



# Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

**HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX BRANCH**  
www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk



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## Broxbourne Wood West Ride and SSSI Butterflies Review of 2013

This report looks at butterflies recorded in the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Butterfly Conservation branch's database over the period 2005 to 2013. This data is also held in the national Butterflies for the New Millennium database.

### Recording Effort

This area has never been recorded systematically, for instance by a transect walk undertaken on a set route on a regular basis. All the records discussed here are from casual visits without defined data on length of visit or route taken. The data is all from the Ordnance Survey Grid square TL3207 and has been noted by recorders as Broxbourne Wood, Broxbourne Wood west ride or Broxbourne Wood track from west car park. Data from other parts of Broxbourne Woods is excluded.

Year	Broxbourne Records	Broxbourne Visits	Broxbourne Records/Visit	Broxbourne Species	Broxbourne Records / Species	Total Records in DB	Ratio of Records
2005	122	44	2.8	19	6.4	15826	0.77%
2006	150	45	3.3	21	7.1	16386	0.92%
2007	112	32	3.5	18	6.2	13725	0.82%
2008	153	43	3.6	21	7.3	13803	1.11%
2009	186	33	5.6	20	9.3	20533	0.91%
2010	171	35	4.9	19	9.0	16107	1.06%
2011	294	54	5.4	27	10.9	24665	1.19%
2012	195	51	3.8	20	9.8	15587	1.25%
2013	283	53	5.3	27	10.5	27200	1.04%

Records – a record of a species on a particular day from a recorder

Visits – a set of records from a recorder on a particular day

Records/visit – ratio of records to visits

Species - The number of species seen in a year

Record/species - ratio of species seen per records made

Records in DB - Grand total of all Hertfordshire & Middlesex records in the branch database

Ratio of records - The proportion of records from Broxbourne Wood. A way of showing increasing or decreasing recording effort here

In 2013 weather conditions were poor in the first half of the year, but from early July onwards conditions greatly improved (the flight period for the key species). The data suggests that Silver-washed Fritillary had a good year (as at many other sites) and that Purple Emperor and White Admiral were in line with the average since 2007. The species list has an addition of Chalkhill Blue; the record at Broxbourne represents part of an eruption across Herts from over populated core colonies on chalk and is unlikely to be of conservation importance at this site. We shall

continue to monitor the butterflies at Broxbourne Wood and submit further analyses over forthcoming years which should give a better picture.

### Species recorded from Broxbourne Wood

This table shows all the species recorded in the wood in the last 9 years and their presence or absence. Those species in bold are present in every year.

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	No. Years present	Species
Brimstone	y	y	y	y	y		y		y	7	Brimstone
Brown Argus				y			y			2	Brown Argus
Chalkhill Blue									y	1	Chalkhill Blue
<b>Comma</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Comma</b>
Common Blue						y	y		y	3	Common Blue
Dark Green Frit.							y			1	Dark Green Frit.
Essex Skipper							y		y	2	Essex Skipper
<b>Gatekeeper</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Gatekeeper</b>
<b>Green-veined White</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Green-veined White</b>
Holly Blue			y	y			y	y	y	5	Holly Blue
<b>Large Skipper</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Large Skipper</b>
<b>Large White</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Large White</b>
Marbled White					y		y		y	3	Marbled White
<b>Meadow Brown</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Meadow Brown</b>
Orange Tip	y	y		y	y	y	y	y	y	8	Orange Tip
Painted Lady		y			y		y		y	4	Painted Lady
<b>Peacock</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Peacock</b>
<b>Purple Emperor</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Purple Emperor</b>
<b>Purple Hairstreak</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Purple Hairstreak</b>
<b>Red Admiral</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Red Admiral</b>
<b>Ringlet</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Ringlet</b>
Silver Washed Frit.		y		y	y	y	y	y	y	7	Silver Washed Frit.
Small Copper	y					y	y	y	y	5	Small Copper
Small Heath				y		y		y	y	4	Small Heath
Small Skipper	y	y		y	y		y	y	y	7	Small Skipper
Small Tortoiseshell	y	y					y		y	4	Small Tortoiseshell
<b>Small White</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Small White</b>
<b>Speckled Wood</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>Speckled Wood</b>
<b>White Admiral</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	9	<b>White Admiral</b>
White-letter Hairstreak		y		y						2	White-letter.Hairstreak

### Key Species

If we exclude common species and those whose presence is intermittent there are three key indicator species associated with this site. All of them are large spectacular woodland butterflies which rely on large open woodland containing their larval foodplants:

Purple Emperor: Sallow – mature trees

Silver-washed Fritillary: Violets close to large tree trunks particularly oaks.

White Admiral: Honeysuckle in shaded situations.

These are the species most likely to be affected by widespread clearance work in woodland.

The tables below show the maximum number of each species seen per year and the number of records for each species.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Max seen</b>									
<b>Purple Emperor</b>	5	6	2	1	3	2	3	2	3
<b>Silver-washed Fritillary</b>	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	5	20
<b>White Admiral</b>	10	6	3	2	6	6	4	1	6

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Records</b>									
<b>Purple Emperor</b>	25	21	7	7	9	6	10	6	9
<b>Silver-washed Fritillary</b>	0	2	0	1	1	6	12	21	30
<b>White Admiral</b>	8	15	6	7	11	8	8	8	16

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 Broxbourne Wood West Ride and SSSI Butterflies  
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