

Field trips

The branch runs a programme of field trips and walks throughout the spring and summer months. Some walks are targeted for special species such as Grizzled Skipper, Chalkhill Blue or White Admirals, others for more common butterflies – both are ideal for beginners. The programme is published in the spring newsletter and any additional walks are posted on the branch website. More moth events can be found on the Herts Moth Group website (see links section). We suggest the following tips to ensure an enjoyable walk

- 🦋 Always wear strong shoes
- 🦋 Bring sun protection cream and a sunhat in hot weather
- 🦋 Bring something to drink
- 🦋 Bring insect repellent
- 🦋 All dogs must be kept under control
- 🦋 Dark glasses should be worn at evening moth events
- 🦋 If you decide to leave an event before the end, please tell the leader that you are going
- 🦋 It is recommended you bring binoculars especially if looking for woodland butterflies
- 🦋 If new to butterfly identification bring along a field guide*

*The branch stocks a selection of guides – see our website.



Photos by Andrew Wood and Jill Sawyer Phypers

Useful websites

Butterfly Conservation
www.butterfly-conservation.org

Herts Moth Group
www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Herts Natural History Society
www.hnhs.org

London Wildlife Trust
www.wildlondon.org.uk

London Natural History Society
www.lnhs.org.uk

UK Butterflies
www.ukbutterflies.co.uk

Sales goods

The branch stocks a selection of butterfly and moth identification books and FSC laminated identification guides. For more information visit:
www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/sales-new.php

Branch contacts

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**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Welcome to the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Branch of Butterfly Conservation

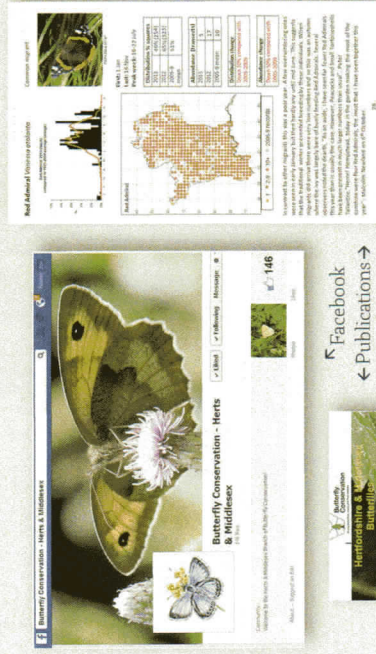


www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk

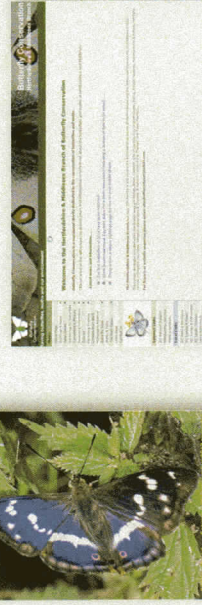
Keeping you up to date

We are active in print and on the web. All members receive at least two newsletters a year with news and articles by branch members. Early each year we publish a 44-page full-colour report on the status of butterflies in our area. On the web we have an extensive site which is updated frequently with sightings of butterflies as well as much more information about the site and our activities. Our Facebook site contains lots of news and information and lets you post your own information and news.

Each spring we hold a Members' Day with branch and outside speakers, displays and the chance to meet other members. A popular feature is our photographic competition with five keenly contested categories.



Facebook
Web



Get involved in recording

The backbone of everything we do is recording. We need to know what butterflies are being seen, where they are and when they were seen. Everyone is encouraged to keep these records and send them in to the branch records collator. Our records are kept on the branch database, shared with the environmental records centres for Hertfordshire (HERC) and London (GIGL) and added to the national Butterflies for the New Millennium database. Your sightings can help guide Butterfly Conservation across all of the UK. You can also join more formal site recording schemes such as the Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme and Transect recording. Details are available from the contacts on the back of this leaflet.

Millhoppers our reserve

This site of approx 3 acres (1.2 hectares) was acquired by the efforts of a few individuals from the adjacent village of Long Marston, a grant from Dacorum Borough Council and Butterfly Conservation. It was finally secured by Butterfly Conservation and dedicated to Gordon Beningfield in 1998 who sadly had died just before the opening.

Millhoppers is a rare example of a remnant of ancient countryside encircled by arable land.

The reserve is surrounded by blackthorn which flowers extremely early and provides a good source of nectar for any butterflies that might be on the wing. Black poplar are also present, this majestic tree is nationally rare but is reasonably common locally.

Although Millhoppers does not possess any particularly rare species which can be found on the neighbouring chalk grassland sites, for the beginner it is an excellent place to get your eye in and hone your basic identification skills. Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Gate Keeper abound with Common Blue and Marbled White making a frequent appearance. Large and Small White can also be seen along with Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral. On a summer's afternoon there really isn't a better place to get to know your butterflies.



Millhoppers Reserve



Marbled White



Gatekeeper

SOME GOOD BUTTERFLY SITES IN HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX

Site	Grid Reference	Brief details
Aldbury Nowers	SP951129	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) reserve north west of Tring
Alexandria Park	TL296901	Park around Alexandra Palace in LB Haringey
Balls Wood	TL348106	HMWT reserve at Hertford Heath 2 miles south of Hertford
Bricket Wood Common	TL1131017	North east of Watford
Broxbourne Woods	TL323070	A large complex of woods west of Hoddesdon and south of Hertford. The grid ref is for Broxbourne Wood west car park
Fir & Pond Woods	TL277012	HMWT reserve 2 miles east of Potters Bar
Hexton Chalk Pit	TL107299	HMWT reserve south of Hexton, turning off B655
Horsenden Hill		Bisected by Horsenden Lane North between Penrile and Sudbury in LB Ealing
Hounslow Heath	TQ141748	Off Staines Road, Hounslow
Millhoppers Pasture	SP899148	Branch reserve close to Long Marston near Tring
Nomansland Common	TL170124	Between Wheathampstead and Sandridge
Norton Green (Cannocks Wood/Watery Grove)	TL229231	West of A1M at Stevenage. Accessed from byways south of Norton Green
Patmore Heath	TL443257	HMWT reserve north west of Bishops Stortford
Pishiobury Park	TL475139	A country park just south of Sawbridgeworth
Ruislip Woods	TL080896	A complex of woods north of Ruislip along Ducks Hill Lane in LB Hillingdon
Southern Country Park, Bishops Stortford	TL473193	St Michael's Mead on the southern edge of Bishops Stortford
Therfield Heath	TL347404	Downland west of Royston by A505
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	TL367823	Southern Grove E3 nr Mile End Central Line station
Trent Park	TL280969	Nr Cockfosters Piccadilly line station
Waterford Heath	TL318150	HMWT reserve north of Hertford, accessed from Sacombe Road not via Watford