: Tooting Bec 1m, with regular bus service; **Train:** Balham or Streatham.
White-letter Hairstreak AW
-
- 23 Sun **Norbury Park:** see May 25 and note new meeting point.
Down/woodland species MW
-
- 26 Wed **St Martha's & Newlands Corner** GU5 9BQ, TQ035485:
car park east of St Martha's Hill, Guildford Lane. Via Albury: north of A248;
via Guildford: south of White Lane. *Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled White* RS
-
- 27 Thu **Whitmoor Common** GU3 3RN, SU987542: car park by Jolly Farmer pub.
From A3 southbound, take Burpham/Merrow exit.
From A320, north of Guildford, take Burdenshott Rd NW for 1km.
Silver-studded Blue, Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral MW
-
- 29 Sat **Bookham Common** KT23 3JG, TQ130557: NT Tunnel car park, north of Church Rd, 200m east of Bookham railway station.
Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral MW

Leaders

Malcolm Bridge ..07806 253331, 020 8289 3839
Robert Edmondson01306 885085
Alison Gilry07736 962466
Clive Huggins07952 964253, 020 8942 7846
Nigel Jackman ..07792 407963, 020 8391 4437

Francis Kelly07952 285661, 01483 278432
Ken Owen07715 350368
Richard Stephens 07815 444166, 01342 892022
Dave Warburton07736 338366
Mike Weller07918 171179, 01306 882097
Alan Wilkinson07766 992800

JULY

- 1 Mon **10.30 Knepp Wildland** RH13 8NN, TQ15642034:
New Barn Farm, Swallows Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex, 22 miles sth of Dorking.
Purple Emperor car park £10, incl map, drink and use of facilities.
Directions: from A24, 2m south of A272, turn right across the dual carriageway into Worthing Rd; after 500m turn sharp right into Swallows Lane;
Knepp entrance is 200m on left.
Car share: meet 9.30 Ryka's car park RH5 6BY, Burford Bridge roundabout on A24 below Box Hill. Please arrange with Mike Weller before Sun 30th.
LINK [Knepp: Purple Emperor car park](#) *Purple Emperor, hopefully lots! RS*
-
- 3 Wed **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Shalford Mill GU4 8ER, TQ00154735: park in Orchard Rd; walk 250m north along A281 to NT sign and turn right (no parking at Mill).
Explore new site with NT; £3 fee includes coffee/cake. FK
-
- 4 Thu **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Epsom Common KT18 7TR, TQ182611: Stew Ponds car park, south of Christ Church Rd. *Purple Emperor, White Admiral* **AG**
-
- 7 Sun **Holmwood Common** RH5 4DT, TQ182463: Scammels car park on brow of hill, west of Blackbrook Rd (Dorking–Newdigate). *Purple Hairstreak*
14.00 Inholms Clay Pit RH5 4TU, TQ175474: park in Holmbury Drive. **MW**
-
- 9 Tue **10.30 MORNING ONLY** Nonsuch Park, Cheam SM3 8DP, TQ236634:
The Avenue car park, west of A232 junction. *White-letter Hairstreak* **KO**
-
- 10 Wed **Sheepleas, West Horsley:** see May 1. *Purple Emperor* **CH**
-
- 11 Thu **Ashtead Common** KT21 2DU, TQ179589: Ashtead Common estate office; go over level crossing at Ashtead railway station, then left 200m along Woodfield Rd. Park considerably before level crossing or at far end of Woodfield Rd.
Purple Emperor, White Admiral **MW**
-
- 13 Sat **14.00 Walton Downs & Juniper Hill, Epsom** KT18 5PP, TQ222578:
large car park inside racecourse, SE corner.
Cross the racecourse east of grandstand at junction of Tattenham Corner Rd & Old London Rd; follow the track round. *Chalkhill Blue* **MW**
-
- 14 Sun **Hutchinson's Bank:** see May 15. *Dark Green Fritillary* **MB**
-
- 16 Tue **Broadstreet Common** GU2 8LW, SU968509: Hartshill, Park Barn, Guildford.
From A323 Aldershot Rd turn west into Broad Street (heading towards Wood Street village); after 250m, 2nd-left – Broadacres;
1st right – Wood Rise; keep right at roundabout into Barnwood Rd; turn right at T-junction into Cabell Rd; 1st right into Hartshill.
Park in residential street. *Wood/grassland species* **MW**
-
- 20 Sat **Headley Heath** KT18 6NN, TQ204538: Main (not Brimmer) car park, west of B2033 Headley Common Rd, 200m south of Leech Lane. STEEP.
Purple Emperor, Small Copper, Silver-spotted Skipper **CH**
-
- 23 Tue **Dawney Heath & Brookwood Cemetery:** see May 21. *Grayling* **FK**

EMERGENCY Call 112, wait 1 min. If no reception, turn round and retry.
If still no contact, text 112.

- 25 Thu **Great Train Journey East: VERY STEEP!** dep Dorking DEEPDENE **9.14 (check)**, arr Betchworth 9.19 (you could join here). 6km return walk via Betchworth & Brockham Chalk Pits and Box Hill Dukes. End at Stepping Stones NT car park (RH5 6AE, TQ171513), 600m south of Burford Bridge roundabout, east of A24. We advise to park here and walk 1.4km (15min) south along A24, past Dorking Main, to Deepdene Station.
25+ species, incl. Silver-spotted Skipper, Chalkhill Blue **MW**
-
- 27 Sat **10.30 'Vale End', Tillingbourne Valley, St Martha's Hill, Albury Downs** GU5 9BE, TQ04374789: we are invited to Vale End, home of Daphne and the late John Foulsham, north side of Chilworth Rd (A248), 0.5km west of Albury. Park in field opposite on south side. After coffee & biscuits we wander along the Tillingbourne Valley then steeply up onto Albury Downs; return downhill for tea & cakes. End 4pm. *Chalkhill Blue* **MW**
-
- 30 Tue **Reigate & Colley Hills** RH2 9RP, TQ263523: 400m SE of M25 J8; from A217 (no right turn) take 1st-left towards Gatton – NT car park is immediately signposted. *Silver-spotted Skipper, Chalkhill Blue* **KO**

AUGUST

- 3 Sat **Great Train Journey West: VERY STEEP!**
dep Dorking DEEPDENE **9.42 (check)**, arr Gomshall 9.49 (you could join here). 10km return walk over some of the finest butterfly country on the Downs.
Parking options:
1 Dorking Main station (RH4 1TF, TQ170503), 250m north of Deepdene, £3+.
2 Ashcombe Road, west end (RH4 1NB, TQ161500) is on return route, 1.3km (15 min) west of Deepdene: cross A24 via underpass, turn right. **RS**
-
- 11 Sun **Box Hill:** see Jun 16: STEEP walk to Lower Viewpoint & Dukes.
Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper **RE**
-
- 13 Tue **14.00 AFTERNOON ONLY Bookham Common:** see Jun 29. *Brown Hairstreak* **MW**
-
- 18 Sun **Denbies Hillside:** see May 12: STEEP! *Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper* **RS**
-
- 20 Tue **10.30 MORNING ONLY Bookham Common:** see Jun 29.
repeat of previous week's visit for Brown Hairstreak **CH**
-
- 22 Thu **10.30 MORNING ONLY Newdigate Brickworks:** see May 11. *Brown Hairstreak* **RS**
-
- 27 Tue **Little Mead, Cranleigh** GU6 8LT, TQ04603985: Notcutts Garden Centre, B2128 Guildford Rd, 1.2km NW of village. *Brown Hairstreak* **FK**

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sun **Merrow & Pewley Downs:** see May 26. *Brown Hairstreak* **NJ**

Field trips are also on the *Surreybranch* Google calendar.

Use link below to share to your own calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/b/1?cid=c3VycmV5YnJhbmNoQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>

Marsh Fritillary reintroduction update

The Marsh Fritillary is being reintroduced to north-east Hants, two miles from the Surrey border. Adults were flying last spring.

AFTER all the hard work spent caring for 1,000s of Marsh Fritillary larvae over the summer it was a relief to see the remaining captive stock head into their winter hibernacula webs in September.

Plants can be refreshed and sorted out and repairs made to the cages or breeding tubs. Predator activity falls away and long daily checks can be replaced with shorter weekly inspections.

The winter was relatively incident-free with only one fresh incursion into the breeding cages by a mammalian vandal of some description or other. The first few larvae to emerge from hibernation were seen on January 4, a record for the project, but within a week a massive aggregation was photographed basking on dry *Molinia* grasses (*photo: Andy Barker*).

The larvae continued to emerge as the winter cold receded, initially basking on their webs before venturing onto dry Devil's-bit Scabious leaves or the frames of the breeding cages. Warmth is a precious resource in January and February for a small caterpillar.



All these larvae will be released into the wild this spring, marking the end of the breeding phase of the project. Hopes will rest on a successful adult emergence and mating season. Every year we hope for good butterfly weather, but would it be too much to ask for especially good weather in north-east Hampshire this year? Fingers crossed.

Clive Wood

Hampshire Marsh Fritillary Action Group

DATES

Jan-Dec Butterfly House,
Horniman Gardens SE23

Mar 30 Butterfly Recorders, Birmingham

Apr 1 Transect season starts

Apr 25 First Surrey field trip

May 18 Wildlife Gardener's Day,
London Wetland Centre

May 18 Nunhead Cemetery Open Day

Jun 9 World Swallowtail Day:
Wheatfen, Norfolk

Jul 6 ■ **Surrey New Members' Day,**
Ashted Common

Jul 19 Big Butterfly Count, to Aug 11

Jul 20-21 Lambeth Country Show

Jul 20-28 London National Park City Festival

Sep 1 Final Surrey field trip

Sep 26-28 Moth Night

Sep 29 Transect season ends

Oct 12 Amateur Entomologists' Society
Annual Exhibition & Trade Fair:
Kempton 11.00-16.30

Oct 31 *Transect records to be online please*

Nov 2 ■ **Surrey AGM, Effingham**

Nov 17 Hampshire AGM

Email Appeal

Francis Kelly

Members whose email address bounces,
or who have joined since 2000 and never supplied one.

Thelma Amer	Neil Covey	Kathleen Hogg	Ransford Rowe
June Anderson	Barbara Crake	Simon Howorth	Allen Russell-Smith
Emma Baker	Brian Crawford	Stephen Jackson	Peter Shaw-Ashton
Alexander Ballingal	Christine Crawley	Wanda Jay	Peter Shelley
Matthew Banner	Paul Crook	Kathleen Knowles	Susan Shore
Alec Baxter-Brown	Susan & Zoe Davies	Patrick & Rosamund	Leslie Smith
David Boothroyd	Stephen Davis	Manson	Jennifer Spring-Smyth
Richard Bosanquet	Marc Duveen	Trudy Mapstone	Henry Stapleton
Mary Bridge	Conway	Thomas McKay	Jennifer Stiasny
Mark Brook &	Colin Ede	Neil McMillan	William Straker
Amanda Bowen	Peter Edwards	Mike Metherall	Bill Swinglehurst
Dorothy Brookes	Alan Edwards	Hazel Morgan	Judith Symons
Judith Browning	Conrad Eilts	Nancy Murphy	Judy Tanner
Valerie Butt	Margaret Gunning	Ian Newlands	Kim Tremearne
Martin Cale	Katherine Haire	Vivien Oakes	Colin Turner
Frank Cannings	Charles Hales-Hunt	Jean Parker	Jane Wagner-Hodges
Patrick Chapman	Trevor Harris	Patricia Perkins	Alistair Wilson
Tim & Sue Cleminson	Neil Hayter	Janet Richens	Jean Winn
Judy Cobbett	Michael Healy	Jill Rigby	Alexandra Young
Maureen Conway	John Heward	Monica Rogers	
Sheila Cooper	Pamela Hill	Christa Rohde	
Mark Cosgrove	Philip Hills	Patricia Ross	

If you did not receive an email alert to this Skipper, we do not hold a valid email address for you. We have some addresses that bounce.

If you have email, please inform surreybranch@gmail.com. This will allow us to save printing costs and direct more money towards conservation.

Oaken Wood

OAKEN WOOD, formally opened by FC senior ranger Peter Beale in 1993, and our branch reserve since 1995, is 12ha (30 acres) of wood/grassland in the south-west of Surrey, 2.6km south of Dunsfold. It is part of Forestry Commission's 324ha Chiddingfold Forest.

A 3ha extension west to Lagfold track was added in 2015. Our licence was renewed for five years in Jan 2018.

Access: SU993338, via track (usually no vehicular access) that runs west from Plaistow Rd at SU994338; GU8 4PG. Parking for only a few cars.

Western (Botany Bay) entrance to Chiddingfold Forest is off High Street Green at SU978348; GU8 4YA. Parking here is slightly easier; beware roadside ditches! Oaken Wood is 2.5km to the east.

■ Volunteers are invited to our winter work parties. Please **email Bill Downey**

Weather Watch

DAVID GRADIDGE

I saw four Brimstones today, Feb 24: probably nothing unusual to many of you given the persistence of the unseasonably warm weather.

However, when I wrote this time last year, it was “the beast from the east” all over the press with snow and seriously low temperatures.

The odd thing about last winter was that we in the south east had not had many events of severe cold winds from Siberia in recent years, so last year was a shock to the system.

Last year will be remembered for the hot summer and especially the very dry June. This had a wonderful effect on some, but certainly not all, species. Common Blue and Small Heath on the local Downs had record numbers.

Looking at 2018 overall, it was a very sunny year, rather dry overall and near a record for temperature.

While no season broke sunshine records, winter, summer and autumn were in all in the top five for records going back to 1929 in the south east. Only spring let things down.

Apart from the extreme lack of rain for much of the summer, overall, for the 4th year running the annual total was in the narrow range of 726 to 776mm. Temperatures continued the run of warm years, not quite a record but the three months from May to July certainly were.

England SE & Central South

Anomaly columns shows comparison with 30-year average, 1981-2010

Yellow: warm/sunny; **Blue:** wet
Red: year's warmest/sunniest; **Black:** wettest

	Temp C		Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Mean	Anom	Hours	Anom	mm	Anom
2016	10.8	+0.5	1,664	102%	755	96%
Annual						
2017						
Jan	3.7	-0.9	78	132%	83	104%
Feb	6.4	+1.9	54	68%	54	97%
Mar	9.2	+2.5	132	115%	44	76%
Apr	9.4	+0.7	205	121%	10	18%
May	13.5	+1.5	199	99%	69	127%
Jun	16.9	+2.1	244	121%	58	114%
Jul	17.8	+0.7	207	97%	104	200%
Aug	16.4	-0.5	201	99%	73	127%
Sep	14.0	-0.5	138	93%	72	115%
Oct	12.7	+1.6	96	85%	32	34%
Nov	7.1	-0.3	84	118%	50	58%
Dec	5.2	+0.2	53	104%	107	128%
Annual	11.1	+0.7	1,692	104%	756	96%
2018						
Jan	6.0	+1.4	57	97%	82	102%
Feb	2.9	-1.6	116	147%	41	74%
Mar	5.5	-1.3	78	68%	103	178%
Apr	10.5	+2.5	137	89%	81	155%
May	13.7	+1.8	269	134%	56	103%
Jun	16.6	+1.8	266	132%	3	6%
Jul	20.0	+2.9	301	140%	31	60%
Aug	17.5	+0.6	194	95%	68	119%
Sep	7.2	+2.3	47	91%	102	121%
Oct	11.3	+0.2	147	130%	55	59%
Nov	8.4	+1.0	75	105%	115	131%
Dec	7.2	+2.3	47	91%	102	121%
Annual	11.2	+0.9	1,874	115%	776	99%
2019						
Jan	4.0	-0.6	59	100%	34	42%
Feb	6.6	+2.0	125	159%	56	102%

Looking back at rainfall since 2000, we have even years being very wet - 2000, 2002, 2012 & 2014 (all in the top 6) and odd years being very dry - 2003, 2005 & 2011 (all in the bottom 10). There is something called the NAO - North Atlantic Oscillation, that might be the reason. So far 2019 is starting dry with moorland fires already being reported.

Surrey transects

top single count in each week

Week number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
2018	APRIL					MAY					JUNE				JULY					AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			
	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	
Brimstone	15	28	43	47	46	40	33	37	21	16	9	8	11	17	21	18	17	12	2	3	4	3	2	6	3	4	
Comma	9	11	8	4	10	6	4	3	2	3	4	12	15	8	15	11	8	5	5	7	3	4	3	3	1	1	
Peacock	5	8	18	9	9	8	9	6	3	2	2	1	1	8	8	4	2	10	4	1	3	4	1	4	1	1	
Small Tort	5	4	36	3	5	7	6	4	2	3	2	4	6	5	2	2	2		2			2	1	1	2	1	
Red Admiral	1	2	3	3	4	1	2	1	2	2	4	4	3	4	6	4	8	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	
Small White	1	2	5	29	22	22	31	16	11	15	3	11	24	70	73	89	65	46	49	27	26	24	26	16	26	11	
Speck Wood		2	3	12	30	13	17	7	19	57	38	23	16	15	19	26	39	28	40	43	48	87	50	45	38	23	
Orange-tip		1	7	17	24	18	7	9	5	1	1					1											
Holly Blue		1	6	8	9	16	10	15	17	10	4	5	8	9	10	22	15	22	11	28	13	5	6	2	2	1	
GV White		1	4	5	21	13	11	8	4	9	1	4	7	19	39	47	15	19	26	4	7	6	6	7	7	5	
Large White		1	2	12	8	18	18	7	6	14	4	21	58	46	59	40	37	47	36	16	26	18	14	7	3	3	
Green Hstrk			1	1	4	13	10	9	4	5	2																
Dingy Sk			1	1		8	34	32	18	27	10	3	2	1			1										
Small Copper			1		2	1	11	11	9	3	10	2	4	5	22	27	30	19	13	10	7	10	22	44	66	30	
Grizzled Sk				1	6	9	8	10	12	7	8	2															
Common Blue					21	3	42	116	137	115	42	26	42	19	32	59	179	454	389	153	101	27	37	11	9	13	
Painted Lady					1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	7	2	2	2	1		1	1	
Wood White						8	27	18	22	8		1	1		8	165	28	80	4								
Small Heath						3	16	28	43	55	71	62	68	33	42	27	13	37	53	68	52	59	71	37	21	14	
Brown Argus						1	5	7	7	8	11	22	20	21	18	30	40	139	28	91	23	28	10	5	4	2	
Adonis Blue							35	92	87	50	31	6					5	25	40	67	109	46	44	17	7	4	
Small Blue							28	42	56	141	126	36	22	6	11	20	14	9	4	1	2						
Glanville Frit							3	3		2																	
Meadow Br									4	34	142	302	535	584	318	373	251	253	166	139	64	55	40	28	15	11	
Large Sk									4	26	17	33	50	38	25	8	7	5	1								
Cl Yellow									2			2				4	3	4	1	2	1		2	1	1	1	
Silver-st Blue									1	53	178	184	79	66	10	2	3	6		1							
Ringlet										2	21	104	209	286	136	64	42	21	14		2						
Sm/Essex Sk										3	5	28	347	689	145	38	6	4	2								
Small Sk										3	4	6	53	47	14	7	3	1									
Essex Sk											3	5	12	32	35	5	3	1									
Marbled W											19	154	601	315	145	46	27	1	9								
W Admiral											5	14	13	11	5	2	1										
Dark Grn Frit											4	31	49	41	12	4	4	2	2	1	1						
Purple Hstrk											2	10	12	26	47	47	43	24	6	5	2		1				
WL Hstrk												7	2	3	2	5	1										
SW Frit												3	26	49	33	44	35	73	7	4	2	8	3	2			
Purple Emp												1			2	1	2										
Gatekeeper													43	126	205	237	140	110	41	33	29	27	43	13			
Grayling													8	2	16	9	17	18	24	26	20	14	14	6	2	1	
Chalkhill Blue														5	53	106	126	187	155	72	40	35	16	4	1		
Brown Hstrk															1	1	5	2	3	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	
Silver-sp Sk																4	52	28	49	18	15	13	18	7			

Glanville Fritillary is unofficial release

■ 15 species beat or equalled their top single count of the 21st century in 2018 (see figures in red on next page). Most notable records were Wood White 165 (from 37), Brown Argus 139 (67) & Common Blue 454 (243). Migrant numbers (Cl Yellow, P Lady & Red Admiral) were low.

■ Purple Emperor and three Hairstreaks (Brown, Purple, White-letter), being largely arboreal, are unsuited to transect recording.

■ Excludes a few unverified records with extreme dates

Surrey transects

season's top single count

2018			<i>Red: 21st-century top</i>	<i>Top count 2000-17</i>
<i>Small/Essex Skipper</i>	Jul 6	<i>Nonsuch Park</i>	689	450
Marbled White	Jun 28	<i>Chipstead Downs</i>	601	451
Meadow Brown	Jul 2	<i>West End Farm, Frensham</i>	584	846
Common Blue	Aug 1	<i>Oxted Downs</i>	454	243
Ringlet	Jul 2	<i>West End Farm, Frensham</i>	286	412
Gatekeeper	Jul 18	<i>Norbury Park</i>	237	248
Chalkhill Blue	Aug 1	<i>Denbies Landbarn</i>	187	3,308
Silver-studded Blue	Jun 22	<i>Fairmile Common</i>	184	268
Wood White	Jul 21	<i>Chiddingfold Forest E</i>	165	37
Small Blue	Jun 6	<i>Hutchinson's Bank</i>	141	170
Brown Argus	Aug 1	<i>Norbury Park</i>	139	67
Adonis Blue	Aug 23	<i>Denbies Landbarn</i>	109	600
Small White	Jul 18	<i>Stave Hill</i>	89	82
Speckled Wood	Aug 30	<i>Ashted Common</i>	87	79
Silver-washed Fritillary	Aug 1	<i>Chiddingfold Forest W</i>	73	55
Small Heath	Jun 11	<i>Park Downs, Banstead</i>	71	175
Small Copper	Sep 16	<i>Juniper Hill, Epsom</i>	66	61
Large White	Jul 14	<i>Ashted Common</i>	59	147
<i>Small Skipper</i>	Jun 28	<i>Nonsuch Park</i>	53	156
Silver-spotted Skipper	Jul 23	<i>Headley Warren</i>	52	99
Large Skipper	Jun 30	<i>Ashted Common</i>	50	94
Dark Green Fritillary	Jun 25	<i>Box Hill Viewpoint</i>	49	80
Brimstone	Apr 22	<i>Riddlesdown</i>	47	81
Green-veined White	Jul 21	<i>Ashted Common</i>	47	41
Purple Hairstreak	Jul 11	<i>Holmwood Common</i>	47	29
Small Tortoiseshell	Apr 18	<i>Roundshaw Downs</i>	36	47
<i>Essex Skipper</i>	Jul 9	<i>Howell Hill</i>	35	66
Dingy Skipper	May 18	<i>Hutchinson's Bank</i>	34	54
Holly Blue	Aug 14	<i>Juniper Hill, Epsom</i>	28	21
Grayling	Aug 14	<i>Chobham Common NE</i>	26	56
Orange-tip	May 5	<i>Blindley Heath</i>	24	19
Peacock	Apr 18	<i>Roundshaw Downs</i>	18	32
Comma	Jun 24	<i>Morden Hall Park</i>	15	21
White Admiral	Jun 18	<i>Ashted Common</i>	14	26
Green Hairstreak	May 8	<i>Chipstead Downs</i>	13	17
Grizzled Skipper	May 30	<i>Headley Heath</i>	12	12
Red Admiral	Jul 23	<i>Sheepleas</i>	8	30
Painted Lady	Aug 5	<i>Ashted Common</i>	7	148
White-letter Hairstreak	Jun 22	<i>Tooting Common</i>	7	3
Brown Hairstreak	Jul 27	<i>Leith Hill</i>	5	6
Clouded Yellow	Jul 15	<i>Brockham Limeworks</i>	4	9
Purple Emperor	Jul 1	<i>Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea</i>	2	4

The 120 transects (up from 105)

Surrey 2018

Ashted Common B	Denbies Hillside	Leith Hill Place	RSPB Farnham Heath, East
Ashted Common North	Denbies Hillside:	Lingfield Wildlife Area	RSPB Farnham Heath,
Banstead Downs	Secretary's Field	Lloyd Park, Croydon	Tankersford
Barnes Common	Denbies Landbarn B	London Wetland Centre	Runnymede
Barossa & Poors Allotment	Dollypers Hill	Merrow Downs	Selsdon Wood
Bay Pond	Dulwich Park	Mitcham Common	Sheepleas
Bealeswood Common	Elstead Common	Morden Hall Park	Shortfield Common,
Betchworth Quarry	Epsom Common	New Hill, Coulsdon	Frensham
Blatchford Down	Fairmile Common	Newlands Corner East	Smithwood Common,
Blindley Heath	Farnham Park	Newlands Corner West	Cranleigh
Box Hill Dukes	Farthing Downs	Nonsuch Park	South Norwood CP
Box Hill Viewpoint	Foxley Wood	Norbury Park grassland	Spynes Mere
Box Hill Zig Zag	Gatwick Airport East	Norbury Park woodland	Stave Hill Ecology Park
Brentmoor Heath	Gatwick Airport North	Nore Hill	Streatham Common
Brentmoor Heath,	Hackhurst Down	Nower Wood	Swan Barn Farm,
Cuckoo Hill	Ham Lands	Oaken Wood West	Haslemere
Brockham Limeworks	Hankley Common	Oaken Wood, Chiddingfold	Sydenham Hill Woods &
Chapel Bank,	Happy Valley, Coulsdon	One Tree Hill &	Cox's Walk
New Addington	Hatchlands Park	Brenchley Gardens	The Mount, Guildford
Chiddingfold Forest East	Headley Heath	Oxted Downs, Gangers	Thursley Common
Chiddingfold Forest South	Headley Warren	Oxted Downs, Whistler's	Tice's Meadow,
Chiddingfold Forest West	Hill Park, Tatsfield	Park Downs, Banstead	Badshot Lea
Chipstead Downs &	Hogsmill LNR	Pewley Down	Tolworth Court Farm
Fames Rough	Holmwood Common	Polesden Lacey East	Tooting Common
Chobham Common NE	Horton CP North	Polesden Lacey West	Wandsworth Common
Chobham Common Sth	Horton CP, Epsom	Priest Hill, Ewell	Warren Farm, Ewell
Clandon Wood	Howell Hill	Quarry Hangers, Chaldon	Water Colours/Moors
Burial Ground	Hurst Meadows,	Reigate Heath	West End Farm, Frensham
Colekitchen	East Molesey	Richmond Park	West Hanger,
Coulsdon Common	Hutchinson's Bank	Riddlesdown Common	Shere Woodlands
Coulsdon Common,	Inholms Clay Pit	Riddlesdown Quarry	Whitmoor Common
Merlewood Far	Juniper Hill, Epsom Downs	Rodborough Common	Wimbledon Common
Dawney Heath &	Kenley Common	Roundshaw Downs	Wimbledon Common SW
Brookwood Cemetery	Langley Vale Wood	Royal & Bagmoor Commons	Witley Common

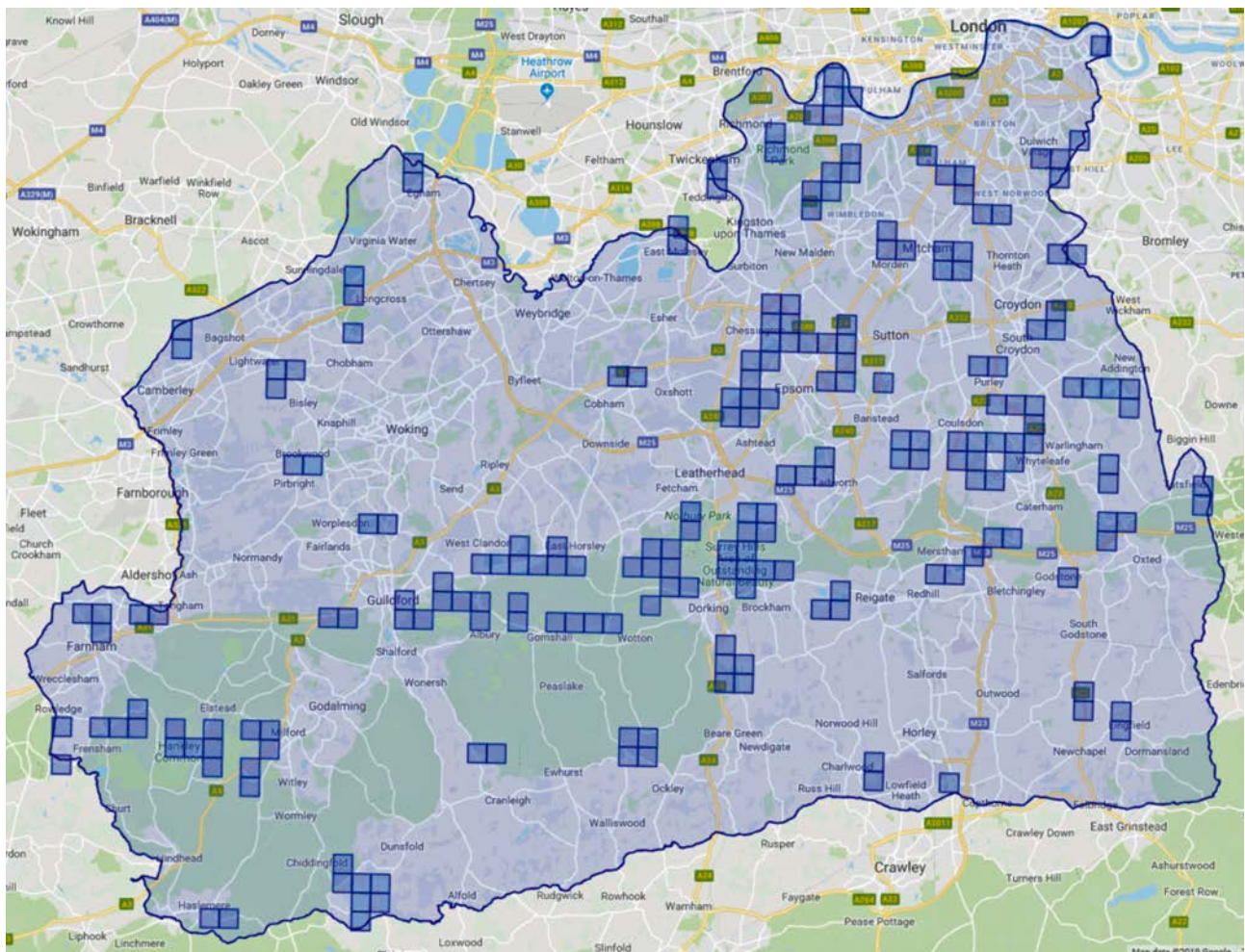
Presence on the 120 transects

Surrey 2018

Small White	119	Large Skipper	99	Dark Green Fritillary	31
Speckled Wood	119	Red Admiral	99	Chalkhill Blue	30
Gatekeeper	118	Small Copper	97	Grizzled Skipper	29
Large White	118	Marbled White	94	White Admiral	29
Meadow Brown	118	Small Heath	87	Clouded Yellow	23
Common Blue	115	Brown Argus	79	Small Blue	20
Brimstone	114	Essex Skipper	75	Silver-spotted Skipper	19
Ringlet	114	Small Tortoiseshell	75	Silver-studded Blue	14
Small Skipper	114	Silver-washed Fritillary	73	Grayling	13
Comma	108	Green Hairstreak	53	White-letter Hairstreak	11
Holly Blue	108	Purple Hairstreak	53	Adonis Blue	9
Peacock	105	Painted Lady	49	Purple Emperor	6
Green-veined White	104	Dingy Skipper	38	Wood White	5
Orange-tip	104	Brown Hairstreak	34		

217 monads covered by 120 transects

Surrey 2018



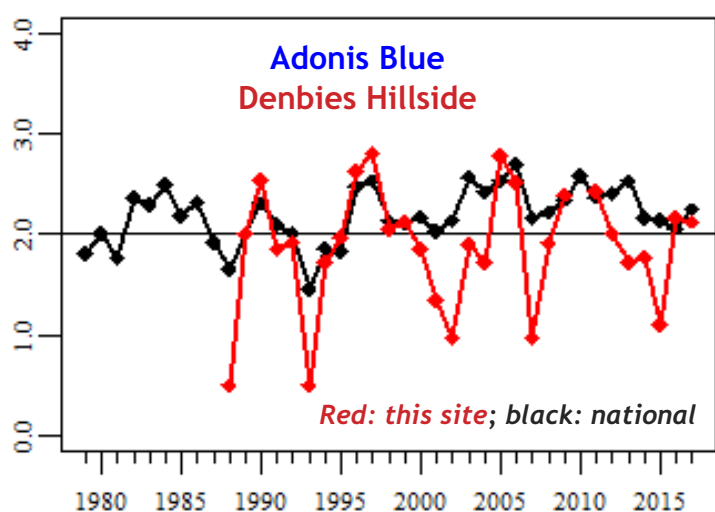
UKBMS abundance indices

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme website has thousands of abundance index charts, covering every species at every transect site. Some go back to the start of the scheme in 1976.

The example shows the fortunes of the Adonis Blue at Denbies Hillside.

■ The annual index is a statistical calculation of relative rather than actual abundance.

LINK www.ukbms.org/Sites.aspx



Woodland Wildlife Toolkit

Woodland Wildlife Toolkit is a new online tool. Use a grid reference or click on the

map to see a list of priority butterflies, moths and other wildlife at that location.

Transect walkers

Surrey 2018

Telmo Almeida	Janet Cheney	Anna Guerin	Gary Margetts	Trevor Sears
Jon Baker	John Christlieb	Lucy Halahan	Francisco Martinez	Nina Shishkin-Smith
Paul Batham	Cathy Clarke	Colin Hall	Alex McCafferty	Alan Sivell
Anita Bathurst	Sarah Clift	Jill Hall	Judith McNickle	Jenny Sparks
Dick Beales	Mayonne Coldicott	Philippa Hall	Cathy Mead	Richard Stephens
Dick Beasley	Julia Collyer	Pamela Harwood	Jonathan Mitchell	Eloise Stradling
Sam Bentley-Toon	Paul Cook	Roger Hawkins	Paul Moorhouse	Clare Street
Andrea Bessant	Graham Cotten	Gordon Hay	Kathy Morris	Mary Stuart-Jones
Bill Bessant	Daniel Creech	Clive Hewett	Chris Morton	Ros Szanto
Rachel Bicker	Pam Crump	Geoff Hewlett	Audrey Moss	John Tallon
Rob Bonfield	Ian Cunningham	Michael Hobbs	David Moss	Melinda Tenant-Flowers
Alison Bosence	Peter Cureton	Nick Hopkins	Stephen Nevard	Brian Thomas
Daniel Bound	Peter Curnock	Jack Hughes	Peter Newmark	Dave Thomson
Frank Boxell	Phil Darley	Gareth Hurd	Dominic North	Peter Trew
Doug Boyd	Donna Dawson	John Ingman	Ken Owen	Jacky Trinder
Penny Boyd	Bill Downey	Eleanor Ivens	Dave Page	Anne Tutt
Dave Braddock	Rachel Dowse	Gail Jeffcoate	Sophie Parker	June Wakefield
Ruth Bradshaw	Julia Edwards	Malcolm Jennings	Lindsay Patterson	John Walsh
Matt Bramich	Sarah Elliott	Derek Jones	Gill Peachey	David Warburton
Malcolm Bridge	Gillian Elsom	Michael Jones	Mike Pearce	Paul Wheeler
Martin Brown	Ken Elsom	Natalie Kay	Sandy Pepperell	Brian Whittle
Peter Brown	John Gall	Graham Kenward	Matt Phelps	Alan Wilkinson
Philip Bryan	Brian Gardner	Paul King-Fisher	Geoff Pierce	Martin Wills
Richard Bullock	Suzanne Gibbon	Kate Lake	Emma Pooley	Geoff Woodcock
Richard Burgess	Amelia Gibson	David Lamph	Nick Press	Jo Wright
Laura Burley	Mike Gibson	Mike Lawn	Robb Reeves	Jim Yeeles
Janet Cadera	Alison Gilry	Keith Lelliott	Simon Riley	Ruth Yeeles
John Cadera	Karen Goldie-Morrison	Eleanor Lines	David Robinson	Bob Yeo
Peter Camber	Jenny Green	Ian Machen	Mick Rock	
Nikki Campana	Daniel Greenwood	John Madden	Michael Rowland	
Susan Chadwick	Richard Grimshaw	Edwin Malins	Graham Saxby	

Transect indicators

Surrey 2013+

Top transect counts for Orange-tip, often the earliest emergent, and Silver-spotted Skipper, often the latest, may indicate an early or late year. In 2018:

■ Orange-tips, delayed by the “Beast from the East”, peaked two weeks later than 2017.

■ Silver-spotted Skippers relished the hot summer and peaked early.

Week number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orange-tip	APRIL					MAY					JUNE				JULY					AUGUST				SEPTEMBER		
	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23
2013				3	12	9	9	8	4	7	1	4														
2014	4	14	15	15	11	4	7	2		1	1	2														
2015	1	5	7	10	11	9	14	7	4	3	3	1	1													
2016		2	5	4	11	18	15	10	6	3	1			1		1										
2017	10	7	19	8	8	8	11	5	8	2											1					
2018		1	7	17	24	18	7	9	5	1	1					1										
Silver-spotted Skipper						6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
2013																	1	43	31	40	33	11	6			
2014																6	23	34	27	23	16	4	4	2		
2015																	2	13	31	62	43	22	10	4		
2016																1	2	12	21	27	15	12	4			
2017															3	2	7	13	15	37	30	32	8			
2018																4	52	28	49	18	15	13	18	7		

Priority species

Francis Kelly

SURREY has four Highest Priority and 10 High Priority species in the recently finalised *SE Conservation Strategy*.

The charts show the top single transect count for each of the last five years.

Brown/WL Hairstreaks, and Purple Emperor, being largely arboreal and unsuited to transect recording, are omitted.

Small Tortoiseshell, a species with fluctuating fortunes, is added.

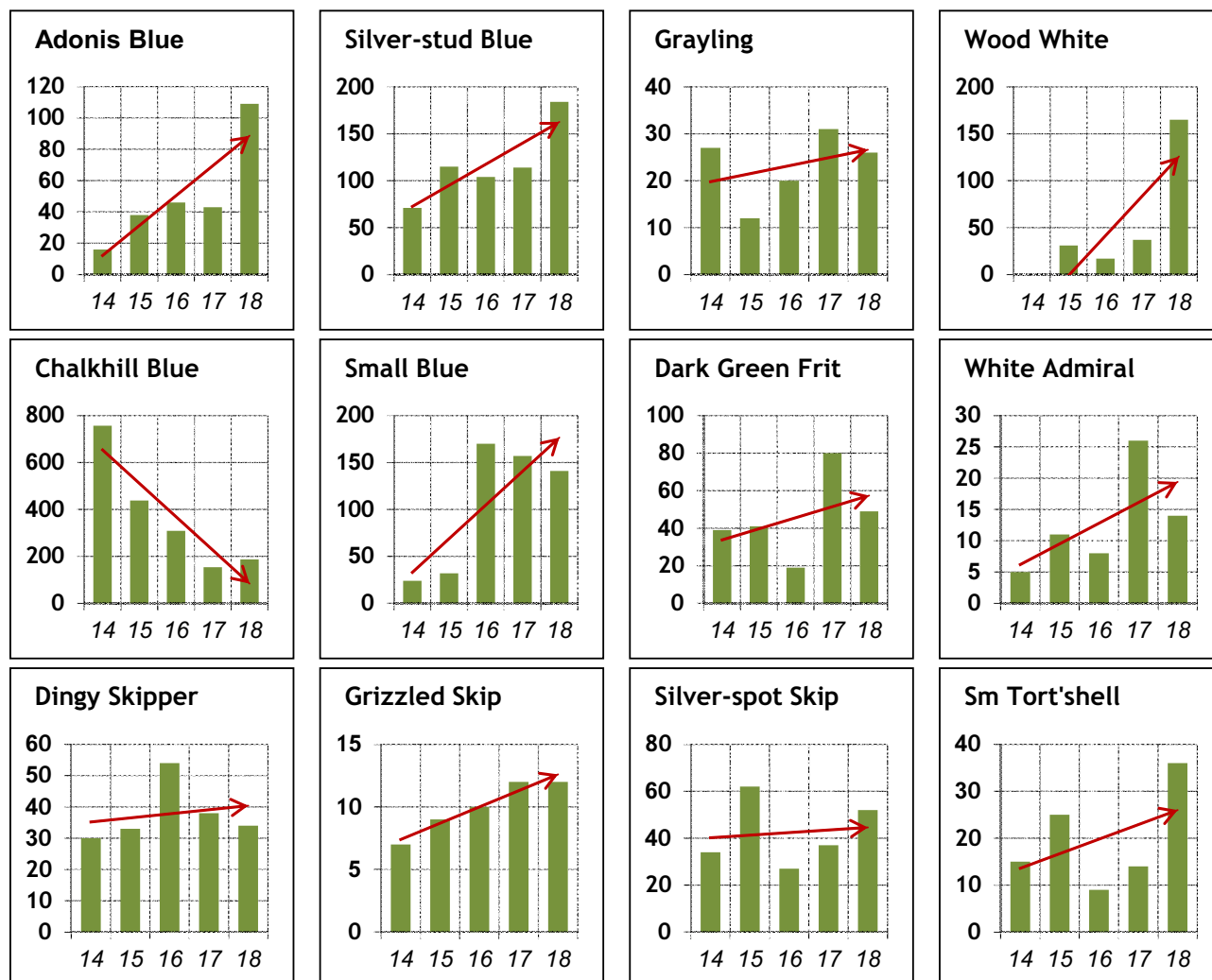
Highest Priority (4)

Adonis & Silver-studded Blue, Grayling, Wood White.

High Priority (10)

Dingy, Grizzled & Silver-spotted Skipper, Dark Green Fritillary, White Admiral, Purple Emperor, Brown & White-letter Hairstreak, Chalkhill & Small Blue.

LINK [Conservation Strategy, SE England 2016-2025](#)



REMEMBERING Butterfly Conservation in your will is one of the most effective ways to help ensure butterflies and moths thrive in years to come. Legacies represent over a third of our voluntary income and make a crucial contribution to our work.

■ Please contact Dorset head office:

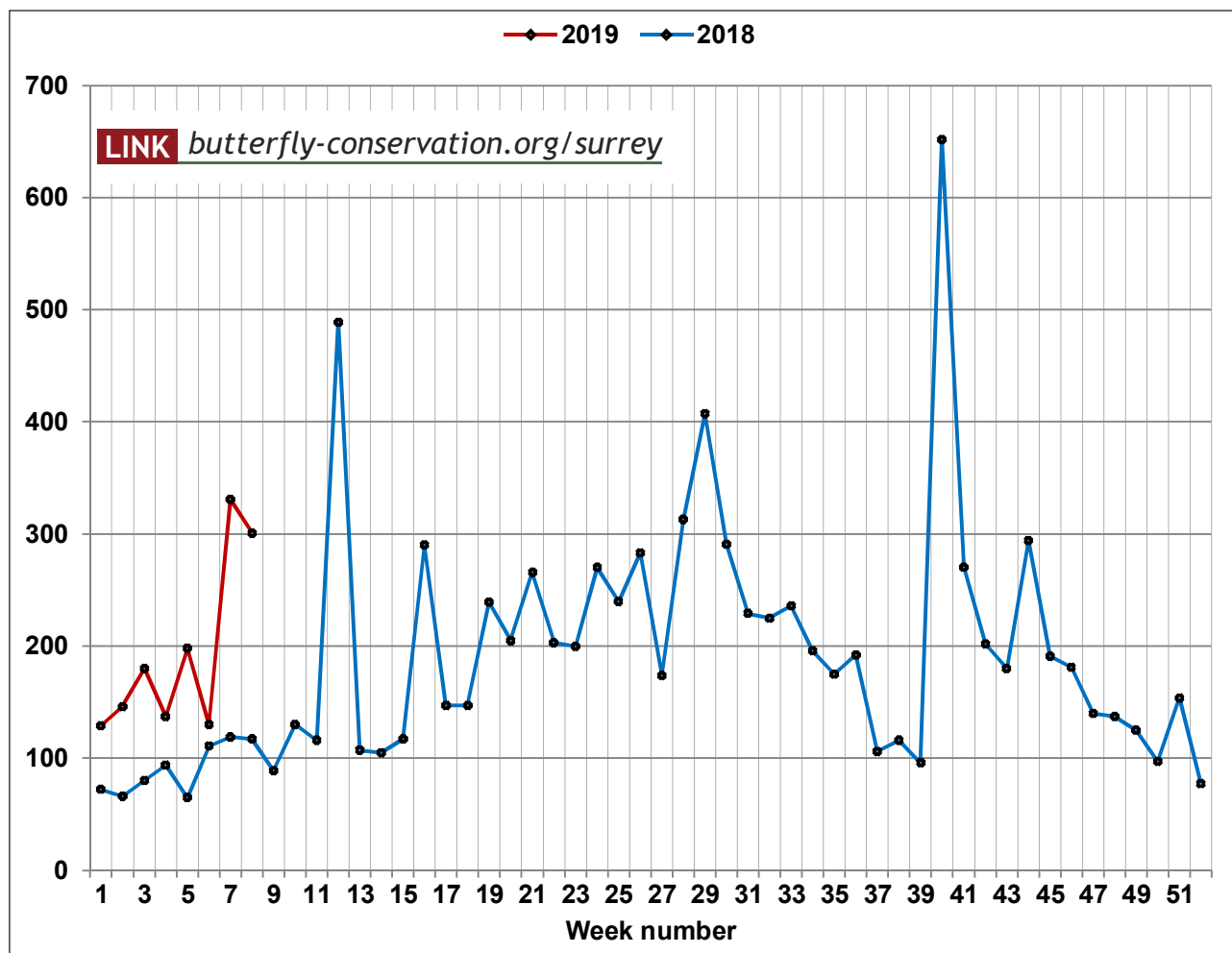
01929 40020

info@butterfly-conservation.org



Branch website: unique weekly visitors

Francis Kelly



NUMBERS of unique weekly visitors to our branch website were exceptionally high for February, coinciding with the winter heat wave.

As usual, last year's three peaks were for publication of the two Skippers

(489 & record 652) and launch of the Big Butterfly Count (407).

Sightings is by far our most popular page. Please *email* 1st/notable records for this page. Please use *iRecord* for general records.

Social Media

Francis Kelly

■ FACEBOOK

Butterfly Conservation in Surrey

Branch page

Surrey Butterflies

Mick Rock's group

Small Blues in Surrey

■ TWITTER: @BC_Surrey

We discontinued an auto-retweet service when a fee was introduced. Our retweets are now more selective.

Running totals	Twitter		Facebook
	Tweets & Retweets	Followers	Likes
2015 Sep		360	131
2016 Feb		463	192
Sep	532	637	248
2017 Mar	600	734	270
Sep	1,238	889	336
2018 Feb	1,307	935	347
Sep	1,377	1,062	366
2019 Mar	1,397	1,100	389

BC membership by household Nov 2018

Ken Owen

	2018	2017	% Increase	New members
West Midlands	1,696	1,542	10%	327
Hampshire & IOW	1,676	1,608	4%	210
Yorkshire	1,578	1,448	9%	279
Sussex	1,444	1,354	7%	221
Upper Thames	1,430	1,320	8%	220
Surrey	1,385	1,260	10%	237
Cambs & Essex	1,342	1,216	10%	254
East Midlands	1,215	1,119	9%	211
Somerset & Bristol	1,202	1,132	6%	189
Kent	1,166	1,079	8%	205
Herts & Middlesex	1,094	1,060	3%	182
Devon	1,033	973	6%	176
Dorset	994	970	2%	120
Norfolk	907	863	5%	112
Lancashire	869	776	12%	177
East Scotland	794	705	13%	157
South Wales	732	676	8%	126
Cheshire & Peak	726	686	6%	116
Gloucestershire	689	618	11%	134
Beds & Northants	617	583	6%	92
Wiltshire	603	571	6%	79
Suffolk	578	553	5%	75
Cornwall	535	516	4%	96
Glasgow & SW Scotland	531	492	8%	100
North East	501	457	10%	107
Warwickshire	498	475	5%	73
Lincolnshire	452	423	7%	79
Cumbria	358	327	9%	60
North Wales	323	301	7%	54
Highlands & Islands	318	312	2%	31
Northern Ireland	270	255	6%	36

A WARM welcome to all new members. Please look out for your invitation to New Members' Day at Ashted Common on Sat 6 July.

Surrey & SW London is 6th of the 31 UK branches in BC's membership league table.

In the 12 months to Nov 1, 2018, Surrey attracted 237 new households, but lost 112, for a net gain of 10%.

■ Feb 22, Surrey totals:
1,377 households
1,853 members

Big Butterfly Count

SURREY was the top contributor to last year's *Big Butterfly Count*, which topped 100,000 recorders for the first time.

Surrey (VC17) supplied 3,830 counts;

SW Yorkshire was 2nd with 3,265.
No other county topped 3,000.

This year's Count, to be launched by Chris Packham: July 19 – August 11.

Members' Day Quiz

MARIAN THOMAS won Malcolm Bridge's quiz at our Members' Day in November.

LINK [Quiz, Answers & Photo Show](#)

In keeping with tradition, as the latest winner, Marian will compile the questions for this year's event.



iRecord is our recommended recording platform via app (smartphone/tablet) or computer. Thank you to the 300+ recorders who submitted 6,000+ Surrey butterfly records in 2018.

More details, including how to create filters, are on our website's recording page.

[**LINK** *Surrey Recording*](#)

[**LINK** *iRecord*](#)

	<i>iRecorders</i>	<i>iRecords</i>
2013	32	344
2014	116	1,004
2015	159	3,182
2016	230	4,247
2017	333	7,214
2018	322	6,434

iRecorders

Surrey butterflies 2018

Lorraine Acton
James Adler
Barrie Akin
David Allcock
Di Allcock
Richard Angliss
Paul Atkin
Emily Bagnall
Antony Baines
Joseph Baker
S Barns
Jeremy Bartlett
Jeremy Bates
Anita Bathurst
Claire Bennett
Debbie Bennett
Rachel Bicker
Alan Birch
Carol Birk
Thomas Blumire
John Boorman
Mick Borroff
Frank Boxell
Keiron Brown
Peter Brown
Jim Brownjohn
Caroline Bryson
Bill Budd
Sarah Bunce
Sue Burton
Paul Busby

Peter Camber
Roger Cane
Caroline Cardew-Smith
Bryony Chapman
Steve Chastell
Joe Chester
Tom Childs
Hannah Chilvers
Gareth Christian
Natasha Clark
Ralph Clark
Harry Clarke
David Claxton
Karen Cobbett
Daisy Cogley
Simon Colenutt
Paul Collingridge
Paul Collins
Peter Conway
Michael Cook
Lucy Cooke
David Cooling
Chris Corrigan
Simon Cottle
Jon Coxhead
Arthur Crabtree
Paul Craven
Liam Crowley
Katie Cruickshanks
Dee Cullen
Peter Cureton

Tina Dallman
Robert Daniels
Jean Davies
Lora Davies
Bryony Davison
Jenny Dawson
Bridget & Lawrie
de Whalley
Janet Dean
Michael Dean
Jenny Desoutter
Claire Dimon
Sam Douthwaite
Bill Downey
Tim Dray
Liz Drewitt
Nicola Duckworth
Mark Dwyer
Robert Elliott
Sarah Elliott
Gillian & Ken Elsom
Harriet English
David Esterson
Les & Angela
Evans-Hill
Charles Farrell
Mark Fellowes
FSC Juniper Hall
Anthony Field
Dawn Fielding
Clare Forbes

Tom Forster
Paul Foulkes-Arellano
Tony Fox
Peter Frost
Stephen Fry
Richard Fulford
Michael Funnell
Mary-Anne Geary
Philip Gibbs
Mike Gibson
James Giles
Richard Glassborow
Catherine Gleeson
Karen Goldie-Morrison
Goldsworth Park
David Gough
John Gowers
Diane Grant
Alun Graves
Daniel Greenwood
Dominic Greves
Michael Griffiths
Clare Grindrod
Susan Groves
Ben Habgood
Bill Haines
Lucy Halahan
Sarah Halonen
Jane Hambling
Veronica Hammerstone

Stephen Harley
Janice Harris
Matthew Harrow
Martin Harvey
Pamela Harwood
David Hasell
Fiona Haynes
Sarah Henson
Adam Hersey
Rachel Hill
Barry Hilling
Anne Hindmarch
Tony Hoare
Joseph Hobden
Emma Hockly
Michael Hoit
Charlotte
Holloway-Wheatley
Alan Holmes
Gary Howes
James Howsam
Peter Hughes
Jo Hurren
Ruth Ibbotson
Peter Irvine
Nigel Jackman
Andy Jackson
Laurie Jackson
Duncan Jennings
Michael Johnston

■ *continued next page*

■ iRecorders: from previous page

Jonathan Jones	James McCulloch	Mark Patterson	Max Sheldon	Alison Trory
David Keane	Philippa McKee	Sarah Patton	Ewan Shilland	Raymond Turner
Francis Kelly	Judith McNickle	Robert Pennington	Chris Shortall	Carole Tyrrell
Steve Kiln	Cryss Mennaceur	Matt Phelps	Jenny Sibley	John Vallas
Simon Klee	Andy Merritt	David Phillips	Andrew Skotnicki	Sue Walker
Claire Knap	Helen Middlemas	Sandy Philpotts	Penny Smallshire	David Warburton
Jo Langford	Jon Middleton	Geoff Pierce	Gerry Smeesters	Jessica Ward
James & Dawn	Stephen Middleton	Anna Platoni	Colin Smith	Laura Ward
Langiewicz	Russell Miller	James Power	Karen Smith	Martin Warren
Drew Lawson	Sonya Miller-Smith	Carolyn Preston	Kathy Smyth	May Webber
Nick Layt	Bernice Mitchener	Vlad Proklov	Jeremy Soane	Steve Wheatley
Vikki Lee	Katrina Morgan	Gillian Pullinger	Karen St Pier	Jo Wheeler
David Legg	Eileen Morris	Nicki Ramsay	Rebecca Stanley	Keith White
Keith Lelliott	Stephan Morris	Sue Rayner	Richard Stephens	Matt Why
Kevin Lerwill	Andrew Morrison	Richard Redhead	Vivienne Sterry	Alan Wilkinson
Dafydd Lewis	Carol Morton	John Rees	Ian Stoneman	Chris Wilkinson
Viv Lingard	Lorraine Munns	Chris Reeves	Ellie Stradling	Emily Wilkinson
Matthew Lloyd	Andy Musgrove	Stephen Reisbach	Mary Stuart-Jones	Samantha Wilkinson
Carey Lodge	Stephen Nevard	Graham Revill	Sophie Stylianou	Sarah Williams
Roy Lowry	Stephen Newton	Marcus Rhodes	Melissa Sullivan	Neil Willis
John Luck	Daniel Nicholson	Simon Riley	Desmond Sussex	Joanne Wilsher
Steve Lockett	Sue Norris	Cassady Robb	Louise Sword	Clara Wilson
Simon Lumsden	David Notton	Catherine Roberts	David Sykes	Colin Wilson
Callum Macgregor	Jayne Nunn	Jane Robinson	Helen Szczepanski	Sue Wilson
Ian Machen	David O'Brien	Peter Robinson	Wendy Tagg	Howard Wood
Conor MacKenzie	Bryan O'Meara	Mick Rock	John Tallon	Caroline Woodley
Dominic Mackenzie	William Oates	Sharon Rooth	Paul Taylor	Chris Woodrow
John Madden	Stephanie Offer	Sally Rosa	Rosalie Taylor	Jim Yeeles
Martyn Mance	Marcus Oldfield	David Roy	Georgina Terry	Paul Young
Gary Margetts	Ken Owen	Harry Rutherford	Brian Thomas	Eleanor Yoxall
Joe Margetts	Ruth Papworth	Anna Saich	Marian Thomas	Paul Zimmer
Steve Marshall	Nigel Parker	Nicola Sainsbury	Dave Thomson	
Maria Martin	Sophie Parker	Simon Saville	Hortense Thorpe	
Graham Mays	Francesca Partridge	Graham Saxby	Mike Thurner	
		Sarah Shaw	Dave Trew	

Orange-tip steps out

Ken Elsom

Orange-tip on
Garlic Mustard

1 Orange ovum close
to hatching.

2 Newly hatched larva
eating its own, now
translucent, egg shell.

3 Later instar with
droplets on its hairs.



Moths

Les Evans-Hill

Manager of BC's National Moth Recording Scheme database and Wimbledon resident

I mentioned in last year's Spring Skipper that my best year in Dorset was 2013 with 525 species. To my surprise I exceeded that last year in Surrey with a total of 532 (most notable listed below).

The Wimbledon & Putney Commons annual Bioblitz took place in June with 92 species recorded to light and during the day.

So far 2019 has produced 18 species: by far the most common visitors are Winter Shade (max 138, Feb 17); Small Brindled Beauty (97, Feb 22); and Spring Usher (71, Feb 5). Dotted Chestnut has also been recorded three times, a species increasing northwards year-on-year.

February weather from 17th was exceptional. National immigration including Small Mottled Willow; *Euchromius ocella*; Crimson Speckled; Levant Blackneck and Purple Marbled. Not one migrant has arrived in my SW London trap but at times of immigration you never know what might turn up.

During this year's "hornet" season I plan to do more field work, concentrating on all life stages of micro-moths during daytime, Micro-moths are not a group I have concentrated on apart from what turns up at the light trap.

For a couple of years when I lived in Bedfordshire, I did some fieldwork and



turned up some remarkable records, both new to that county or reconfirmed after absences of up to 150 years. One species I recorded, Petty-whin Case Bearer, was tens of miles from its nearest foodplant, intriguing the County Recorder.

■ I seem to have been working on the forthcoming *Larger Moths Atlas* for a lifetime!

However, after 22 months of intense labour on the National Moth Recording Scheme database, I am delighted to say with confidence I am close to finalising the data, which just leaves me to produce a new set of distribution maps and flight charts. These will need to be checked again for robustness. We now expect publication in early summer.

LINK [Order from Atropos](#)

Atlas of Britain & Ireland's Larger Moths
Publication due: summer 2019, £37.50.
Save £10 on orders before Apr 30.

LINK [Surrey Branch Moths page](#)

Details of Paul Wheeler's moth events and how to join his email group.

LINK [Garden Moth Scheme](#)

LINK [National Moth Recording Scheme](#)

LINK [Moth Night](#)
Sep 26-28

Notable moths at Wimbledon Common in 2018

Italian Tubic	May 31 & Jun 12	Alder Moth	May 31	Sprawler	Nov 4
Buttoned Snout	Jun 8	<i>Musotima nitidalis</i>	Oct 23		
Striped Wainscot	Jun 20	Obscure Wainscot	Jun 6: both possibly new site records		
Triangle Plume	Oct 17: confirmed by Colin Hart, believed to be new 10km square				
Oak Rustic	Nov 6: new site record; 1st UK record 1999; spreading rapidly				