

EAST MIDLANDS
Butterfly

ISSUE 78 – AUTUMN 2025

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Meeting & Members
Day 2025**

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Butterfly Transects**



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



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Welcome to the Autumn 2025 EMBC Newsletter.

I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone by. It's that time of the year when we need to give you notification of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting and Members Day. You will find full details on page 18.

You will also find a fascinating article detailing an interesting encounter with a Buff-tip moth. A perfect example of how nature can surprise us all.

The Committee and I would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year.

Best regards. **Richard Jeffery**

Branch Organiser's Notes

Another year has flown by and we have almost reached the end of the butterfly season. Last year Butterfly Conservation declared a butterfly emergency after disastrous results in the 2024 Big Butterfly Count, and many believed that our butterflies would struggle this year as a result. Butterflies, as we have found before, are more resilient than we think and most species have bounced back this year. Whilst it is a significant improvement on last year, numbers are still regarded as 'average'. Please see page 9 for details on this year's Big Butterfly Count.

We have had another successful season of field trips, co-ordinated by Max Maughan and led by willing and knowledgeable volunteers. You can read the full reports from page 4. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the National Forest and I share my experiences of butterfly recording in the Leicestershire section of the forest on page 7. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the UKBMS and Ken Orpe gives us the lowdown on butterfly transects in the region on page 9.

Do keep your eyes peeled for any late flying butterflies, and remember to notify your county recorder. Enjoy your autumn/winter break. **Richard M. Jeffery**

The Big Insect Rescue Plan

This summer Butterfly Conservation joined forces with Buglife and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to create the Big Insect Rescue Plan.

All three organisations declared that insects throughout the UK are in a serious decline and warned of the consequences for both insects and us. Last year Butterfly Conservation declared a Butterfly Emergency and Bumblebee Conservation reported that the total number of bumblebees reported in 2024 was the worst since recording began.

Over a third of UK insects are in decline and that has a knock on effect on crop pollination, affecting our food security. It also upsets the whole balance of the food chain, meaning that other wildlife is seriously under threat, with birds, bats and other mammals being affected.

Many of us have seen a dramatic decline in insect abundance in our lifetime and cling to distant memories of meadows and gardens buzzing with the sound of insects. Swifts and Swallows still grace our summer skies but in far fewer numbers than a decade or two ago. The sound of a Cuckoo, let alone a sighting, for many has been consigned to history.

It is hoped that, by joining forces, the influence of the three charities combined will be felt with greater representation and a more powerful

voice.



Red-tailed Bumblebee feeding on Gorse Photo by Richard Jeffery

Uniting together it is hoped that the once familiar ‘buzz in the meadow’ will return.

On September 11th representatives and experts from Butterfly Conservation, Buglife and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust met at the Wild Summit in Bristol to discuss the latest science, comments received from members of all three charities and top expertise. Ideas will be pooled and plans formulated to address the most urgent issues and halt the decline in our insect populations.

Butterfly Conservation have also joined the battle to reduce and even eliminate the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides in public spaces, parks and gardens. For more information visit the following link:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/blog/organic-pesticides>

Richard M. Jeffery

Field Trip Reports 2025



Thanks go out to all of the leaders who volunteered to run a field trip this season.

We would welcome anyone who would be prepared to lead a field trip in 2026. Please contact Max Maughan for more details.

(See contact details on page 19)

Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park (Leicestershire)

Tuesday 13th May

The prospect of a gloriously sunny day bode well for a good visit to Bagworth Heath, and we were not disappointed. The 10 attendees and myself were joined by a similar field trip led by Katie Goddard of Leicestershire County Council which meant extra pairs of eyes looking out for our key species. There were a few young children in the LCC party and one young man in particular turned out to be the best spotter on the day. He had a really keen eye for picking out Dingy Skippers. I saw in him a future naturalist.

The first butterfly of the day was a pristine Brimstone enjoying the spring sunshine. In total we recorded 13 butterfly species; the most prolific being one of our target species, the aforementioned Dingy Skipper with a total of 15 individuals seen. Our other target species was the Green Hairstreak and they remained somewhat elusive, with only 2 being recorded in an area renowned for the species. As the walk came to its conclusion a few of us did get a glimpse of our first Painted Lady of the year. We also recorded 3 species of day-flying moth, and the youngsters were very interested in the story of how the Mother Shipton moth got its vernacular name.

Richard M. Jeffery

Bingham Linear Park
(Nottinghamshire)

Sunday 18 May

We were unlucky with the weather - it was cool and cloudy. So, there were only a few butterflies about - Green-veined Whites and Speckled Woods. The site is also suffering from a lack of rain with much less growth of herbage than is usual for this time of year. The number of nectar producing flowers seemed lower than usual. However we did see a Roe deer on the path which is unusual and a Yellow Wagtail was also a welcome sight. Nine people attended the walk which was a nice number to meet a range of people but small enough to keep together and have a good chat.

Jenny Craig

Longstone Edge (Derbyshire)

Sat 24th May

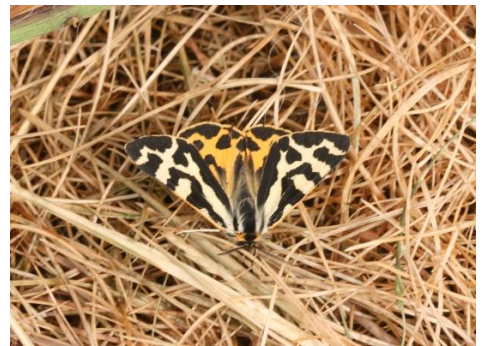
Butterflies with a view

It was with much trepidation that I waited in the parking place on Longstone Edge to see who would turn up for my meet. Only three had booked and only two turned up. The forecast was to say the least poor, however they were wrong and we had a great time. Due to the breeze and cooler temperature (15°C) they were lying low but the excellent eyesight of two of our members picked them out and we managed some good photos when the sun shone.

We saw 2 Wood Tiger Moths, 4 Small Heaths, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Common Blue, 1 Green Veined White and 2 Wall Browns.

This site is special not only for its butterflies but also for its views, which are in my opinion some of the best in Derbyshire. An excellent meet and many thanks to Patrick, Alison and Sylvia who braved the conditions to come along.

John Green



Wood Tiger moth

Photo by John Green

Pleasley Pit (Derbyshire)

Sunday 25 May

A big thank you must be given to the brave souls that ventured out on what was one of the windiest days of the year. Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group held their annual Wildlife Day on the same day and it was remarkable that none of the exhibitors gazebos/tents were blown away. The weather once again was the key element to the number of butterflies seen. One heavy

downpour prior to the walk didn't help and the lack of sunshine with a low temperature did not bode well.

Nine people attended the walk, I suspect most had come with the knowledge that the Wildlife Day was happening and with an expectation of seeing the UK's smallest butterfly, the Small Blue.



Small Blue

Photo by Christine Maughan

The Small Blue appears to tolerate dull weather and Roger (our counter) noted 47 in total. Everyone was treated to being able to see this beautiful species at close quarters, with plenty of time to get good photographs. The site has a substantial amount of Kidney Vetch, which is the species main food plant so hopefully this will ensure the well-established colony will continue to flourish for many years to come.

The only other butterflies seen were two Green-veined Whites and two Small Heath. The weather played a key part however the paucity of butterflies could also be attributed to an early June lull.

The group was treated to sightings of Common Spotted and Southern Marsh orchids, along with Large Red, Azure and Common Blue damselflies. The walk was enjoyable and emphasises the value in the bringing folk together to share nature's gifts to us all.

Willy Lane

Cloud Wood NR (LRWT)
(Leicestershire)

Tuesday 13th May

Sadly, this event had to be cancelled due to heavy rain and strong winds.

Richard M. Jeffery

Coombs Dale (Derbyshire)

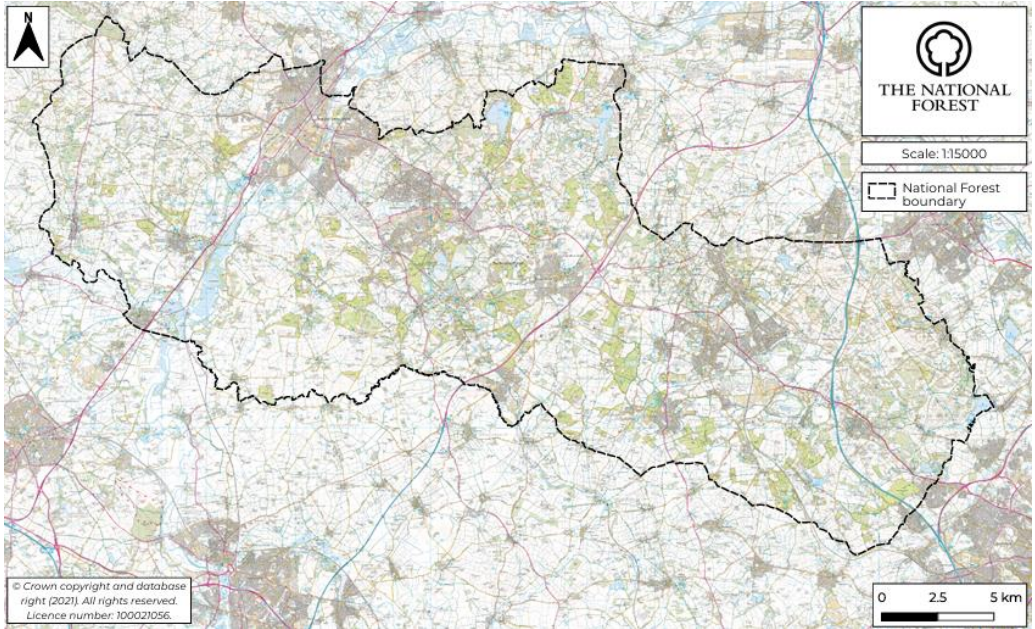
Wednesday 23 July

A group of nine met at the foot of Coombs Dale on a dull, cloudy but warm morning. At first there were very few butterflies to be seen but as we moved up the Dale, Gatekeepers were spotted along with the odd Meadow Brown. Green-veined Whites were fairly common as we walked through the wooded areas. Where the Dale opens out near the mine entrance we walked through the meadow and saw the first of 9 Dark Green Fritillaries. Here we also saw Common Blue, Small Copper and Peacocks.

Although the sun never appeared we managed to see 56 butterflies of 13 species.

John and Al Roberts

30 years of the National Forest



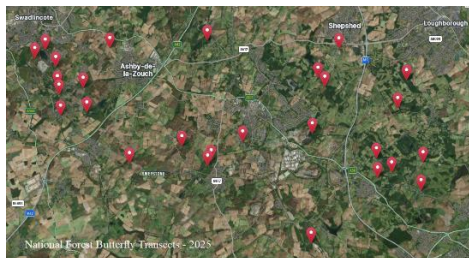
The National Forest Boundary

The National Forest extends from Leicestershire in the East, via the south of Derbyshire, to Staffordshire in the West. It is hard to envisage now what conditions were like before the landscape was transformed. During the heydays of mining, as one resident is quoted as saying on the National Forest website, *“It was grey, smoke filled, covered in coal dust. People had to wash the nets on their windows every week, because they’d just be covered in coal dust”*. The dark, scarred landscape left after the closure of the coal mines and clay pits could not have been less welcoming to people and to wildlife. The first trees were planted in the

nascent forest in the early 1990’s and gradually the area began to green up. Forest cover has gone from a mere 6% to an impressive 25% in the 30 year period. The National Forest is not all about trees though and grassland, heathland and water are equally as important in the mosaic of habitat we now see. The figures generated speak volumes (*data taken from the National Forest website*). Over 8,000 hectares of habitat have been transformed of which 2,500 hectares are non-woodland. 9.8 million trees planted. Over 100km of hedgerow planted. 80% of new sites have public access, with over 320km of promoted walks. Over 400 woodlands

planted, with 70 community groups managing woodland habitat.

Over 10 years ago I attended an anniversary presentation and was dismayed to find out that very little, if any, wildlife recording had taken place and I was determined to do something about it. The 'Black to Green' project was the perfect catalyst to commence recording in the Heart of the Forest and our first Leicestershire butterfly transect was set up at Hick's Lodge, home to the National Forest Cycle Centre, in 2014. I wanted more coverage and more data. I wanted to find out what butterflies were already in the area and also record what species moved in in subsequent years. To date we now have 27 butterfly transects in the Leicestershire section of the National Forest walked by teams of dedicated volunteers, with a further 17 transects in neighbouring Derbyshire.



VC55 Butterfly Transects in the National Forest 2025

We have recorded Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak, Small Heath, and in recent years, Marbled White and Purple Emperor butterflies. I live in hope of the arrival of the White Admiral and of the return of the Large Tortoiseshell butterfly too.



Dingy Skipper

Photo by Richard Jeffery

Now that we have more data, I hope to be able to influence the maintenance of the National Forest to support the existing populations of butterfly and to encourage their expansion of territory throughout the three counties. We are in discussions at the moment about the possibility of planting disease-resistant Elms as it is now not recommended that Ash trees are planted due to the effects of Ash dieback disease. It is hoped that this initiative will encourage the spread of the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly throughout the Forest. We planted some Elms at Moira Furnace and at Donisthorpe Woodland Park back in 2017 and, although I have recently seen evidence of larval damage to the foliage, I have yet to record a sighting of an adult. I shall investigate further next season.

The National Forest, and the journey it has been on is now inspiring other National Forest projects in the UK, for the benefit of people and wildlife, and I, for one, am grateful that the original is on our doorstep.

Richard M. Jeffery

Big Butterfly Count 2025

The results for this year’s Big Butterfly Count have just been announced by Butterfly Conservation. As you would expect there has been an increase in butterfly sightings compared to 2024 but overall it has been described as ‘average’ and definitely not a bumper year for our beleaguered butterflies

Between the 18th of July and the 10th of August 2025, over 125,000 citizen scientists got involved in Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count, more than ever before, and recorded 1.7 million butterflies and moths. Nationally, the top five species, in order, were Large White, Small White, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral and Meadow Brown.

Here in the East Midlands, the overall numbers of butterflies seen increased from **38,500** in 2024 to **70,000** in 2025, an increase of 82% (*there has also been a 90% increase in butterfly numbers on transects up to the end of Week 20 in the region*). The top 5 species recorded in our region were as follows:

Large White	19833
Small White	14221
Gatekeeper	7674
Red Admiral	5202
Peacock	4888

The number of local volunteers involved in recording per county were; Derbyshire **2,502** (*which equates to 45% of the regional total*); Nottinghamshire **1,601** (29%) and Leicestershire & Rutland **1,465** (26%).

The total number of butterflies seen per County were as follows; Derbyshire **30,571** (44% *of the regional total*); Nottinghamshire **19,980** (28%); Leicestershire & Rutland **19,513** (28%) Thanks go out to everyone who took part in this year’s count, making it yet another success story for the region.

Ken Orpe

50th Anniversary of the UKBMS



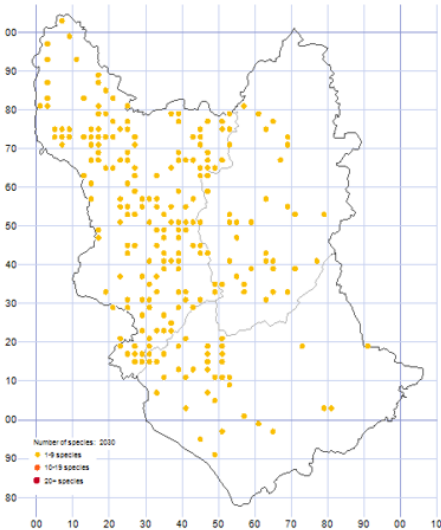
2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of the UKBMS and transect walking in the UK. The first transect was walked in 1976 at Potton Wood at Monk’s Wood Experimental Station in Cambridgeshire by Iain Woiwood on the 10th of April.

In that first year 39 sites were monitored by transects in England and Wales, and the recording of butterflies by this method has now grown to over 3,000 sites across the UK annually. Under the now designated UKBMS scheme, over 41 million butterflies have been recorded with the Meadow Brown being the most recorded species at 28% of the total records. The total number of surveys that have been completed

amounts to over 715,000 at 7,000 sites and that has involved volunteers walking over 950,000 miles.

Here in the East Midlands, we have been at the top of the Butterfly Conservation branches league table since 2021 when we overtook the Hampshire & Isle of Wight branch for the first time and we have held that position ever since with the 2024 totals being : East Midlands – 206 sites monitored and Hants & I of W – 201 sites covered.

This year (2025) the provisional figures for transects walked in the East Midlands show Derbyshire with 151 sites, Leicestershire with 46 sites and Nottinghamshire with 33 sites, giving a grand total of 230 sites which were carried out by approximately 500 volunteers; another great performance!



East Midlands Butterfly Transects 2025

It is a long time since I carried out my first butterfly transect in May 1981 at an old railway station site in the centre of Derby. The first butterfly that I recorded there was a Wall Brown and little did I know then how the status of this once common butterfly would change, not just in the East Midlands but across the whole of the UK as it is now an endangered butterfly species

The Annual Open Day at Hoe Grange Quarry Butterfly NR was held this year on the 6th of July 2025 and the UKBMS programme leader, Ian Middlebrook and his wife attended the event. Despite a cloudy morning, the sun came out in the afternoon and 18 butterfly species were seen including the first ever record of a Marbled White which now brings the site total to 32 species – what a fantastic site it has become!

On behalf of the four counties, I would like to give my sincere thanks to everyone who has taken part in our regional transects, not just this year, but in every year since we began. The data you have provided is invaluable and is helping East Midlands Butterfly Conservation to formulate its future conservation plans.

Ken Orpe



UK Butterfly
Monitoring Scheme

The Story of a Buff-tip Moth



Female Buff-tip

Photo by Christine Maughan

Representatives from East Midlands

Branch of Butterfly Conservation attend the Global Bird Fair at Rutland Water each July, and as part of the attractions on our stand we are always keen to exhibit live moths. This year, amongst the more common moth species I supplied, I was very pleased to have trapped a Buff-tip in one of my overnight traps. This is a very distinctive moth, closely resembling a broken birch twig when at rest with its wings folded. Everyone on the stand was staggered by the size of this specimen – was it a record breaker,

measuring a whopping 3.4 cms from head to wing tip? I haven't been able to establish how big the largest recorded Buff-tip was, but I'm sure this one was up there with the biggest! It was likely to have been a female as they are larger than the males of the species. It certainly caused a bit of a stir, being admired throughout the day by many visitors, and was even taken off by BC staff for a filming session with the celebrity Megan McCubbin.

On arriving home that evening, ready to release all the moths from their pots, I made a surprising discovery. My Buff-tip had been busy laying eggs on the journey home! Inside the pot were approximately a hundred tiny spherical white eggs. The adult calmly allowed me to take a few photos before being released into the garden where she had been caught a few hours previously, but what was to be done with the eggs?

They were all stuck to the sides of the pot so it would have been impossible to transfer them to an appropriate food-plant. Instead, I decided I would try to rear them.

Twelve days later, the eggs hatched, revealing tiny, very hairy yellow caterpillars with black heads. Their most common food-plants are willows, birches, oaks and hazels, and as I had a ready supply of hazel leaves from a tree just behind my garden, I transferred the larvae to a tank containing a branch of the chosen leaves. Initially they fed gregariously, skeletonizing the leaves. At this stage it was easy to keep pace with the need to provide fresh leaves,

but as they continued to grow, they quickly stripped each new branch. This became a problem when we were due to go away for a few days. I could hardly ask our kind neighbour who came in to do some watering if he would also feed the caterpillars! I decided I needed to release some of the larvae directly into the hazel tree, so I tied the twigs they were feeding on in the tank onto overhanging branches, leaving me with about thirty to look after. I hoped that if I stuffed the tank with fresh leaves before we left, they would survive for four nights. Happily, we returned to find them still alive, but obviously hungry! The bare twigs evident on the hazel tree bear witness to the fact that those I released had made themselves at home there.



Buff-tips hatching

Photo by Christine Maughan

It was interesting to watch the caterpillars go through their life cycle, periodically shedding their skins in a process of moulting to enable them to grow, because their rigid exoskeletons don't stretch. Each shedding is called an instar, and they moulted four times as they grew. They were all synchronised with each other, and each

time they would become totally inactive for about 24 hours. After shedding, the new exoskeleton is soft and vulnerable until it hardens, and the caterpillar often consumes its old skin for nutrients, but I noticed they didn't eat the old heads which littered the floor of the tank. The new instars initially had orange heads but these turned black as they hardened.

By the fifth instar the caterpillars had reached a length of over 5cms, and were attractively patterned with yellow stripes on a black body, and with orange transverse bands on each segment. They were still quite gregarious, but feeding so intensively I was having to replenish food at least twice a day. I was rapidly running out of new leaves which could be reached easily from the garden, so I made another decision to reduce the number in the tank. It seemed that the time was fast approaching when they would need to pupate, which they do in a chamber in the ground. All but seven were carefully placed in the hawthorn hedge beneath the hazel tree so they had the option of where to go, and some started to forage on the hawthorn.

I placed a thick layer of compost in the tank where I continued to feed the remaining seven caterpillars for a couple of days until they stopped eating and started to wander round on the soil. I left the lid open so they could escape if they chose to. Over the space of two days the numbers kept reducing, but I couldn't be certain where they had gone until I watched one crawl under a fallen leaf, then the soil moved and it was

gone in a matter of seconds. Later, I could actually see one under the surface through the side of the tank. After almost 6 weeks they all appear to have pupated successfully.

Now I eagerly await the emergence of adults next summer!

Christine Maughan

Gardening for Butterflies

A Walk on the Wildside

Autumn is commonly regarded as the traditional time for planting as the soil is still warm and the autumn rains will have added much needed moisture. Planting now will allow plenty of time for the plants to put down roots before winter halts their growth.

I believe that we all like to see a beautiful, well-maintained garden, but our wildlife is not so fussy as they see gardens as a source of food and a place to procreate. The choice of plants that we introduce will influence what species visit and ultimately stay. Garden centres are full of colourful plants laid out to tempt us; and they do. I am probably one of the worst for impulse buying, but I would also encourage you to also consider planting native species amongst those choice perennials. Now, I know what you're thinking. He's asking us to plant weeds. Well, yes I am actually. 'Weeds' sound threatening and invasive. 'Wildflowers' sounds much better, so let's get rid of our weeds by simply calling them wildflowers.

We need to consider plants that will provide nectar throughout most of the year, and also plants that will allow butterflies and moths to lay their eggs. Good sources of nectar throughout the year include Bluebell, Bugle, Cuckooflower and Primrose for late winter and early spring; Bird's Foot Trefoil, Clover, Cranesbill and Campion for early summer, and Knapweed, Scabious, Teasel, Ivy and Honeysuckle for late summer and autumn. Add in long flowering ornamentals like Lavender, Perennial Wallflower, Hebe, and single-flowered Dahlias and you will have a veritable buffet for any passing Lepidoptera.



Longer grass can look decorative.

Photo by Richard Jeffery

To encourage butterflies and moths to breed, consider leaving patches of longer grass, uncut throughout the year and cut the rest to varying heights. If you haven't got room to let larval food plants such as nettle and thistle proliferate then consider growing them in planters to contain their spread. Bird's Foot Trefoil, Cuckooflower and Garlic Mustard are just as pretty as any

ornamental and will encourage both Common Blue and Orange Tip to breed. Shrubs such as Alder Buckthorn, Holly and Privet can be grown successfully in larger containers. Ivy can be grown on boundary walls or even trained through trellis to provide an evergreen screen.



Common Blue on Ragwort
Photo by Richard Jeffery

A garden with a good blend of ornamental and native plants can look beautiful and be functional too. No matter the size of your garden, by planting a few of the plants mentioned here you will be encouraging butterflies and moths to visit your patch. You will also be helping other wildlife too.

Richard M. Jeffery

Autumn in the Garden

Autumn is a time to reflect. I wanted to bring my washing in but a pristine Red Admiral was busy sunning herself on my smalls. How quickly time flies I thought, but then she was off, going fast south west, migrating perhaps.

Again we have experienced unpredictable seasons this year, with a super-heated drought with temperatures often above 30 degrees although oddly humid too. My garden, since 1991, has seen an increasing change to Mediterranean conditions, it seems. In the drought, several of the commoner white butterflies, gatekeepers and comma were always around, and that was lovely. I had to give up watering anything but my beans and lettuce. Most plants here never needed any supplementary watering; the marjoram, scabious, ox eye daisy, rosemary, Santolina, sage, marigold, mallow, knapweed, lavender, cranesbill and roses all coped admirably well. Deep rooted oak, ivy and walnut have done well too, but my neighbour's cherry and expensive pot plants have all died. My garden this year looks like a Derbyshire limestone dale or somewhere on the Algarve. I have been wondering whether to plant lucerne in my no-dig vegetable patch to attract the clouded yellows that ventured a long way north this year.



Clouded Yellow
Photo by Mark Joy

Out in the front garden, in the heat of the night, largely asphalt and block paved areas had poorer air quality compared with my little garden oasis. Resting in a deckchair a la siesta, a vine pergola absorbs and converts UV light, but my neighbour's mostly grey paved garden absorbs it by day and radiates it at night.

But now, with the arrival of windy autumn, your job this season is to sit back, relax and reflect on a wonderful summer, and try to plan ahead for next season by looking at ways of encouraging butterflies to visit and stay in your garden.

Nick Sparrow

Grizzled Skipper Project Winter Work Parties



*Remote mower in action
Barnstone Cutting*

Below are the planned dates and locations for the 10 volunteer work parties to be held during this coming autumn/winter.

All the work parties will start at 10am and will finish between 3pm and 3:30pm dependent on daylight hours (closer to 3pm in mid-winter).

Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions forecast on the day and wear stout footwear. Gloves and tools (bow saws, loppers, spades etc.) will be available, but you can use your own if you have them.

Tuesday 21st October

GCRN, Lime Sidings to Barnstone Tunnel - Hay raking & removal/scrub clearance.

Sunday 26th October

Granby Disused Railway - Hay raking and removal/scrub clearance.

Tuesday 4th November

Grange Farm, Normanton on Soar (north) - scrub clearance/create egg laying habitat.

Sunday 16th November

Flawborough Footpath & Triangle - scrub and bramble clearance/egg laying site maintenance.

Tuesday 2nd December

Saxondale Disused Railway Spur - scrub clearance.

Sunday 14th December

Alverton Disused Railway - scrub clearance.

Tuesday 13th January

GCRN, Rushcliffe Halt & Cutting - scrub clearance/egg laying site maintenance.

Sunday 1st February

Newstead & Annesley Country Park - scrub clearance

Tuesday 17th February

Kilvington Lakes - scrub clearance

Sunday 1st March

GCRN, Lime Sidings to Barnstone Tunnel & Grange Farm - egg laying site maintenance.

Please check in advance to make sure the work party is going ahead by contacting **Chris Jackson** at biodiversity@nottsc.gov.uk

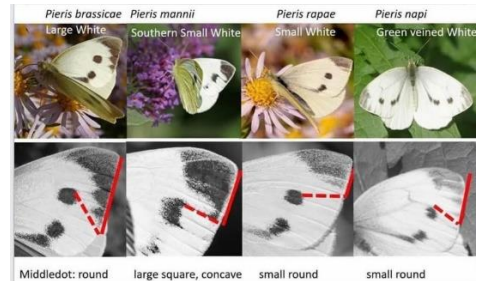
A New Species Arrives in the UK

This summer has seen the confirmed arrival of a new species in the UK. The Southern Small White butterfly was first confirmed in the UK on the 2nd of August at Landguard Bird Observatory in Suffolk by expert Chris van Swaay of Dutch Butterfly Conservation.

The butterfly was believed to have been restricted to the south and south-east of Europe, but recent years have seen a steady progression in a north-westerly direction with confirmed sightings in Germany (2008), the Netherlands (2015) and France (2019).

Thanks must be given here to Richard Austin (volunteer manager BC) for sharing this information.

From a recorder's point of view, having another 'white' to identify can be quite daunting. At first glance, it is difficult to separate the Southern Small White from our native Small White, and, indeed, if it doesn't sit still then it is probably impossible to identify anyway. There are, as with the three native Whites, subtle differences to distinguish one from the other. Below is a photograph showing all four 'Whites' to show the difference in markings.



How to identify the four Whites

If you look at the Southern Small White, you will notice that the discal spot on the forewing is at right angles to the end of the dark patch on the wing tip (*angle highlighted in red*). The other species have their discal spot at an acute or obtuse angle (*I did say it was a subtle difference*). The spot is almost square in shape, and slightly concave too. The upper wings can also show a dusting of dark pigments across the wings, and the outer wing margin, especially on the forewing is more curved than the other three species.

There have been other unconfirmed sightings in the UK and it is believed that there may have been many more that have slipped through the net and

simply been recorded as either Small White or even just a Pieris.

I am sure that over the coming years there will be many more sightings as the butterfly continues its northward journey.

I would recommend a certain amount of caution before recording this species, and would certainly recommend that any potential records be accompanied by a good quality photograph forwarded to your county butterfly recorder for further investigation.

For a more detailed description of the Southern Small White butterfly, please follow this link to an excellent article produced by the Suffolk branch of Butterfly Conservation.

<https://www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/Southern%20Small%20White.html>

A Date for your Diary

Transect Training and Butterfly Identification Course 2026

There is a free course available on Sunday the 1st March 2026 for volunteers who would like to be involved in transect walking in the East Midlands region during 2026 or for those of you who just need a refresher course.

The meeting runs from 11.30am to approximately 2.30pm and will include transect methodology training and a

slide show of the region's butterflies to aid identification.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and home-made cakes will be provided.

The venue is the Allestree Club, 39 Cornhill, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2FS and it will be an opportunity to meet and seek advice from Ken Orpe, the Transect Co-ordinator for the East Midlands.

Please book your place at this important free meeting by emailing Ken Orpe at

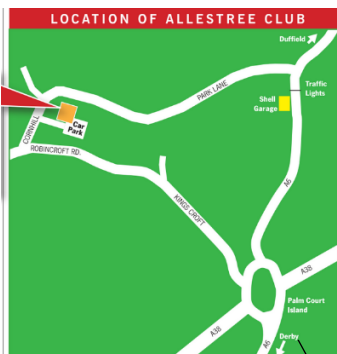
ken@malaga.plus.com

In Memoriam – the last words of Dr. Jane Goodall **1934 – 2025** *(conservationist)*

“I want you to understand that we are part of the natural world. And even today, when the planet is dark, there still is hope. Don't lose hope. If you lose hope, you become apathetic and do nothing. And if you want to save what is still beautiful in this world – if you want to save the planet for the future generations, your grandchildren, their grandchildren – then think about the actions you take each day. Because, multiplied a million, a billion times, even small actions will make for great change.”

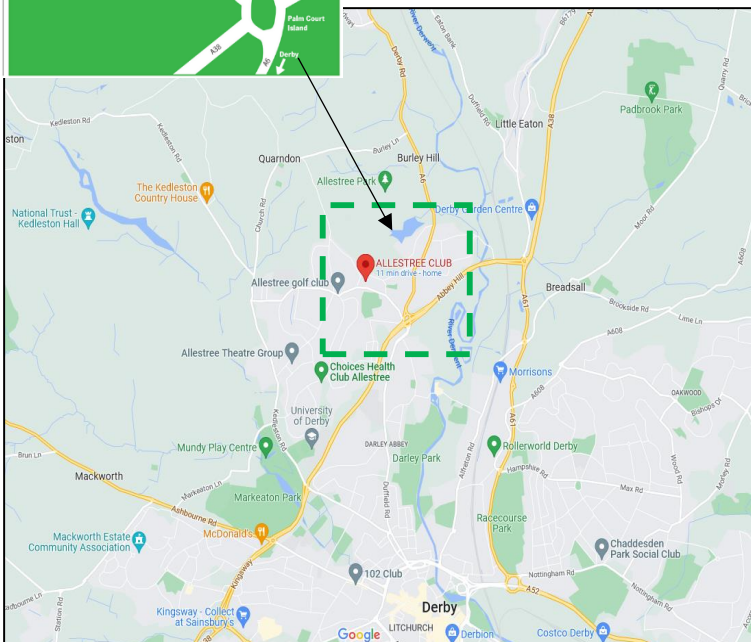
A message to all who care for this beautiful planet.....

Annual General Meeting and Members Day 2025



DATE & VENUE:

*To be held on Sunday 23rd
November at the Allestree Club,
39 Cornhill, Allestree, Derby
DE22 2FS*



All members are welcome to attend and to take part. If you have any photographs of butterflies or moths that you would like to share then please bring them along on a memory stick and tell us about them. Please limit your photographs to a maximum of 20 and please arrive by 10.00am. The meeting will start at 10.15am **PROMPT**.

The formalities of the AGM will take approximately an hour and will consist of a brief review of EMBC's activities throughout the year, a financial update by our branch treasurer and the annual butterfly reports delivered by the county butterfly recorders for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire and Rutland.

After a short break we will have a couple of presentations to take us up to lunch, and after lunch we will have a talk by our keynote speaker. *(Details of all talks will be listed on the branch website once the speakers have confirmed and the agenda has been finalised)*. The final 45-60 minutes will be allocated to members photographs as mentioned above.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

EAST MIDLANDS MAIN COMMITTEE:

Branch Organiser/Chairperson (acting):

Richard M. Jeffery Tel: 01455 845112 e-mail: winrich168@btinternet.com

Treasurer/Events Organiser:

Jane Broomhead Tel: 01623 862854 e-mail: malcsmonkey@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary & Butterfly Reports Co-ordinator:

Christine Maughan Tel: 01332 511825 e-mail: cm.maughan@gmail.com

Butterfly Recorder for Derbyshire & Regional Transect Co-ordinator:

Ken Orpe e-mail: ken@malaga.plus.com

Conservation Officer for Derbyshire:

Position Vacant

Butterfly Recorder for Leicestershire and Rutland & National Forest Representative:

Richard M. Jeffery Tel: 01455 845112 e-mail: winrich168@btinternet.com

Conservation Officer & Moth Officer:

Melanie Penson e-mail: harfangneige2018@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor (acting):

Richard M. Jeffery Tel: 01455 845112 e-mail: winrich168@btinternet.com

Publicity Officer:

Gary Atkins: Tel: 01335 370773 e-mail: garysatkins@aol.com

Field Trip Organiser:

Max Maughan Tel: 01332 511825 e-mail: cm.maughan@gmail.com

Committee Member:

Suzanne Halfacre Tel: 07884 403903 e-mail: tinytreasures56@gmail.com

Nick Sparrow e-mail: nsparr@hotmail.com

Associate Committee Member & Butterfly Recorder for Nottinghamshire:

Steve Mathers e-mail: smbutterflies11@gmail.com

New Team Member:

Central England Conservation Manager.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce our new conservation manager for the central England region, Jamie Wildman. Jamie took up his new role on the 1st of September, although it will be a while before he joins us in the region. Jamie was instrumental in the Chequered Skipper re-introduction project in the Rockingham Forest and has an obligation to complete his work here before he hands over the reins to his successor.

He also has experience in conservation work for Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, and Wood White butterflies, as well as Liquorice Piercer and Concolorous moths.

We look forward to working closely with him to further our own conservation aims.

Richard M. Jeffery

Articles required for the next Newsletter

We would like to invite you, the members of East Midlands Butterfly Conservation, to participate in future editions of this newsletter. If anyone has an interesting story or item of news about butterflies and moths in your local area, in your garden or on your regular butterfly transect and would like to share it, then please feel free to send details to me, Richard Jeffery (*See contact details on page 19*). Please attach a high resolution photograph in JPEG format if you have one, and we will include your article in subsequent editions. The content can be either in the form of an email or as a Word document attached to your email.

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is the 1st of February.

Front Cover Photo: Speckled Wood feeding on Ivy blooms.

Photo by Richard Jeffery

The views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Branch or of Butterfly Conservation nationally.

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