



Butterfly  
Conservation



# HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY REPORT - 2020

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Report 2020

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A very warm welcome to the 2020 Annual Butterfly Report of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

The global Covid-19 pandemic made 2020 a challenging year for all and, although there's still a long way to go, the roll-out of the vaccination programme gives us all hope for a better 2021. As I write this in early January, the weather remains cold and grey, but there are signs of what nature has to offer for the season ahead. Day-length is slowly increasing and snowdrops and crocuses are starting to show colour and will soon be out. It won't be long before birds are starting to nest-build and, by the time you get this Report, hibernating butterflies will have emerged. I always consider the Brimstone as the real harbinger of spring, and it's a heart-warming day, usually in early March, when I see the first male Brimstones of the year, flying along woodland rides.

With the lockdown of spring 2020, and ongoing social-distancing restrictions throughout the year, it made us all realise, and truly appreciate, how much nature means to us, and its contribution to our own well-being. Seeing Orange-tips flying in my garden, then following their life-cycle was an especially pleasurable experience. Although the first six weeks of butterfly transect recording were lost due to restrictions on non-essential activities, garden butterfly recording in 2020 and participation in the Big Butterfly Count reached record levels. Whether you're making occasional sightings from your garden or local park, or whether you're someone doing more regular surveys and monitoring, let me say a big thank you on behalf of Butterfly Conservation. Every record counts and really does improve our understanding of the status and distribution of each species. This information enables us to identify those butterflies that need greatest support and, from this, prioritise conservation actions accordingly.

The digital age means we've never had so much information readily available, helping us identify, understand, and appreciate butterflies and moths. The Branch website and various social media channels enable us all to share beautiful pictures and wonderful experiences, and to learn when particular butterflies are on the wing, and where to see them. Imagine the joy 300 years ago, for a privileged few, when in 1720, Eleazar Albin published *A Natural History of English Insects*, comprising a hundred individually hand-coloured copper-plate engravings (see back cover). Although there were only eleven plates of butterflies, covering just 15 species, it was nevertheless a landmark publication paving the way for all the wonderful books and identification guides that were to follow.

Finally, as always, I want to pay special thanks to Bob Ansell (Editor) and his entire team (see list inside front cover), for the incredible amount of time and effort put into the production of this Report. All are volunteers, taking great pride in what they do, with exceptional commitment to maintain the very highest standards, whilst aiming to get the Report to you in time for the start of the butterfly season. Let me finish by wishing you all the very best for the new season, and hope this Report encourages you to go out, wherever and whenever you can, to enjoy nature.

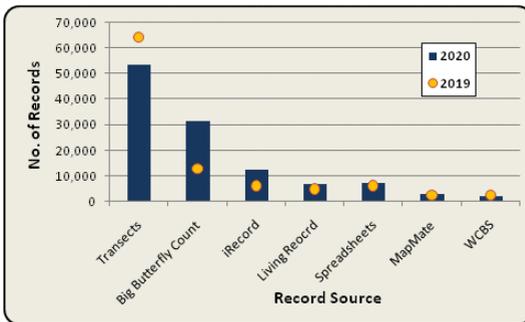
Andy Barker  
Chair, January 2021

There is probably little point in reminding you all that life was a little different in 2020! Various restrictions introduced by Government & local organizations/landowners did affect records received, both negative & positive.

The primary negative impact was in transect recording with the majority of routes not permitted to record for the first six weeks of the season (see page 10 of this report).

However, with encouragement to 'get outside' and with little opportunity for overseas vacations, records from the Big Butterfly Count soared, as did those on iRecord as more people began to find enjoyment on their local patches. The result of this was a staggering 114,430 records (501,343 butterflies), up over 15% based on records received for the same period in 2019. The number of recorders in mid July was over twice that of the median value for the previous five years.

Not surprisingly species records also covered more tetrads (2km squares) with only nine species being seen less widely than in 2019.



Corresponding to the exceptional number of records, the number of recorders taking part in the Big Butterfly Count within the Branch area in 2020 very nearly doubled compared to 2019, and those using iRecord also increased by 82%. Those using Living Record increased by a more modest 18% and those submitting spreadsheets and MapMate remained similar to previous years.

Notably 2020 was definitely not a 'Painted Lady year' but scarcer migrants included Large Tortioseshell & Long-tailed Blue with the first record of a Geranium Bronze (see photograph), since 2010 (Isle of Wight), possibly an arrival courtesy of imported Geranium plants.



Our Hampshire & Isle of Wight dataset is fast reaching capacity. During the early part of the year we will be transferring this data onto a different system which allows almost a limitless number of records. As a consequence, next year's report may look a little different in places particular in the format of the maps. We are hoping that the statistics can be continued as before.

**Deadline for butterfly records and images to be included in the 2021 report is 30 November 2021.**

Thank you to all who have submitted records and to those who have contributed to this report in any way. A special thank you to Jenny Mallett, who after many years of writing the Dingy & Grizzled Skipper species reports has decided to stand down.

**Bob Annell**

County Butterfly Recorder, January 2021

## Glossary of Terms

**Butterfly transect:** A method of monitoring butterflies, involving walking a fixed route at a given site, once a week from the first week of April to the last week of September, counting the number of each species seen. For the purpose of comparison between other butterfly transects both locally and nationally, there are a fixed set of guidelines. These primarily relate to weather conditions and the time of day under which the transect is walked. For further details of transect methodology, see <http://www.ukbms.org/>.

**25 Year Transect Trends:** These are available on the Branch website. An Annual Index is the sum total of weekly counts for a particular butterfly species on a given transect in a particular year. The graphs show the 25-year trend (1996-2020) for almost all Hampshire and Isle of Wight butterfly species, based on the average of the top 20-30 transect monitored sites where the species occurs.

**Flight period:** This is the period when the adult butterfly (*imago*) is on the wing.

**Butterfly counts:** Butterfly transects do not monitor population size, but because of a consistent methodology, they allow us to monitor change from one year to the next. Other counts sent in by recorders will be a function of the area of a site covered and the amount of time spent. In a quantitative way they give an idea of important sites, but would only give an indication of population size.

**BC Priority Status:** Regional priority is shown as listed in the *Butterfly Conservation South East England Regional Conservation Strategy 2015-2025*, as adopted for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Six butterfly species have been identified as 'Top Priority'.

**Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey:** The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) was established in 2009 to improve data on the population status of butterflies across the countryside as a whole. This is important given that most site-based monitoring is biased towards good quality semi-natural habitat relatively rich in butterflies. Wider countryside monitoring is organised in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The WCBS method is based on the BTO's Breeding Bird Survey (the 'BBS'), counting along two parallel 1-km long transects subdivided into 10 sections, located within randomly selected 1-km squares. The differences are that butterflies are counted in a more restricted area than for birds and at different times of the day. Only 2-4 visits are required compared to 26 visits on the traditional UKBMS transects.

**Species distribution maps:** The distribution maps in this report were produced using *MapMate* recording and mapping software. These show the 2km squares (tetrads) for which records were received since 2000.

Red: 2020

Mid Blue: 2010-2019

Open Black: 2000-2009

A blue or open black circle does not necessarily mean that the species no longer occurs, merely that the site may not have been visited in 2020. For maps of pre-2000 records, see '*The Butterflies of Hampshire*', by M Oates, J Taverner and D Green (Pisces Publications).

**Vernacular and scientific names of plants:** Plant names follow Francis Rose, 2006, *The Wild Flower Key*, revised and expanded edition, Warne.

**Species Number:** is in accordance with Agassiz, D.J.L., Beavan, S.D. and Heckford, R.J. (2013) *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles*.

## Common Species Summary

Bob Annell

This year's twenty-three most common species are shown below according to their tetrad coverage within the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch Boundary which embraces a total of 1,246 tetrads. Previous years' positions are also shown according to their respective tetrad coverage.

Small White remains the most widely distributed species being recorded in a record breaking 889 tetrads this year, mainly due to the significant number of recorders taking part in the Big Butterfly Count.

Similarly Meadow Brown distribution increased with a presence in 866 tetrads, nearly 25% greater than last year's record breaking high of 697 tetrads. However, the number of individuals reported actually fell by 20%.

Records of Small Heath indicated a 30% wider distribution in 2020 compared to 2019 although both the number of records and individuals were comparable.

Species	Tetrads	Records	Positions (by Tetrad)				
			2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Small White	889	12,693	1	2	1	5	1
Large White	870	10,514	2	5	2	4	3
Meadow Brown	866	13,568	3	4	4	3	5
Gatekeeper	843	9,382	4	1	3	2	4
Red Admiral	837	6,362	5	3	9	1	2
Peacock	825	6,134	6	7	12	8	7
Brimstone	720	5,437	7	6	7	7	6
Comma	675	3,283	8	11	6	6	9
Common Blue	632	4,939	9	10	8	10	15
Holly Blue	618	4,054	10	13	11	13	12
Speckled Wood	606	5,674	11	9	5	9	8
Small Tortoiseshell	562	2,098	12	17	14	11	11
Green-veined White	559	2,831	13	15	10	12	10
Ringlet	542	3,732	14	14	13	14	14
Small Copper	505	2,139	15	18	18	18	20
Marbled White	487	3,603	16	12	15	16	13
Orange-tip	335	1,311	17	16	17	19	18
Large Skipper	304	2,115	18	20	19	17	16
Small Heath	290	3,349	19	21	22	22	22
Painted Lady	271	450	20	8	16	15	17
Small Skipper	256	1,225	21	19	20	20	19
Silver-washed Fritillary	203	1,808	22	22	21	21	21
Brown Argus	156	900	23	23	23	24	27

Only four of the 23 scarcer species were seen in 100+ tetrads. Of those at the top, the most significant riser was Clouded Yellow jumping from 34<sup>th</sup> (49 tetrads) in 2019 to 24<sup>th</sup> (125 tetrads) in 2020. Silver-studded Blue continues to rise and reached the magic 100 tetrads (ranked 26<sup>th</sup>). This in part reflects targeted survey effort, but a positive trend nonetheless.

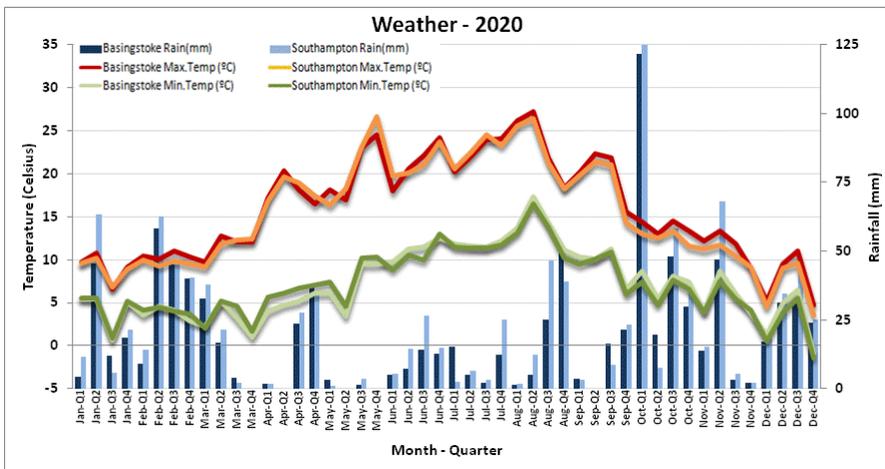
Many of the early season species dropped back slightly due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions limiting survey opportunities. Even so, Duke of Burgundy, slipping from 36<sup>th</sup> (2016) to 42<sup>nd</sup> (2020), and Pearl-bordered Fritillary going from 41<sup>st</sup> (2016) to 45<sup>th</sup> (2020) are giving concern. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary remains rooted at the bottom of the list with just 12 records from two tetrads. The best news at the lower end of the table is Marsh Fritillary, with 79 records over 18 tetrads, and Adonis Blue going from 24 to 36 tetrads, a 50% increase.

Species	Tetrads	Records	Positions (by Tetrad)				
			2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Clouded Yellow	125	331	24	34	27	26	23
Dark Green Fritillary	102	675	25	26	30	28	28
Silver-studded Blue	100	1,080	26	28	29	29	31
Essex Skipper	100	239	27	27	28	25	24
White Admiral	88	388	28	25	24	23	26
Green Hairstreak	84	217	29	24	26	27	25
Purple Hairstreak	76	204	30	33	25	31	35
Grayling	75	512	31	32	31	30	32
Dingy Skipper	73	371	32	30	35	32	29
Chalk Hill Blue	67	941	33	29	34	33	34
Grizzled Skipper	66	258	34	31	33	34	30
Wall	59	192	35	37	38	39	38
Small Blue	48	483	36	36	37	35	33
White-letter Hairstreak	46	70	37	35	32	37	42
Adonis Blue	36	272	38	40	39	40	37
Purple Emperor	29	53	39	38	36	36	39
Glanville Fritillary	24	102	40	42	40	42	40
Brown Hairstreak	23	59	41	39	42	44	44
Duke of Burgundy	19	88	42	41	41	38	36
Marsh Fritillary	18	79	43	44	44	45	45
Silver-spotted Skipper	16	80	44	45	45	43	43
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	12	158	45	43	43	41	41
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	2	12	46	46	46	46	46

As in previous years, this report has been compiled with reference to Meteorological Office summaries and data from private weather stations at Southampton and Basingstoke (Chineham, run by Simon Neil).

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2020>

[www.southamptonweather.co.uk](http://www.southamptonweather.co.uk)



2020 was another very warm year. In addition it was rather wet although also quite sunny.

**January** was a very mild month alternating between wet and drier spells giving an average month for rainfall. High pressure was close by early and around mid-month but otherwise mild winds from the south and west dominated.

**February** was exceptional being the wettest since records began in 1862. Obviously it was very unsettled with three named storms battering the country at various points and little in the way of quiet weather. Temperatures were again well above average and concluded a warm winter with no snowfall locally.

Thankfully, **March** was a much drier month with temperatures close to average. After an unsettled start with cooler westerly winds it became largely settled with high pressure dominating and plenty of sunshine.

By **April** we moved into an excellent extended spell of weather that coincided with the initial Covid lockdown. High pressure established itself to the north of the UK bringing dry easterly winds for the most part with a lot of sunshine. Although there were some chilly nights, some days were very warm indeed, leading to yet another above average month.

**May** was another superb month. Despite some brief cooler and more unsettled interludes, high pressure dominated and led to a very dry month with record breaking sunshine figures. Temperatures responded as a result so that we ended up a good 2°C above normal which may have had an impact on some species.

Summer commenced with a change in conditions as **June** became quite unsettled after a quiet start. However, it was still a bit warmer than average aided by a brief hot and thundery spell late in the month although we avoided most of that rain locally. Over the month as a whole, rainfall was a bit above average.

**July** was a rather average month. It was generally unsettled but a quieter spell through mid-month brought some welcome respite and pleasant weather. At the very end of the month it became very hot from the south with exceptional temperatures in South-east England. Indeed, the 31<sup>st</sup> saw a maximum of 34.5°C (94°F) at Basingstoke which was the warmest day of the year. Despite this July was a bit cooler than normal.

After an unsettled start, **August** delivered a notable heatwave to the area in the second week and eventually some very thundery conditions. Southampton peaked at 33.6°C (92°F) on the 11<sup>th</sup> which was their hottest day of the year. The same day, Basingstoke reached 34.0°C (93°F). After mid-month we switched to a more autumnal pattern with two named storms affecting the country before it quietened down at the end. It was a wet month but 1°C warmer than normal.

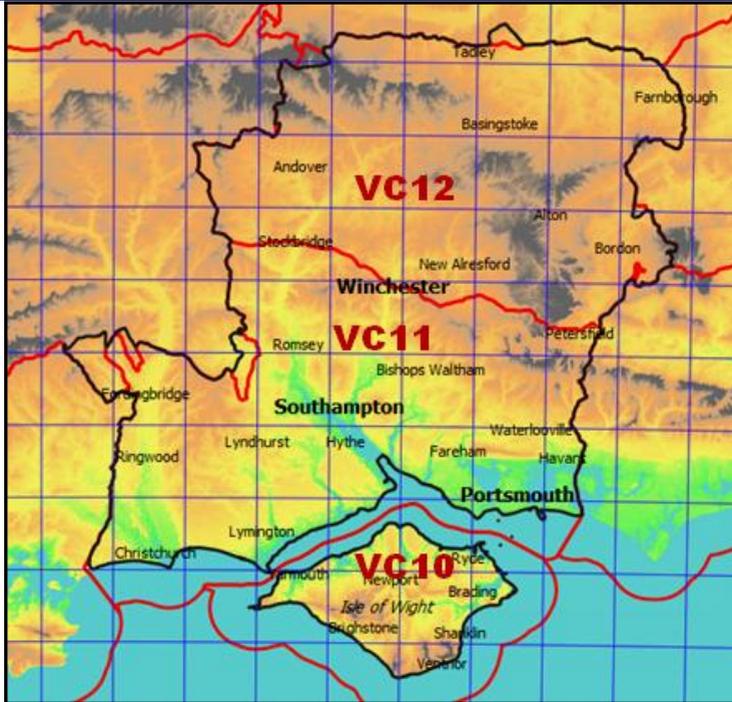
**September** was a dry month with average temperatures. It did start unsettled with Atlantic westerlies but high pressure built by mid-month giving very warm weather. As the high pressure moved west it allowed much cooler winds to dominate late in the month.

**October** is often a wet and unsettled month and this was no exception. Storm Alex brought extensive heavy rain in the first few days with some exceptional totals. Southampton recorded 45.8mm (1.8 inches) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Basingstoke 57.6mm (2.2 inches) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both stations recorded in excess of 100mm (4 inches) in the first four days and the pattern remained largely disturbed throughout the rest of the month. Temperatures were average but it was particularly dull.

**November** maintained an unsettled theme punctuated by brief quieter spells. Thankfully we avoided the intense rains of October so it was a much more average month with temperatures a shade above normal.

**December** remained rather disturbed and although mild south-westerly winds dominated the month, it started rather cool and ended with the coldest weather of the year which highlights how mild conditions had been in 2020. Indeed, both the selected weather stations showed a sub-zero minimum temperature average for the final week. It was wetter and slightly warmer than average overall.

## Location Map



The above relief map shows the extent of our Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch Boundary (black), together with Vice Counties (red with coastal buffer) and 10km grid lines (blue). The elevation shading is appropriate to the relief of our area with the darker grey indicating an elevation of over 200 metres above mean sea level.

Vice Counties are a system devised in 1852 by the botanist H.C. Watson (1804-81) of dividing the British Isles into approximately equal areas. The boundaries that Watson selected were principally county boundaries as defined in an atlas published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1844. These reflected the political boundaries as they existed then. Watson tried to define areas of approximately equal size and so some of the larger counties (including Hampshire) were divided into "vice counties". The system was later extended to cover Irish vice-counties. These boundaries are fixed and do not change as do administrative county boundaries.

Vice County 10 is the Isle of Wight. Vice County 11 covers the entire present Hampshire administrative boundary roughly south of a line between Stockbridge, Winchester and Petersfield but also includes parts of present day Dorset westwards to Bournemouth. Vice County 12 covers the northern half of Hampshire together with a part of present day Wiltshire around Tidworth and a very small part of Berkshire in the extreme north-west of the county. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Database & this report include records from all three of these Vice Counties not just records within the current Administrative Boundary.

This brief account provides an overview of transect recording for the year and the pattern of change. It is best read in conjunction with the Table on Page 64.

Like everything else, transect recording in 2020 was severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a non-essential activity, the advice from the UKBMS partnership was that such recording should not take place during the national lockdown period (ie the first six weeks of transect recording). The only transects that operated during this period were those done on the recorder's own land, as part of daily exercise, or whilst checking grazing stock. Having a missing six week block in April-May, meant that for most sites Annual Indices for Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper could not be derived. Species like Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dingy Skipper were similarly affected, and of course hibernating species (e.g. Brimstone) were also impacted. Only six sites obtained full data for Weeks 1-6, but others had partial data, allowing estimates. It is important to take this into consideration when interpreting the overall transect trends and flight period graphs in this Report.

Despite the challenges at the start of the season, transect recorders are a dedicated bunch of volunteers, with keen enthusiasm for what they do. Although 16 sites were not walked for Covid-related reasons (e.g access not permitted, site closed, transect walker "shielding" etc.), and a further nine were not walked for other reasons, it is great to be able to report that 150 transects still took place. Of these, 125 had data for both 2020 and 2019, allowing comparison of species trends. For species poorly represented on transects, the flight period graphs and overall trends are based on all data received (ie not just transects).

As many of you will know, the transect recording season runs from the beginning of April to end September (26 weeks). We usually report completion rates as a figure out of 26, but given the lost six weeks described above, it is more meaningful to report out of 20 this year. Once again, we can report high completion rates, with 18-20 week (or better) achieved at 62% of transects, and a further 20% achieving 14-17 weeks. Many thanks to all those involved, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Relative to 2019, the total number of butterflies recorded on transect in 2020 dropped by 26%. This is partly due to the reduced number of transects and missing six weeks at the start, but is mostly due to the poor performance of almost all of the grass-feeding Satyrids (the "Browns"). Species such as Ringlet (-45%), Meadow Brown (-33%) and Gatekeeper (-22%) usually account for a high proportion of butterflies recorded on transect during the summer, so for all to do so badly had a big impact on total butterflies seen. It is presumed that the hot dry weather may have resulted in high larval mortality as grassland sites became parched. Space doesn't permit much further analysis, but the species showing the most positive change in 2020 relative to 2019 were Clouded Yellow (+188%), Small Tortoiseshell (+72%) and Chalk Hill Blue (+50%). The species showing the most spectacular drop, and entirely absent from most transects, was Painted Lady (-98%).

Species	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Count	Ranking in Hampshire & Isle of Wight				Ranking in UK			
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017
Large White	20,120	1	4	2	4	1	5	2	5
Small White	17,422	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	4
Gatekeeper	14,491	3	1	3	1	3	4	3	1
Meadow Brown	11,071	4	2	4	5	5	6	5	3
Peacock	8,393	5	6	14	7	4	2	4	6
Red Admiral	5,590	6	7	8	2	6	7	9	2
Common Blue	3,631	7	8	6	11	8	13	6	9
Holly Blue	2,518	8	15	10	16	13	15	12	15
Brimstone	2,108	9	9	11	9	15	18	17	17
Comma	1,996	10	12	5	6	10	11	11	7
Ringlet	1,735	11	11	17	15	9	12	14	11
Speckled Wood	1,554	12	13	7	10	12	9	8	10
Green-veined White	1,485	13	14	9	14	11	10	7	12
Small Copper	1,445	14	17	18	18	14	16	16	16
Small Tortoiseshell	1,263	15	16	16	12	7	8	10	8
Marbled White	1,062	16	10	19	17	17	17	19	18
Six-spot Burnet	458	17	18	12	8	16	14	15	13
Painted Lady	426	18	5	15	13	18	1	13	14
Silver Y	136	19	19	13	19	19	19	18	19

*Rankings: Green – top five; Red – bottom five; Blue - intermediate*

The 'Big Butterfly Count' is a nationwide survey that asks people to carry out a 15 minute count of butterflies in their local area on a bright day. In 2020 the survey took place between 17 July and 09 August, when many common species are expected to be on the wing. This survey has been running since 2010 and currently focuses on 19 widespread species made up of the 17 butterflies and two day flying moths listed above.

The most notable difference in 2020 to previous years was the increase in the number of people who took part, with more than 8,000 local counts and nearly 97,000 butterflies/moths recorded - more than double the number in 2019, although the number of insects seen per count was actually lower than last year. Many thanks go to all who took part.

Large White was seen in greatest numbers in 2020 both locally and nationally with a notable increase in sightings compared to 2019. Holly Blue also had a particularly good year, rising from 15 in the rankings in 2019 to be placed at eight in 2020, its highest comparative position locally since this survey started. Other species seeing good increases in local numbers were Peacock, Small White, Small Copper and Common Blue. In contrast the migrant Painted Lady did not visit in any numbers this year and there were fewer sightings of Marbled White than last year.

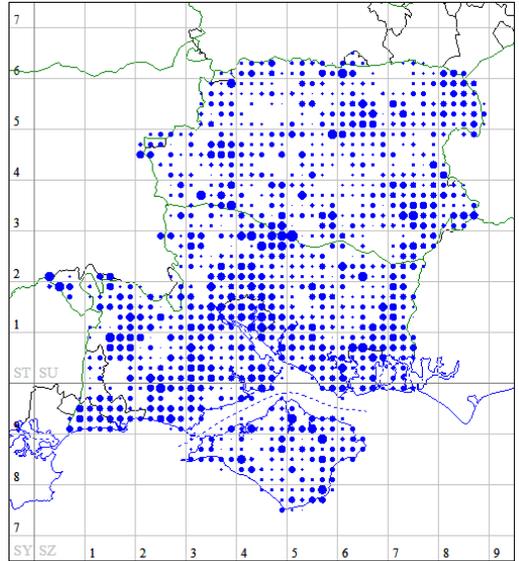
## Butterfly Record Coverage 2020

Recorded tetrads in 2020 – the bigger the circle, the greater the recording effort.

This methodology better illustrates the 'cold spots' that require more targeted effort in coming field seasons.

**No of 2020 records: 114,430**  
**No of tetrads in 2020: 1,059**

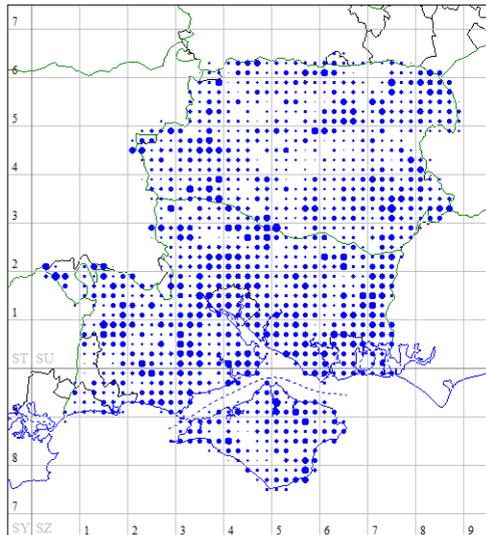
Number of Recorders		
Source	2020	2019
Transects	313	381
WCBS	41	50
Big Butterfly Count	3,104	1,617
iRecord	669	371
Living Record	107	91
Spreadsheets	76	81
MapMate	8	6
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4,084</b>	<b>2,556</b>



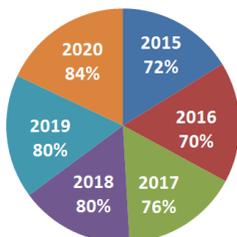
## Butterfly Record Coverage 2015 - 2019

Recorded tetrads in the five years 2015 to 2019 (92% coverage) – as per the preceding map, the bigger the circle, the greater the recording effort.

**No of records: 442,730**  
**No of tetrads: 1,147**



### Tetrad Coverage 2015 - 2020

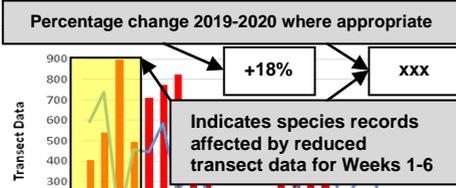


# Species Report Layout

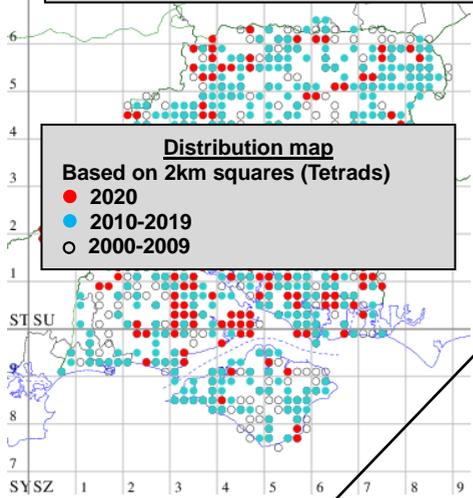
57.001 Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*

Anthony Anon

Species Number (Agassiz et al, 2013) – Vernacular – Taxon – Author



Flight period graph  
These are based on Transect Data except that All Data is used for some species poorly represented on transects (vertical axis is number of individuals in both cases).



BC Priority status **High**

No of 2020 records

No of 2020 individuals

No of 2020 tetrads

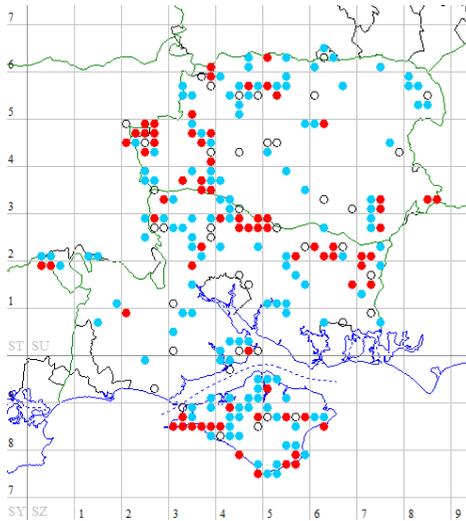
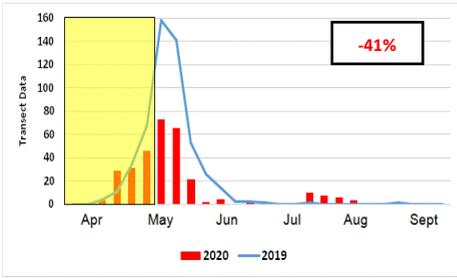
No of post 2005 tetrads **Occupied tetrads**

Earliest on Database	Summary Tables are also provided towards the end of this document		
Earliest 2020			
Latest 2020			
Latest on Database			
Transect Site Trends	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%

BC Priority Status  
Determined in accordance with *South East England Conservation Strategy 2015-2025* as adopted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight.

Based on 125 transects, comparing 2020 records with 2019 indicating the number of transects in each category

**AUTHOR'S NARRATIVE**  
Generally prepared using information & data available on 30 November 2020



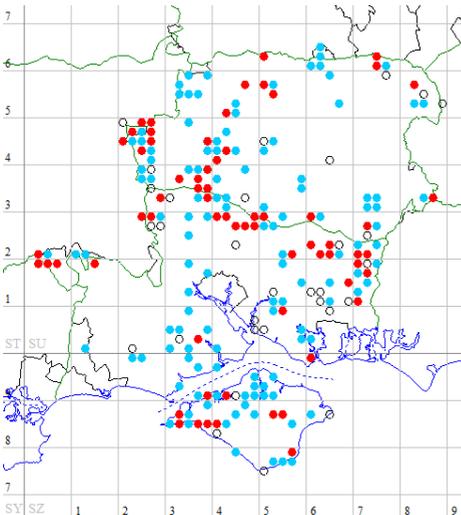
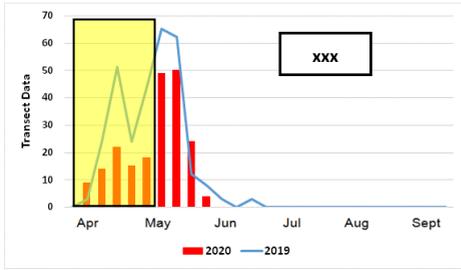
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>371</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>1,540</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>217</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 12 Apr 2011			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>16 April</b> Magdalen Hill Down & Mottistone Down		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>30 August</b> Mottistone Down		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 03 Sep 1993			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

The lack of recording in the spring of 2020 resulted in a 41% drop in Dingy Skipper records from transects. However, this is against a total of 1,540 individuals recorded against 1,517 in 2019 suggesting an increasing trend and another excellent year for Dingy Skipper. For reference, nearly 23% of Dingy Skipper transect records in 2019 were from the first six weeks of the season.

The Dingy season started on 16 April where ones were seen at Magdalen Hill Down and Mottistone Down. A week later at Oxenbourne Down, 32 were seen, with 40 recorded there just a few days later. At Butser Hill, incredible counts of 60 on 05 May, 52 on 15 May and 21 on 18 May were recorded. St Michael's Church in Quarley recorded a staggering 65 on 09 May, 28 were seen at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry on 08 May and 26 at Old Winchester Hill on 18 May. A small second brood appeared across the region.

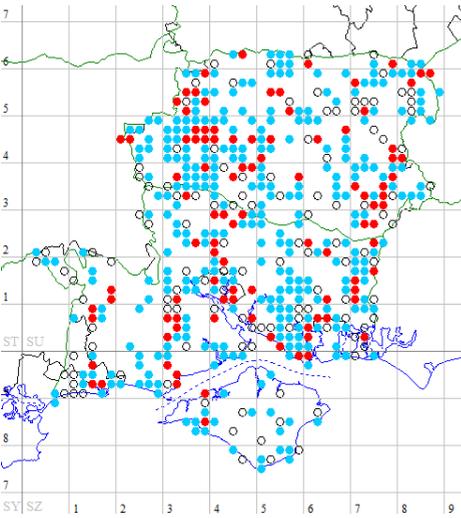
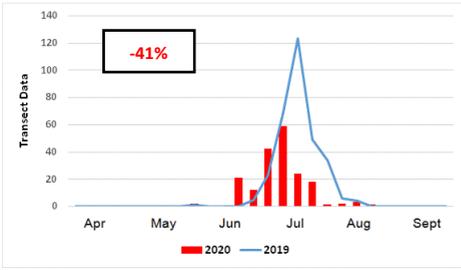
Isle of Wight sightings contained 240 individuals, from April to a small second brood at end of August, both at Mottistone. Bonchurch recorded 14 on 07 May, the chalk pits at Mottistone held 16 on 14 May and 14 were seen at Brook on 29 May.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>199</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 02 Apr 2009	
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>11 April</b> Magdalen Hill Down
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>08 June</b> Martin Down
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 07 Sep 2004	
<b>Transect Site</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b> <b>Within ± 20%</b> <b>Up &gt;20%</b>
<b>Trends</b>	<b>2</b> <b>3</b> <b>9</b>

Lockdown coincided with the Grizzled Skipper flight season in 2020, so it is no surprise that numbers recorded on transect were considerably lower than 2019. However, 854 individuals were recorded in 2020 compared to 924 in 2019. This suggests a good year for Grizzled Skipper overall. It is worth noting that nearly 50% of Grizzled Skipper records came from the first six weeks of transects in 2019. The flight season started four days later than 2019, on 11 April, at Magdalen Hill Down. Downland sites: Martin Down, Stockbridge Down, Oxenbourne Down, Butser Hill and Magdalen Hill Down, remain the best mainland places to see Grizzled Skipper, all with peak counts over 15. Counts of 20 were recorded at Stockbridge Down on 13 May and Martin Down on 02 June. Pleasingly, woodland colonies seem to be still going, with West Wood, Botley Wood and Bentley Wood all reporting sightings. On the Isle of Wight, the first individual was reported on 23 April at Mottistone Down. This remains a good place to see Grizzled Skipper on the island, although Boulder Forest had higher counts, where eight were seen on 18 May and seven on 26 May. Compton Down and Tennyson Down also recorded sightings of ones and twos throughout the season.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>431</b>

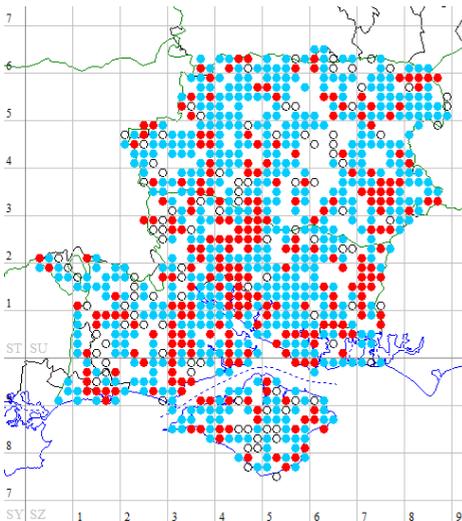
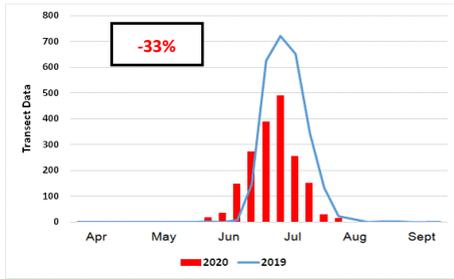
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 26 May 2007			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>07 June</b> Alver Valley Country Park		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>20 August</b> Beacon Hill		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 21 Sep 1996			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>Not Measured</b>		

The drop in transect numbers could, in some areas, be due to sheep kept on the drier hillsides during the exceptionally wet early months eating overwintering eggs in grass leaf sheaths. Reduced transect monitoring due to COVID fears may also have affected records although the earlier emergence of adults this year was still well within the allowed recorder access period. Numbers held up through to the last multiple report of two at Farleigh Wallop on 30 July with only singletons thereafter.

Across Hampshire records for 98 sites came from the far north (Pamber Forest) to the Lymington area in the south and from Blashford Lakes on the west to Hawley and Abbots Wood in the east. Top site was Hawley near Farnborough with a total of 181 counted on well spaced visits.

The transect sites were headed again by Pilot Hill (total 65, down 52% from 2019) followed by Highclere (19) and new transect Ox Drove Meadow (18). On other sites Frater Fields, Gosport (59) was down 68%, Haslar Sea Wall (36) and Creech Wood (30) were down slightly. Overall a poor year.

Two records came from the Isle of Wight (Brook, five and Cranmore, one) showing the species persists in the west.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>1,225</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>5,269</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>827</b>

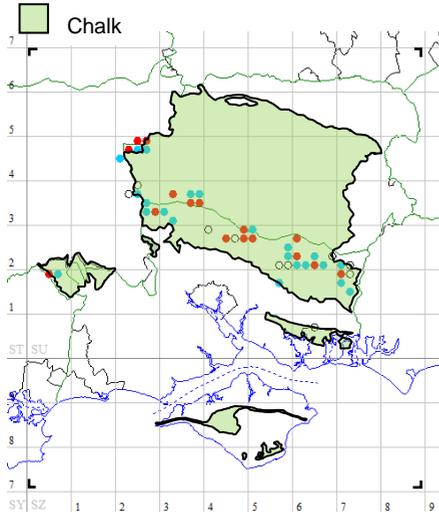
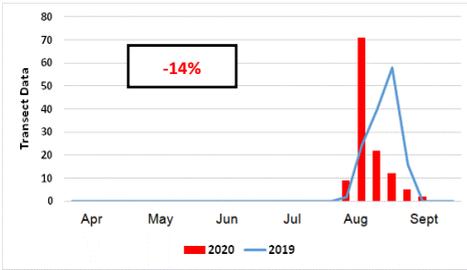
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 16 May 2011				
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>28 May</b> Itchen Stoke			
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>20 August</b> Bentley Station Meadow			
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 19 Sep 1991				
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Down &gt;20%</td> <td>Within ± 20%</td> <td>Up &gt;20%</td> </tr> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%		
<b>Not Measured</b>				

With a relatively late emergence this species could be fully monitored within the pandemic constraints. However some transects were replaced by a few spaced visits. Some non transect sites were visited rarely. Thus the 54% overall total fall in records for both counties compared to 2019 is misleading. The earliest multiple record was three at Magdalen Hill Down on 05 June and the last was two at Roe Inclosure on 17 August. There was a similar peak date to 2019.

On multiple visits over the flight period, 202 were counted at Creech Wood, 184 at Frater Fields, Gosport, 143 at Hawley and 112 at Abbots Wood Inclosure among the Hampshire sites.

Bartley Heath New Transect near Hook yielded 128, Noar Hill transect 103 and Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows transect 99. In contrast four separate transects at Magdalen Hill Down yielded a combined total of 54 over the flight period and Martin Down (two transects) just 12.

Records came from 28 sites on the Isle of Wight – nearly twice the 2019 coverage! Whippingham Fields transect yielded 162, followed by counts at Downend (24) and on Mottistone Down transect (22) along the central ridge, and ten at Brading Down in the far east. Isle of Wight's total was 313.

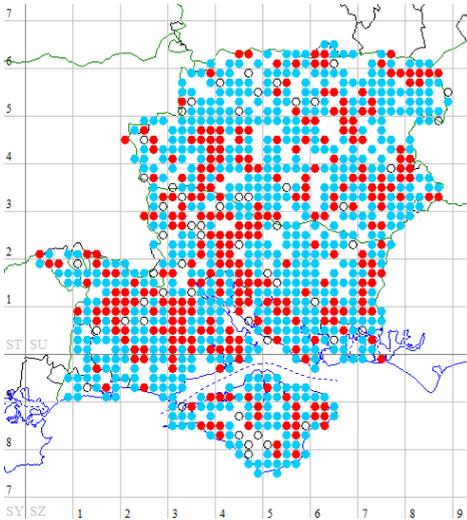
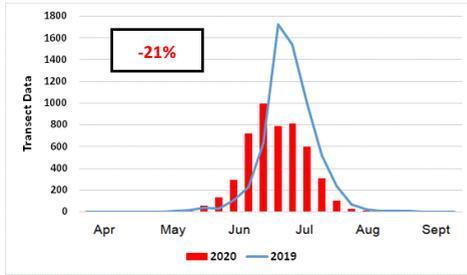


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 11 Jul 2018			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>29 July</b> Oxenbourne Down, Stockbridge Down & QE Country Park		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>18 September</b> Old Winchester Hill		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 11 Oct 1986			
<b>Trend</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	2	-	1

This species remains one of Hampshire’s rarest and most threatened butterflies, with the eight sites listed in last year’s report being the only known breeding populations. With one exception, all are SSSI’s dependent on carefully managed grazing to maintain the short grassland sward this species favours.

The season began in very late July, and peaked in mid August. The best counts were 45 on 20 August at Old Winchester Hill, 38 on 12 August at St. Catherine’s Hill and 35 on 18 August at Beacon Hill NNR. With transect data limited to just a handful of sites trend analysis is fairly subjective. Even so, with the total number of individuals recorded being much the same as the previous year, and the number of tetrads recording the species up from 11 to 16 the species probably had a reasonable year. Encouragingly, there were signs of dispersal, with a stray individual seen on 10 August at Danebury Hill Fort, and another seen and photographed on 31 August at Butterfly Conservation’s Yew Hill nature reserve. The season was all but over by the first week of September, although Meon Valley sites produced a few records into mid September, nearly a fortnight later than 2019.

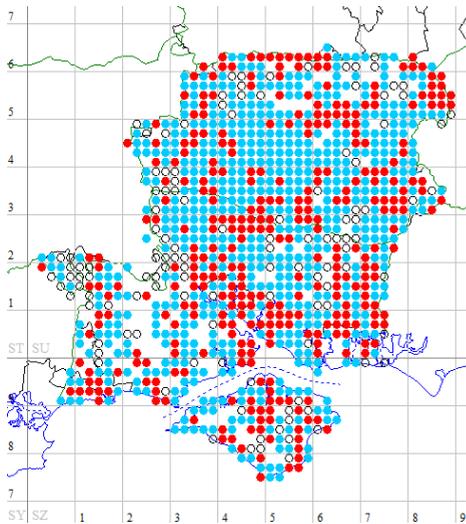
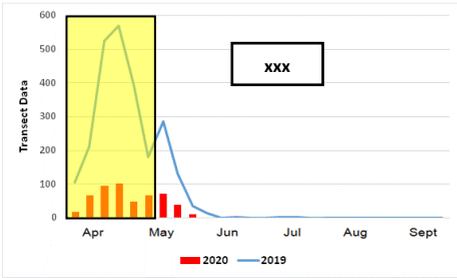


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>2,115</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>6,938</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>930</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 28 Apr 2007			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>16 May</b> Afton Chalk Pit		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>13 August</b> West Minley Meadow		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 22 Sep 2013			
<b>Transect Site</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
<b>Trends</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>

The Large Skipper season began at a similar time to 2019; the late start to transect recording is therefore unlikely to be relevant to the records. The first sighting was on the Isle of Wight on 16 May (Afton Chalk Pit, Freshwater), and 19 May on the mainland (Rownhams). Subsequent transect data revealed differences between the two years. Numbers of individuals recorded initially rose more steeply than in 2019, perhaps encouraged by the sunny May weather during emergence. This trend continued during the more mixed weather of June, reaching the peak in the week beginning 24 June, a week earlier, and considerably lower in numbers, than in 2019. Numbers declined from July onwards, and the season ended a month earlier than in 2019, and even earlier on the Isle of Wight (22 July, Bonchurch Down). The highest number of individuals for a single record was at West Wood on the mainland on 02 July and 10 July (53 on each occasion), and at Whippingham Fields (33) for the Isle of Wight on 22 June. The average number of individuals per record was 3.28 overall.

The decrease in numbers marks an end to the previous year-on-year rise since 2016, and time will tell whether this is a temporary weather-related dip.

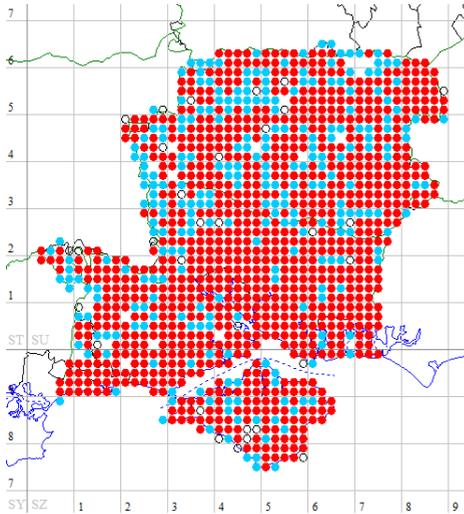
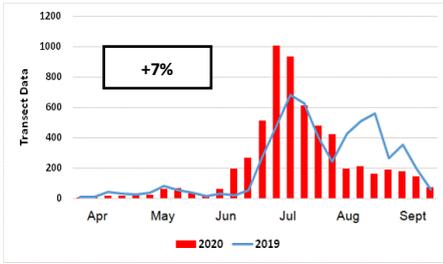


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>1,311</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>2,342</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>997</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 10 Mar 1990			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	16 March Leckford		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	24 June Winnal Moors		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 22 Sep 2011			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	12	9	4

It was another good year for Orange-tip in spite of the Corona pandemic disrupting transect recording for the first six weeks of the season, which caused a dip in the Annual Index. It is estimated that transect counts for this species could have been affected by around 81% in this period, as confirmed by a large reduction in the size of the main peak in late April compared to 2019. As a result 12 out of 25 transects reported a reduction in numbers relative to 2019 when almost five times more transects were walked during the flight period.

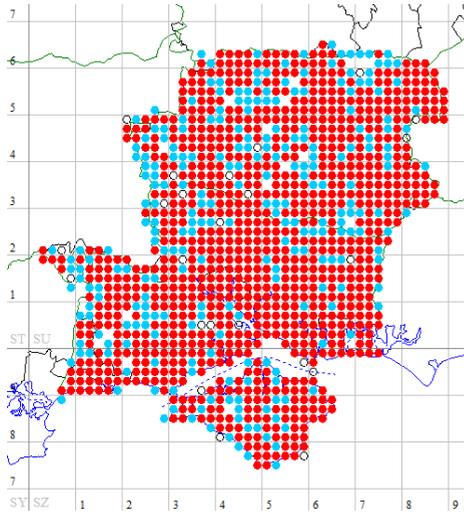
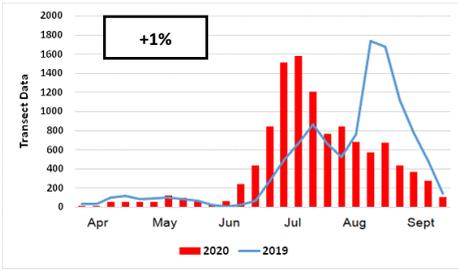
Orange-tip were observed from mid-March until late June. Individuals totalling 2,342 were recorded of which 523 (including 71 on the Isle of Wight) were on-transect and 1,877 off-transect (including 207 on the Isle of Wight). The most individuals seen on any one occasion were 18 off-transect on 24 April (Tidgrove Warren) and five on three occasions on-transect between 16 April and 07 May (Alresford Farm, Magdalen Hill Down). Where gender was determined in the off-transect records there were 347 males and 41 females, a ratio of 8.5:1 which is twice what it was in 2019.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>10,514</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>31,751</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,155</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 20 Jan 2020			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>20 January</b> Blashford Lakes		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>06 November</b> Blackwood Forest		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 07 Dec 2012			
<b>Transect Site</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
<b>Trends</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>

The modest 7% increase in transect sightings from 2019 is dwarfed by the additional 158% upsurge in generally reported Large White. Indeed, the 91% enhancement of records over last year probably reflects the increased number of the Big Butterfly Count participants and the unusual circumstances of 2020. Large White emergence began largely after ‘Spring Lockdown’ and, with the Government encouraging the country to take regular exercise, increased numbers of records were received ultimately realising a prolific reporting year for *Pieris brassicae*. Most reports were singletons with an average number of butterflies of three per record. Alice Holt, Straits Inclosure Transect Section 1 recorded nine on 11 July. The first double figure record was Kempthill Moor Copse Transect Section 2 on the Isle of Wight on 10 July. This was followed on the Island by 28 at Gurnard on 20 July and 50 at Wootton Bridge on 23 July with an amazing 100+ reported at Garston’s Down on 02 July. Mainland sightings also saw numbers peak in July; at Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 05 July (33); Selborne (57) on 20 July and another century record this time at Pitt Down Farley Mount on 21 July. This common and underrated butterfly continued to afford us pleasure well into autumn with 36 recorded at Southborne Undercliff on 01 October.



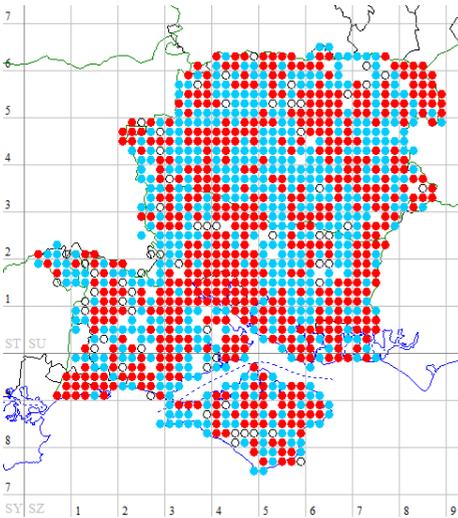
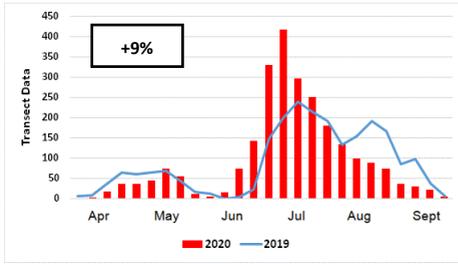
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>12,693</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>39,680</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>889</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,159</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 09 Jan 1991							
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>15 January</b> Waterlooville						
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>26 October</b> Drayton						
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 08 Dec 2007							
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Down &gt;20%</th> <th>Within ± 20%</th> <th>Up &gt;20%</th> </tr> <tr> <td><b>37</b></td> <td><b>29</b></td> <td><b>44</b></td> </tr> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>					

Of the 114,430 butterfly records for 2020, Small White accounted for 11%. Overall records increased this year by 56% and individuals by 61% making this an excellent year for *Pieris rapae*. 1,077 records were received for the Isle of Wight amounting to 2,963 butterflies. The Island's first double figure count was at Brading Down on 27 April with 11. Other Isle of Wight sites reporting good numbers were: Alverstone (23) 12 July & Culver Down (25) on 10 July.

The highest count was at Wellow on 17 July when 35 were recorded. This peak is significantly down from a high of 60 noted in 2019. On the mainland, the first double figure count was ten on 11 April at Redlands Grove (Southsea).

As expected, numbers increased inexorably through July across mainland Hampshire; Breamore Transect Section 5 recorded 39 on 20 July and the next day at Pitt Down Farley Mount, 130 were noted. This latter record represented the Small White's zenith for 2020. However, as late as 18 September, 100 were noted at Old Winchester Hill. That said, the comparative Transect Data graph shows the species return to its usual high-summer zenith.



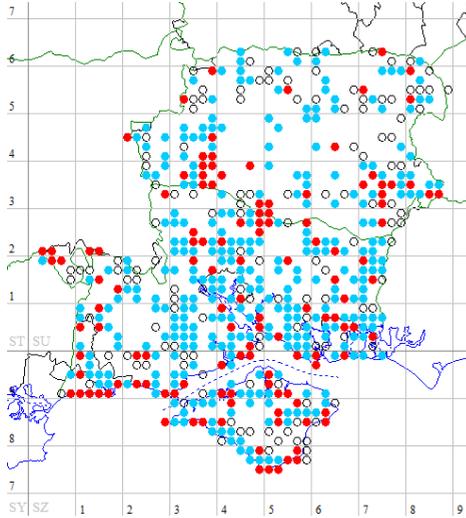
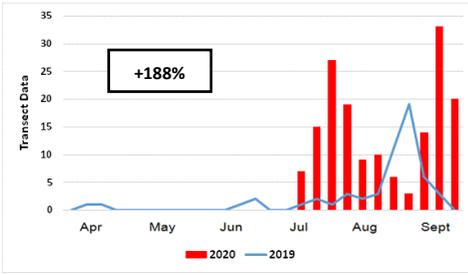
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>2,831</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>5,526</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>559</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,087</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 03 Mar 1989			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>16 March</b> Brading		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>19 October</b> Newport		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 05 Nov 2017			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ±20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>

After a poor year in 2019, numbers of Green-veined White showed an increase in 2020, probably up more than the 9% indicated above as some transect records will have been lost due to the spring national lockdown.

As in 2019, adult butterflies started to be seen in late March, with evidence of mating taking place in the first half of April. Transect information on the spring brood is limited as the bulk of transect walks could not commence before mid May (Transect Week 7). By that time the spring brood was probably on the wane, with the summer brood starting to emerge in mid June. The summer brood showed a strong peak in the second week of July, earlier than in 2019, with numbers then tailing off.

This is a widespread species, seen on over 100 transects across the two counties and on more than 750 Big Butterfly Counts. On the mainland, the Breamore transect in the west of Hampshire had the greatest annual index (315), with 81 on the Kemphill Moor Copse transect being the highest index on the Isle of Wight. Highest casual records were 100 at Titchfield Haven in Hampshire and 39 at Arreton on the Isle of Wight.



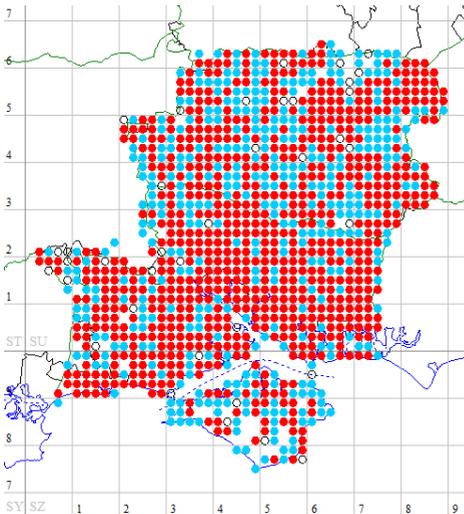
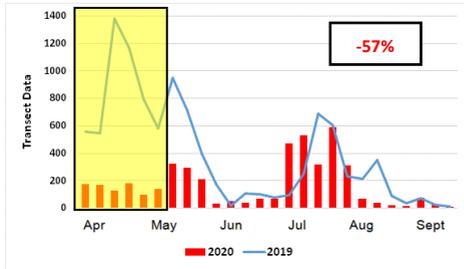
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>486</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 08 Feb 2005			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>06 April</b> Denmead & Fishlake Meadows		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>19 November</b> Southbourne Undercliffe		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 30 Dec 2007			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>

The Clouded Yellow had a rather deceptive year in 2020. Numbers appeared relatively low until the early autumn and then blossomed. The season showed promise of an invasion early on, however with only two May records and one late June record many observers struggled to see a Clouded Yellow until mid-summer. It was only from July that records began in earnest with ones and twos seen on a daily basis. A notable count was of 16 at Kilmeston on 23 July.

Transect totals were up 188% with 22 transects showing an increase greater than 20%. This tells a story of how numbers increased from mid-summer compared to the meagre spring showing.

Numbers began to build at Southbourne Undercliff during the autumn with 18 seen on 27 September and by 16 October there were 40. Egg laying was still taking place here on 05 November, Bird's-foot-trefoil being the preferred foodplant. There were several records of the pale form *helice* seen from 18 September. Separate observers saw different helice in various areas along the cliffs. At least two of these were thought to be *var. helicina*, a much more lemon form (see photograph). The final sighting here was on 19 November.



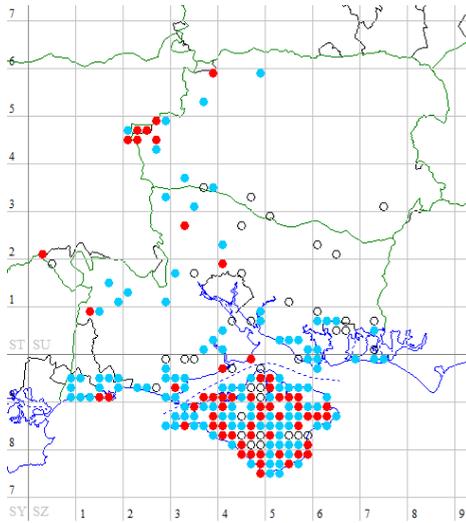
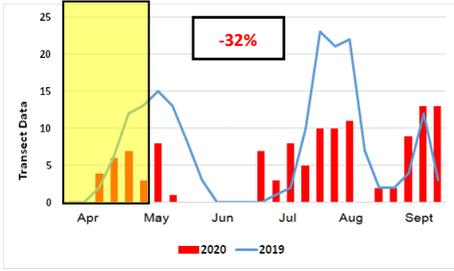
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>5,437</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>11,753</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,126</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 01 Jan 2001							
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>09 January</b> Blashford Lakes						
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>28 November</b> Southampton						
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 29 Dec 1999							
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Down &gt;20%</th> <th>Within ± 20%</th> <th>Up &gt;20%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>10</b></td> <td><b>8</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>					

It seems probable that Brimstone numbers were lower in 2020 than in 2019, although the reduction of 57% suggested by transect data is an overestimation of the extent of any decline.

Brimstone are most visible in the spring months. As soon as the weather starts to warm, the overwintering bright yellow adult males patrol areas looking for the paler females. In 2020 casual observations of Brimstone started to be made in good numbers from the second week of March, slightly later than in 2019, and continued throughout April and most of May. Very few transects could be walked during April and early May due to the national lockdown and this absence of records accounts for much of the decline in numbers seen on transect.

The annual brood started to emerge in late June, being observed in greatest numbers during July, about two weeks earlier than in 2019. There was a small decline, less than 10%, in numbers seen on transects in 2020 during this period compared to 2019. As always, Brimstone was common and widespread on the mainland, with best summer numbers recorded on transects at Danebury Hill Fort and Breamore. Numbers on the the Isle of Wight are notably lower.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>186</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 14 Apr 2002			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	16 April Mottistone Down & Monk's Bay		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	10 November Hengistbury Head		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 10 Nov 2020			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	6	2	2

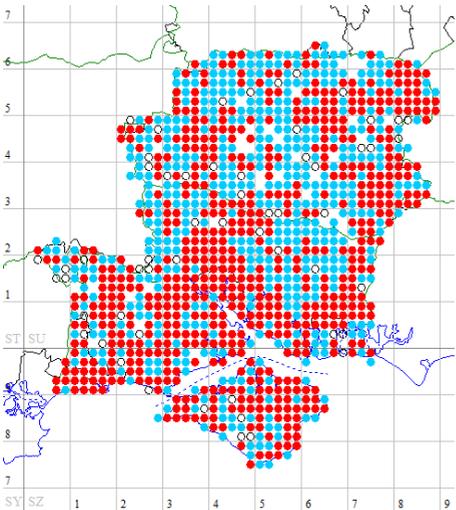
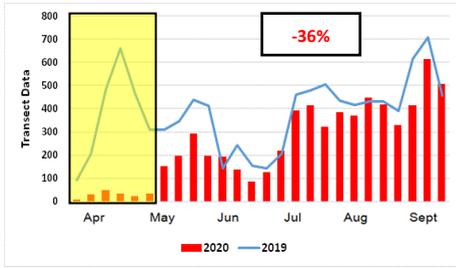
Wall remains in a precarious position in Hampshire although Covid restrictions in the spring may go some way to explaining the 32% drop in transect records.

On the Island it was recorded widely on transects throughout April and May but in generally very low numbers. The best count of the spring generation was five recorded at Chillerton Down on 27 May. It re-emerged at Mottistone Down on 07 July when five were also counted.

On the mainland the first sighting of the year came from Somerley Park on the 01 May with the only other spring record being an excellent count of five at St Michael's Church, Quarley on 09 May. The north-west of the county was once again the main stronghold for the species with a count of six at Bedlam Plantation on 29 July.

Elsewhere there were scattered records from Mottisfont on 02 August and Warren Farm in the New Forest on 19 September. A single individual on the transect at Martin Down on 07 August was the first at this well watched site for many years. The last of the year was at Hengistbury Head on the incredibly late date of 10 November which is the latest ever record on the database.

One cannot disguise the overall picture of a species in real peril.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>5,674</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>10,843</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>606</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,137</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 11 Jan 2013			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	21 March Lower Test Nature Reserve		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	13 November Warsash		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 15 Dec 2011			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	69	28	3

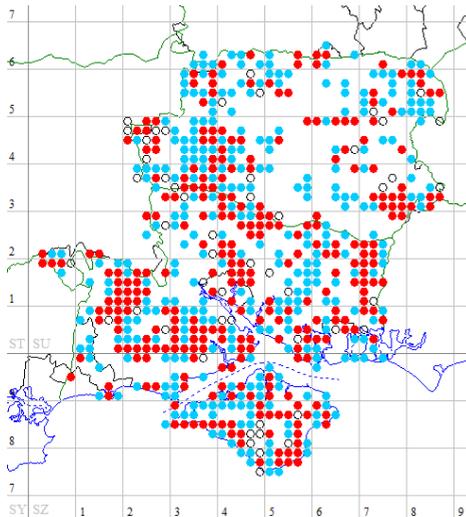
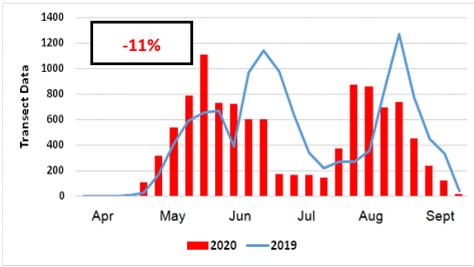
A slightly better year for Speckled Wood, the species being recorded in 606 tetrads compared to only 566 tetrads in 2019, but this was still short of the highest ever coverage of 626 tetrads in 2011.

As might be expected South Hampshire remains the primary location for Speckled Wood with over 22 individuals/recorded per tetrad followed by the Isle of Wight with 15/recorded per tetrad and North Hampshire with 12/recorded per tetrad.

The highest single transect count was 52 at Roe South on 26 July followed by a count of 47 at Blashford Lakes North transect on 20 September. In fact seven of the top ten weekly transect counts were recorded on transects located in the New Forest.

The highest total transect count was 298 at Kempfill Moor Copse (Isle of Wight) followed by 224 at Roe South, 216 at Blashford Lakes North, 194 at Bridlesford Woods Nature Reserve (Isle of Wight) & 186 at Mockbeggar.

The highest count from the Big Butterfly Count this year was 31 at Kingsclere on 09 August (the final day of the event) and on the Isle of Wight, a count of 15 at Wootton Bridge on the same day.



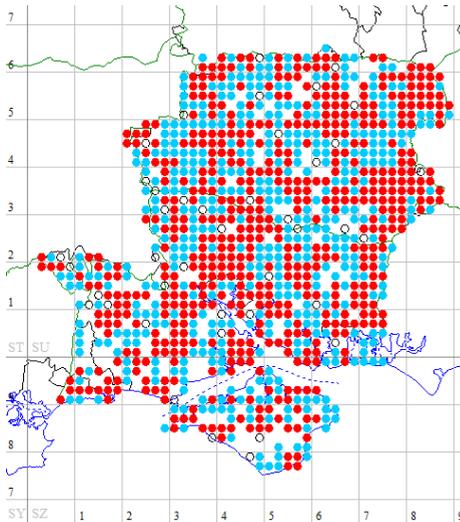
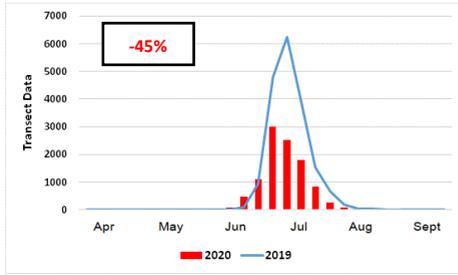
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>3,349</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>17,811</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>628</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 08 Apr 1997			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	19 April Magdalen Hill Down		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	01 October Chilbolton Down		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 29 Oct 2011			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	24	14	41

This species got off to a fairly slow start but first brood numbers built quickly reaching a peak some five weeks earlier than the previous year. The first specimens were recorded at Magdalen Hill Down on the 19 April, the same date as last year, and on the Isle of Wight from Mottistone Down on the 10 June. Numbers then levelled off again, and as might be expected, the second brood reached a peak some three weeks earlier than the previous year. Overall this butterfly had a comparable year with numbers on transect being a modest 11% down on last year.

Stockbridge Down had a fantastic second brood emergence with two counts of over 300 butterflies, peaking at a maximum of 464 on 26 August and on the Isle of Wight an impressive 230 were recorded at Whippingham Fields on 17 June.

Numbers slowly tailed off during August and September with the last individuals being recorded on the Isle of Wight at Mottistone Down on 29 September and a very late straggler at Chilbolton Down on the first day of October.



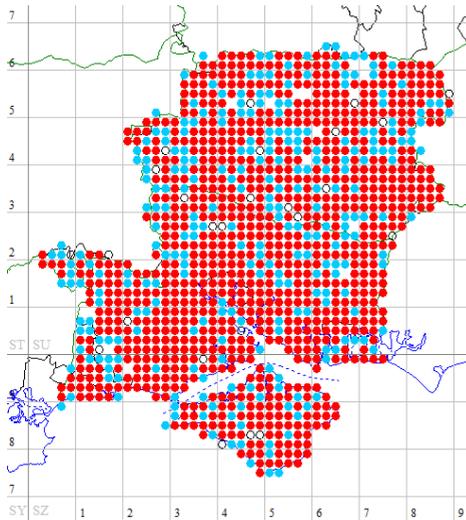
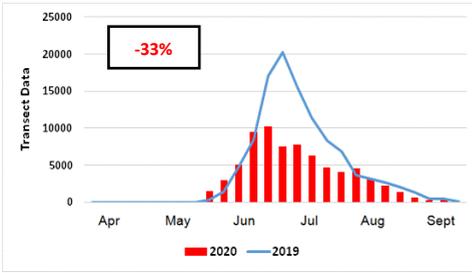
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>3,732</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>16,584</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>991</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 24 May 2016			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>29 May</b>	Danebury Hill Fort	
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>08 September</b>	Aldershot	
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 11 Oct 2011			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>70</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>

Total records received were on a par with 2019, but quantities were 45% down at monitored sites and 35% down overall. This trend was reflected on the Noar Hill transect, which had its lowest annual index since 2007.

The first sighting of the year was only five days later than the earliest ever recorded for Hampshire and over two weeks before its 2019 equivalent. Thereafter numbers built steadily to a peak in the first week of July. A number of transect highs of 136, 165 and 164 at Botley Wood, Perrywood Ivy and Basing Wood respectively were achieved on 11 July; the latter of these sites having recorded 326 four days earlier. Notable casual record counts came from West Wood, which peaked at 121 on 01 July and Whiteley Woods and Meadow which recorded 112 on 15 July. On the Island, the Bridesford Woods transect recorded 52 on 25 June and Walters Copse reported 55 on 06 July.

As usual, numbers reduced steadily through July and August with three sightings in early September. A far from exceptional season for Ringlet, which nevertheless remains a numerous and widespread species in the area.

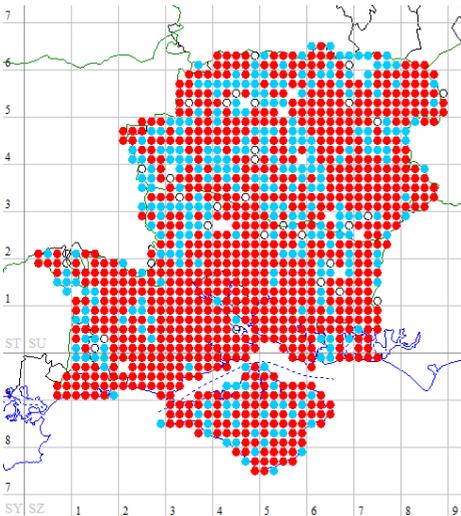
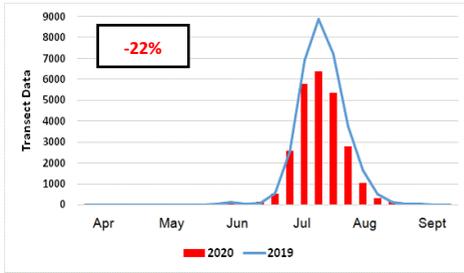


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>13,568</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>118,380</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>866</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,149</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 30 Apr 2011			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	17 May Carisbrooke		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	17 October Bransgore		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 07 Nov 2010			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>65</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>

It is possible to find this butterfly within almost any grassland habitat during the summer and into the early autumn. In Hampshire, Meadow Brown numbers seldom fluctuate much, but records suggest that the population at many sites was slightly lower in 2020 compared with 2019. As is usual in recent years, it showed a long flight period from mid-May until mid-October which in 2020 peaked at the end of June. This species can often make the most of even a small patch of 'wildness' with one observer at Woodlands Ashurst on 24 June 2020 commenting '1,017 Meadow Brown butterflies seen along a 700m stretch of a narrow public footpath with a border on both sides of bramble in flower'. Another dedicated recorder counted 922 Meadow Brown at Stockbridge Down on 07 August 2020.

While it might not seem worth counting individuals of such a widespread and common species as Meadow Brown, these records are valuable now and for the future. I have recently been perusing butterfly information from the 1930's and so often the notes just read 'numerous at this site' giving us no real clue as to what was found and how to compare. Butterflies can act as the 'canary in the coal mine' giving warning of ecological problems and this is just as true for our common species as for the rarities. Future generations will thank you for continuing to record the humble Meadow Brown!

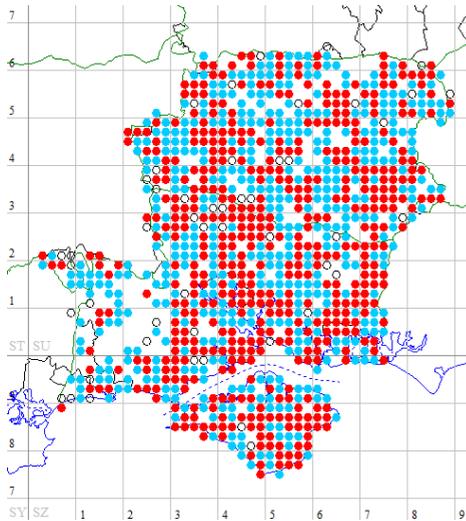
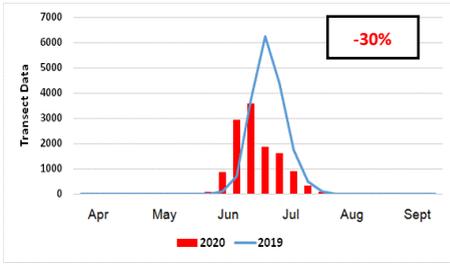


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>9,382</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>53,102</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>843</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,142</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 24 Mar 1999							
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>09 June</b> Alresford						
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>21 September</b> Wotton Coppice						
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 19 Oct 1995							
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Down &gt;20%</b></td> <td><b>Within ± 20%</b></td> <td><b>Up &gt;20%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>63</b></td> <td><b>25</b></td> <td><b>30</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>					
<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>					

Whilst the overall number of individuals in 2020 was slightly up on 2019, indicating it was the top year ever for the species, the unusual circumstances of 2020 somewhat confuses the picture. Overall sightings records were up by 22% as many more people recorded what they saw. In contrast the transect record was down by 22% from the excellent 2019. However, allowing for all these circumstances Gatekeeper does appear still to have had a good year. There were no exceptional early sightings in 2020 but other than that the flight period was very similar to 2019, peaking at the end of July, although the peak index was around 40% lower than 2019.

Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight again recorded the highest index, but the 1,283 total was nearly 50% down on 2019. Latchmore was the only other walk to record four figures with 1,048, very similar to 2019. Five other transects recorded over 500, down on 2019 but up on 2018: (Wootton Coppice – 819, Frohawk - 679, Pamber Forest – 624, Roe South - 603 and Brockishill – 597). Whippingham Fields recorded 419 on 18 July 2020 and 313 six days later, much lower than the 786 recorded here on 12 July 2019.



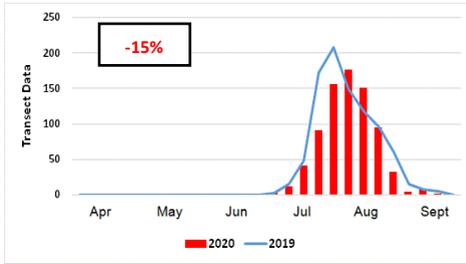
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>3,603</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>21,639</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>487</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>957</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 29 May 2020			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	29 May Leckford		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	14 September Harewood Common		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 25 Sep 2003			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	52	26	27

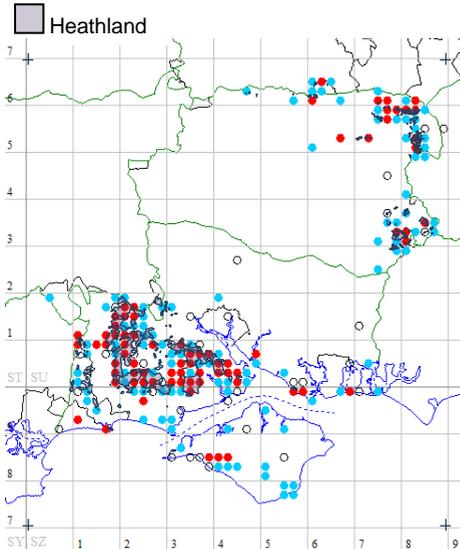
The number of records received was up on what had been an excellent 2019 for Marbled White, but the overall quantity counted was down by 20%: with a 30% decline at monitored sites. Approximately 13% of all records related to Isle of Wight sightings.

A single sighting at Leckford on 29 May was the earliest ever Hampshire record. Thereafter it built up to a peak from mid to late June followed by a fairly rapid tail-off, with relatively few records in August and a single September latecomer on Harewood Common transect some three weeks after the previous sighting.

As in 2019, the highest counts were recorded from the Whippingham Fields transect, but at 686 and 368 on 22 and 28 June respectively these were well down on 2019 numbers. In Hampshire, Stockbridge Down yielded 217 on 23 June and nearby Up Somborne Down 186 on the same day. Other sites around the county providing three figure counts included Bradley, Hatherden North, Old Winchester Hill, Eastleigh Lakeside, Old Micheldever, Great Covert, West Wood and several of the downland transects. On the Island, records of 62 and 57 were received from Carisbrooke on 05 and 18 July respectively.



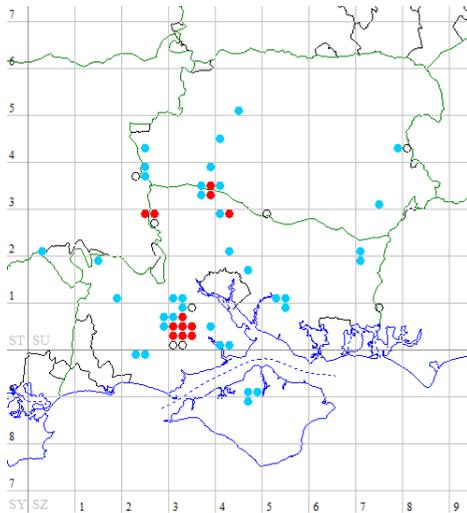
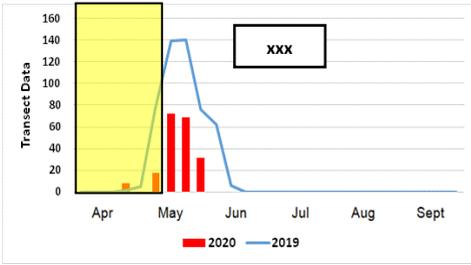
Richard Carter



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>512</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>1,767</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>199</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 03 Jun 2002			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>21 June</b> Castle Bottom, Yateley		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>16 September</b> Black Down, New Forest & Heath Warren		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 08 Oct 1986			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>

It was another year of improvement for Grayling, with an increase of 36% in the overall numbers reported, and a rise of 3% in the number of separate records. The year-on-year transect records show a more mixed picture, with some areas seeing a noticeable decline. There have been significant increases in the annual index in each of the past three years, with numbers now approaching double those recorded in 2017. Some of this has undoubtedly been due to further efforts to find and monitor this high priority species, but the results are nonetheless encouraging. The highest single count, of 117 at Beaulieu Heath on 03 August, was one of seven records which exceeded last year's highest maxima (24). Five of these high counts were at Beaulieu Heath. Emergence was earlier than last year, with two late June records, one of which was nearly two weeks earlier than last year's first record. The season ended slightly earlier than last year, with only 20 records in September. The New Forest heaths remain a Grayling stronghold, and there are also significant populations in the North East of the county, with notable sightings at Hundred Acre Piece, Mortimer and Eversley Common. The Isle of Wight produced 12 records, the same as last year, and although Mottistone Down transect was again the main site, it was encouraging to receive reports from beyond the transect as well.

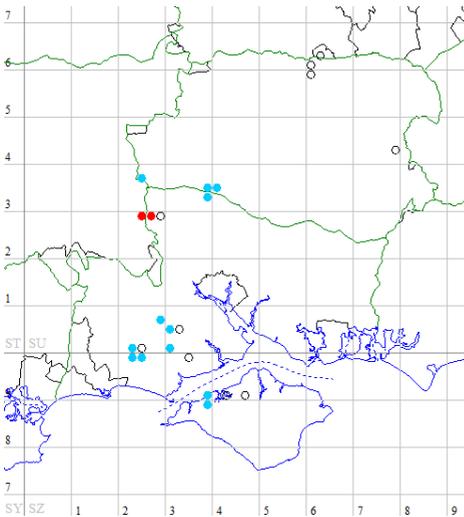
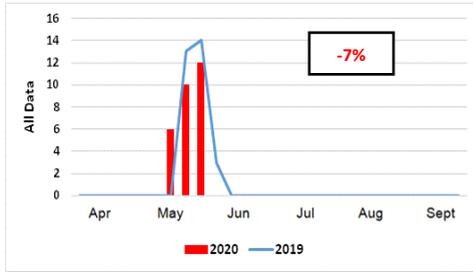


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>778</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>51</b>

<b>Earliest on Database: 17 Apr 2003</b>			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>21 April New Forest</b>		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>28 May New Forest</b>		
<b>Latest on Database: 09 Jul 1950</b>			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

With Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in place until mid May, the Pearl-bordered Fritillary season was into the closing stages before much recording got going. Another early start to the season due to the excellent weather throughout April meant that most observers only had a couple of weeks to see this species before the season finished on 28 May. This exceptionally early finish is the first time in 35 years of producing an Annual Butterfly Report that this species has not extended its flight season into June.

Although most transect sites recorded a significant decrease in numbers, this is more a reflection of the late start to recording. The first New Forest transect did not take place until 19 May, so for this species, more than half the season had already gone. Despite transect data limitations, the species was nevertheless recorded in reasonable numbers at all known Hampshire sites. The New Forest remains the county stronghold, with a peak count of 53 on 18 May, whilst in central-west Hampshire, Bentley Wood (Eastern Clearing) peaked with 20 on 20 May. Figures for the Stockbridge and Winchester populations were low, which may reflect a genuine decline or could simply be lack of recording.



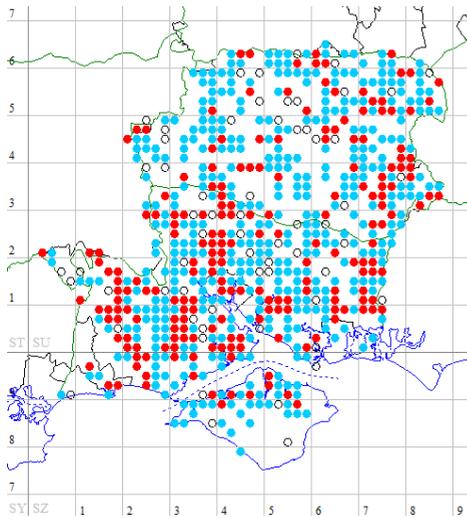
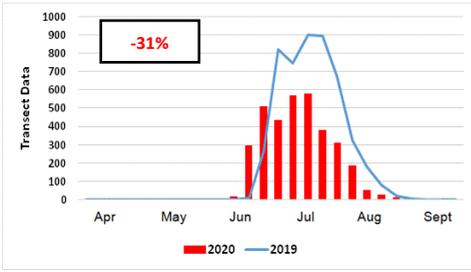
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>21</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 03 May 2007	
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>17 May</b> Bentley Wood
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>02 June</b> Bentley Wood
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 29 Aug 2009	
<b>Transect Site</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b> <b>Within ± 20%</b> <b>Up &gt;20%</b>
<b>Trends</b>	<b>-</b> <b>1</b> <b>-</b>

The data for this species presents a similar picture to the one for 2019 in that it was only recorded from Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing. Its flight period was short, 16 days and the total number of individuals seen was low, 28 in 2020 compared to 30 in 2019

On transect the species was recorded on three occasions, one on 18 May, four on 26 May and, four on 27 May making an annual index of nine, compared to seven for 2019. There were seven non-transect counts, a count of five was recorded on 17 May, three on 20 May and a one and a three on both 27 May and 02 June.

There was a glimmer of hope when I reported two New Forest sightings in 2018, but there were no records for 2019 and it is the same story for 2020, but please keep looking. They were last seen in Holmsley and Brownhill Inclosures



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>1,808</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>5,178</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>655</b>

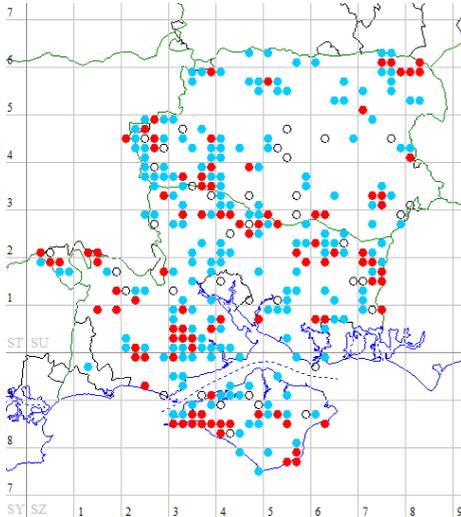
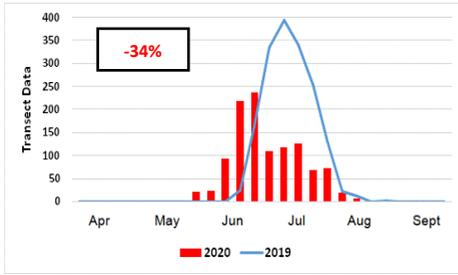
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> Late May 1893			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>05 June</b> Basing Wood		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>06 September</b> Wootton Coppice		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 23 Sep 2017			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>

An indifferent 2020 for this graceful woodland species with a 31% decline in transect counts contributing to a 22% reduction in numbers compared to 2019. The Pamber Forest transect has been on a steady downward trend since 2017, although numbers remain relatively healthy here and at many other sites.

Emergence commenced in the first week of June and numbers built quickly to a sustained peak that lasted from the middle of the month to mid-July. Highest transect counts included Pamber Forest, peaking at 54 on 20 July and Roe South (New Forest) recording 51 on 13 July. A count of 111 reported from Harewood Forest on 26 June was the only three figure record. Creditable counts of 54 and 45 respectively were received from West Wood on 10 July and West Harting Down on 17 July.

The Isle of Wight provided 8% or so of the total records received with the Bridesford Woods transect count of 21 on 13 July being the highest individual record. Wootton Coppice recorded the only September sightings across the two counties.

As in previous years, there were a number of records away from the woodland strongholds. Not by any means a vintage year, but no real cause for concern.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>2,361</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>292</b>

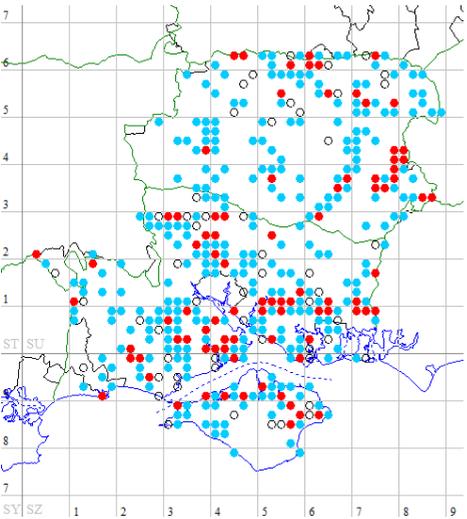
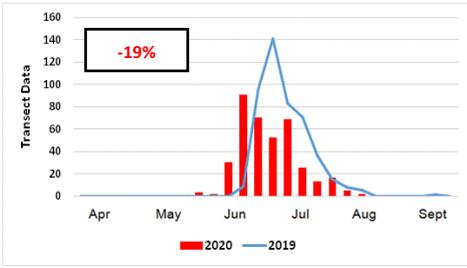
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 28 May 2010 & 2020			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	28 May Noar Hill		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	12 August Bonchurch Down		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 08 Sep 2012			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	23	5	19

This species got off to a great start compared with the previous year with a handful of sightings in late May and seemed to be building nicely during the early part of June. However this quickly tailed off and overall this handsome fritillary had a poor year with transect numbers being some 34% down on the previous year. On the Isle of Wight the first specimen was reported from Afton Down, but not until the late date of 13 June. As noted above, transect data showed that whilst the overall numbers were down, about half actually showed a greater than 20% increase on the previous year.

As a reflection of the lower overall numbers the maximum counts were down also, with three figures only being recorded once at Broughton Down on the 14 June.

On the Isle of Wight, Brook Down again impressed with big counts of 79 on both the 20 June and 07 July.

Numbers were much suppressed until the end of the flight season with the last individuals being recorded at Martin Down on the 11 August and Bonchurch Down on the 12 August.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>388</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>771</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>398</b>

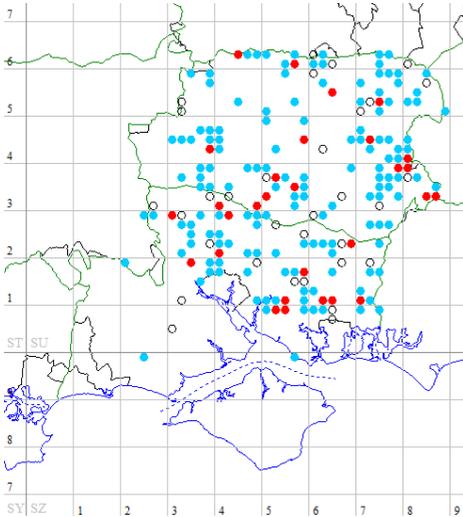
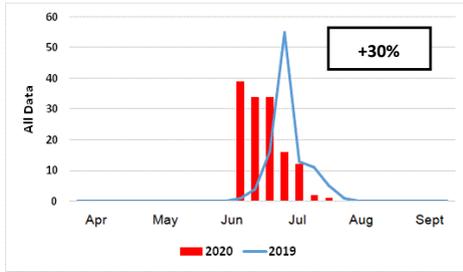
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> Late May 1893			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>02 June</b> Bartley Heath & Wick Wood		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>10 September</b> Bramshill Plantation		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 04 Oct 2003			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ±20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>

A year neither good nor bad, characterized by coincidences, such as the numbers of records and individuals totalling almost exactly those of 2019. However, the flight season began much earlier, on 02 June, extending to September when, again as in 2019, a solitary specimen concluded summer's lease almost four weeks after the previous sighting in mid-August.

Tallies were typically low, mired in single figures with few exceptions. Former strongholds such as Pamber Forest and Abbots Wood barely reached double figures, while others such as the Alice Holt Straits Inclosure and Botley Wood now seem permanently consigned to the 'also rans'.

Honours for the zenith of 25 were shared by a resurgent Briddlesford Copse on the Isle of Wight on 23 June, and Great Covert, a small, little-known woodland sandwiched between Chandlers Ford and North Baddesley, on 01 July. Last year's champion, the diminutive Kempfill Moor Copse on the Isle of Wight, returned a respectable 18 to take the bronze on 10 July; numbers thereafter plummeted everywhere.

Transect winners and losers all but self-cancelled, so it was rather surprising to find the combined trend down by 19%. The last sighting, on 10 September, was not late enough to comfortably qualify as an autumn brood.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>192</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 17 Jun 2017			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>21 June</b>	Abbotts Wood Inclosure	
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>30 July</b>	Winchester	
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 23 Aug 2013			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>

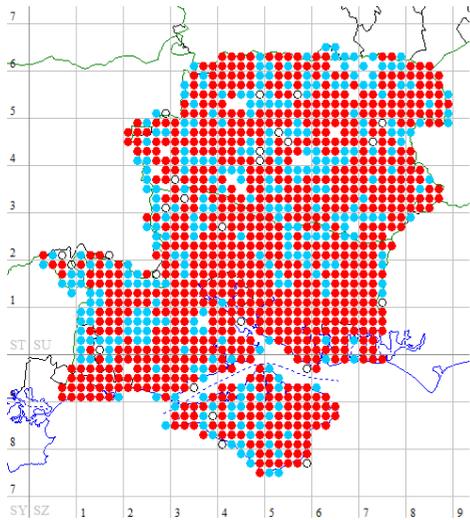
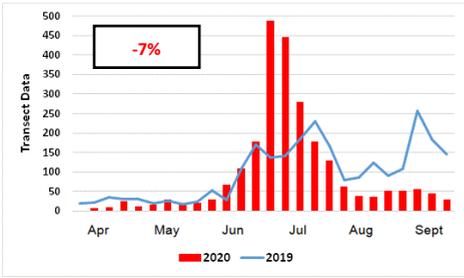
Purple Emperor emerged in Hampshire during the end of June heatwave. With a very mild winter and exceptionally mild spring, it looked like the Purple Emperor might be in for a bumper season. The week of very warm weather brought the males out in reasonable numbers but as June turned into July early indications were this was not the great year as anticipated, due to losses during the cold spell in early June.

The weather collapsed horrifically as we entered July with the Emperor at or approaching peak season. The butterflies, particularly males who tend to roost at a higher level, were decimated by gales (especially nocturnal). The wind during the night of 28-29 of June did untold damage.

In the City of Winchester several females were seen, one escaping the clutches of a cat! This paints the city as one of the purplest in the south of England, as these butterflies are almost annually reported from this area.

Unless there was a good egg lay, then prospects look rather bleak for this spectacular butterfly in Hampshire in 2021.

A mere four individuals were recorded during transect walks this year.

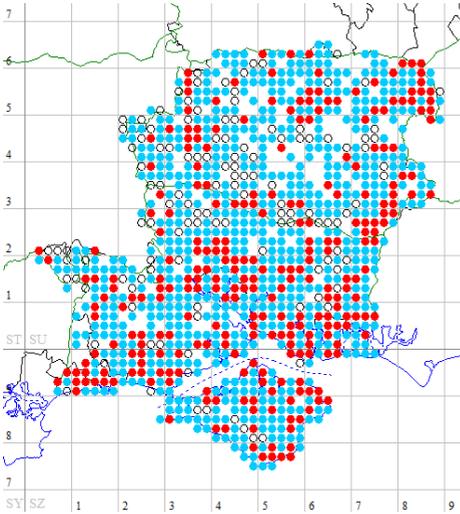
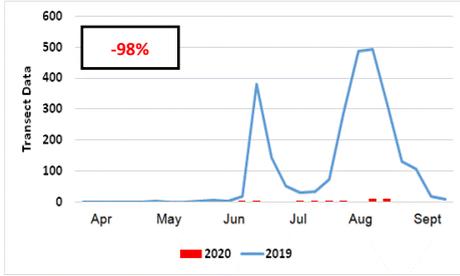


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>6,362</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>11,922</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>837</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,148</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 01 Jan, various			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>05 January</b> Winchester		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>20 December</b> Blashford Lakes, Rockford Common & Kings Worthy		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 31 Dec, various			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>45</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>

2020 showed a slight, but not significant, fall in transect numbers compared to 2019. Considering the long-term data 2020 was an average year overall for Red Admiral. On transect there was a 7% loss in numbers in 2020, as compared to 2019. 45 transects recorded a greater than 20% fall in numbers between 2019 and 2020 compared to 39 transects showing a greater than 20% increase. Red Admiral were recorded during every week of transect recording apart from the first, but for three-quarters of the season numbers were low. There was a strong summer peak in July with maximum numbers at the beginning of the month. Later, there was a small secondary peak in mid-September.

There were over 6,000 records of Red Admiral in 2020. The largest numbers on a single date and at a single site were 66 at Winchester Water Meadows on 01 July followed by other large July counts such as 60 at West Wood near Farley Mount, 56 at Watership Down and 40 at West Harting Down. On the Isle of Wight, the largest counts were 30 at Brighstone on 29 July and 18 at Winford on 18 August.



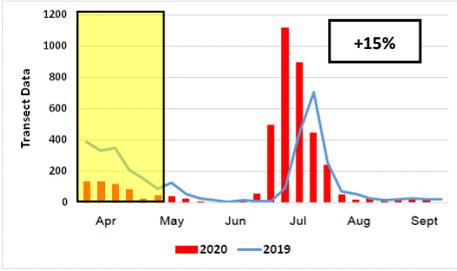
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>642</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,007</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 01 Jan 2013			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>27 March</b>	Wickham	
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>03 November</b>	Emsworth	
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 31 Dec 1987			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

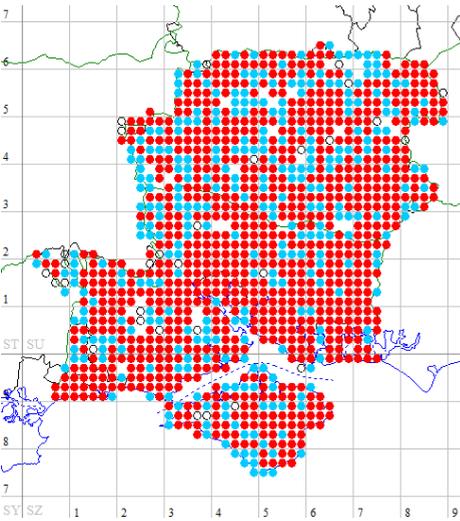
In strong contrast to 2019, Painted Lady hardly featured in our area in 2020. The Annual Index was the lowest since 1996. Although 642 individuals were recorded between late March and early November only 62 (four on the Isle of Wight) were seen on transect emphasising the 98% drop in observations across all transects. It is estimated that less than 1% of this reduction can be attributed to the absence of transect recordings for the first six weeks of the season caused by the Covid pandemic.

The highest counts were nine off-transect, on two occasions in Bournemouth and Headley in July, and three on-transect (Dur Hill, New Forest) in August.

In spite of the very low numbers the density of all observations noticeably dropped away from the coast, as in 2019, from 0.19 per km<sup>2</sup> on the Isle of Wight to 0.11 per km<sup>2</sup> in North Hampshire, emphasising that many individuals had probably migrated from France.



Ian Pratt

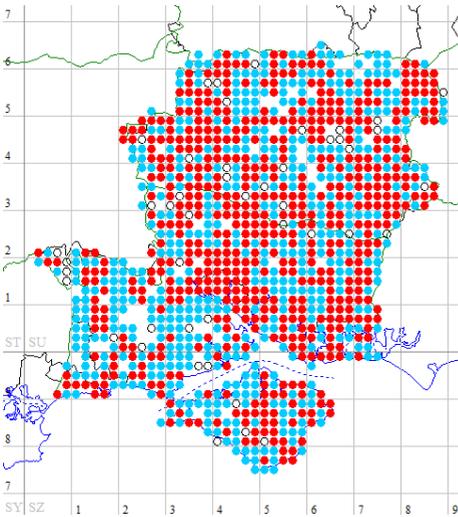
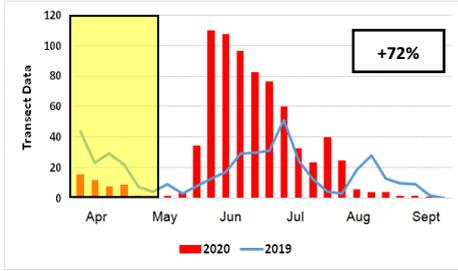


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>6,134</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>19,731</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,277</b>

<b>Earliest on Database: 01 Jan, various</b>			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>04 January</b> Hartley Wintney		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>20 December</b> Soberton		
<b>Latest on Database: 31 Dec, various</b>			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>47</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>

It is difficult to draw comparisons for 2020 to previous years as lockdown meant that few transect records were available until mid May, potentially missing over 40% of the annual transect total, but with lockdown and Peacock frequenting gardens and parks many more people reported sightings. Records were up by over 50% overall and the number of individuals up 145% compared to 2019. In spite of potentially missing 40% of the records, Peacock were still up 15% on transect and had a very good year building on the improvement in 2019 after a run of declining indices.

Ten were recorded in January and like 2019, Peacock were regularly seen in February and March, recording the same numbers for the period as 2019 (466). Casual sightings suggest that they were abundant in April which recorded the second highest monthly total (1,848) of the year. They re-emerged early at the start of July and peaked a week later, two weeks earlier than 2019. In total 14,559 were recorded in July, nearly 80% of the annual index. The highest daily index on transect was 166 at Morn Hill (Mound and Percy Hobbs Meadows) on 12 July 2020, which also recorded the highest transect total of 322. There were four casual counts of over 100.

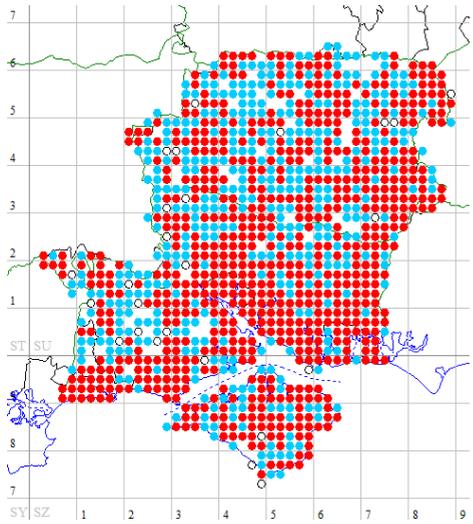
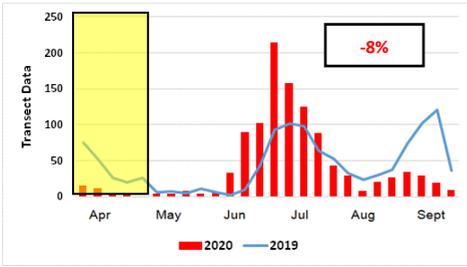


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>2,098</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>3,653</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,072</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 05 Jan 1999 & 2018			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>09 January</b> Bramshott		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>19 November</b> Monxton		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 25 Dec 2013			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>

An extraordinary and most welcome change in fortunes for this once most common butterfly. The numbers of records and individuals more than doubled those of the previous year, though the overall statistical pattern remained unchanged. The upsurge can clearly be related to the excellent late spring weather, precipitating some earnest reproduction by the overwintered specimens.

But, as has become the norm, the vast majority of reports featured only single figures. From late May to late June, some high counts were reported, although they were few and far between, beginning with 25 from Winnall Moors on 27 May, 33 from Quarley Hill Fort on 13 June, 22 from Stockbridge Down on 15 June, 30 from Cheriton on 17 June, the year's zenith of 60 from Clarendon Way, Kings Somborne on 20 June and lastly 25 from Micheldever on 21 June. However, it must be stressed these were very much the exceptions, and numbers were soon in freefall, notwithstanding the 23 at Harbridge on 31 July, possibly a now-rare second brood? Between the end of August and the last sighting on 19 November at Monxton, only 20 were reported. Transect data bore further witness to the resurgence, the Combined Transect Trend of +72% easily surpassing every other native species.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>3,283</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>5,249</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,086</b>

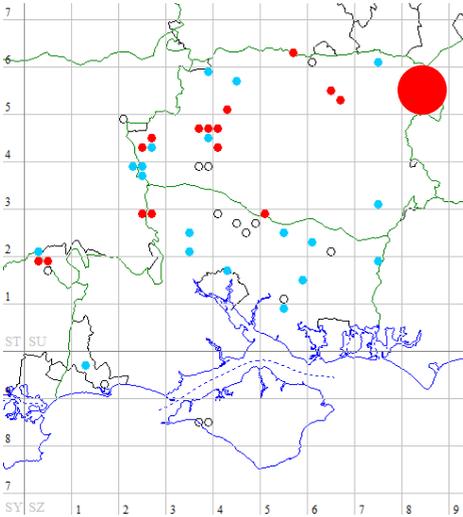
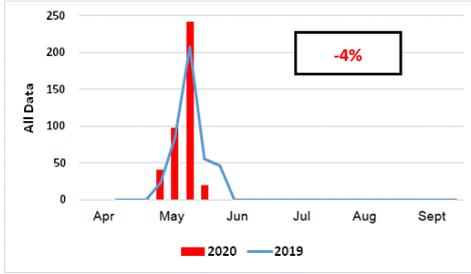
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 09 Jan 1998			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>11 March</b> QE Country Park & Shoreburs Greenway		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>18 November</b> Nettlestone		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 22 Dec 2013			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>

The potential affect on data, due to the loss of early transect recording through the Covid lockdown, has to be considered in light of the corresponding weeks in 2019 accounting for more than 8% of recorded data related to Comma.

The loss of early weeks recording and potential first peak was followed by a strong presence between early June & early August peaking at the beginning of July, far exceeding that of the previous year. The subsequent third, late peak, failed to produce the numbers seen in 2019.

When all data of both transect and online field reports are combined, both records and individual counts were considerably up on 2019. Individuals recorded rose by 1,855 a 58% increase on 2019 arising from an increase of 55% received records. To draw firm conclusions from such statistics is unwise, it would however point to the Comma having a stable year in 2020.

Very few double figure counts were recorded in 2020 the exception being field records from Monks Walk, Frater Fields & Wood, Gosport. Double figure counts were recorded on eleven occasions with a maximum of 24 individuals on the 24 June, the highest count for the county. The Kemphill Moor Copse on the Isle of Wight provided the highest Island and county transect counts, peaking at 20 individuals on the 10 July.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>42</b>

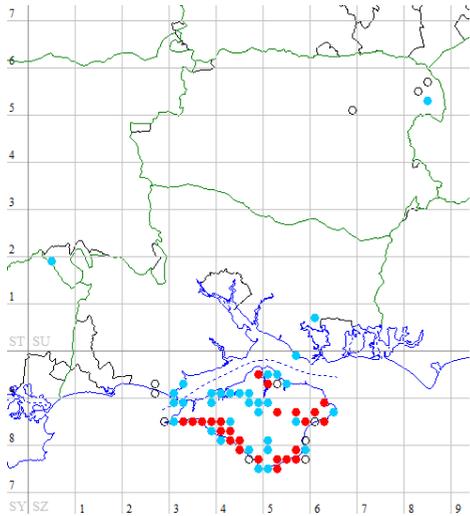
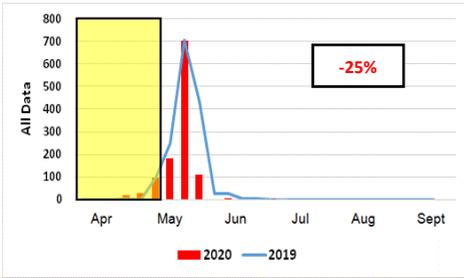
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 27 Apr 2007			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	05 May NE Hampshire		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	02 June NE Hampshire		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 20 Jun 2004			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ±20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	4	-	2

This was another year in which Marsh Fritillary numbers excelled in their widely spaced Hampshire colonies. The warm weather during the flight period ensured a good egg lay. The introduced colony in North Hampshire appeared to be doing exceptionally well with 64 larval webs being located on 04 March. Later a fine total of 81 adults were seen there on 20 May. On the 13 August 32 larval webs were found roughly equivalent to 2,500-3,200 larvae.

A maximum of 50 adults were recorded at Martin Down NNR on 19 May where good numbers were recorded daily during the flight period from 05 May.

Magdalen Hill Down does seem to be a site on the up for this species. It is difficult to assess the species true status here. Adults were seen in low numbers from 06 May with typically five being recorded and the Extension here holding a maximum of seven on 17 May. Two larval webs consisting of around 30 larvae were found on 20 July. At Bentley Wood East Clearing three were present on 06 May with a maximum of four seen on 20 May. Numbers always seem to be low here but they are recorded annually. Although 'All Data' was down 4%, two transects did show an increase greater than 20%.

Marsh Fritillary is particularly prone to boom and bust populations due to larval parasites and predation, so it will be interesting to see how populations fare in 2021.

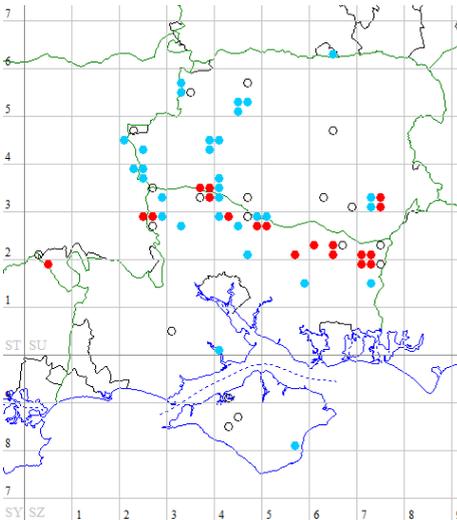
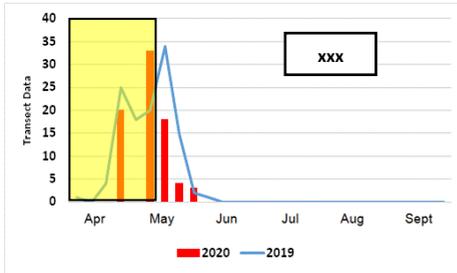


<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>1,168</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>65</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 08 Apr 2007			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	23 April Brightstone		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	01 July Westover		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 09 Jul 2010			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	-	-	3

The annual Spring web count carried out by The Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society before the nationwide lockdown came into force, indicated that at most sites numbers were well down with some even recording zero webs. This was not quite as bad as it seems as the caterpillars were late in moving out from their winter webs and the restrictions meant that later surveys were not possible. The huge number of caterpillars eaten by the Great-spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* at Wheeler's Bay in 2019 surprisingly seemed to have no effect as adult numbers this year were slightly higher than last. It obviously didn't get as many as was thought despite staying for nearly a month.

Adult numbers at other sites were generally lower than previous years with the exception of Compton where two recorders logged 435 adults on the 21 May. As seems to be the norm nowadays there were reports of individuals or small numbers of adults from unusual and widespread sites across the Island. For instance, Westover, Thorness, St.Helens and Ryde. It is a characteristic of this butterfly that it will disperse from key sites and form small satellite colonies that they then move on from again in a sort of leap-frogging effect round the Island before eventually dying out. Fascinating!



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>56</b>

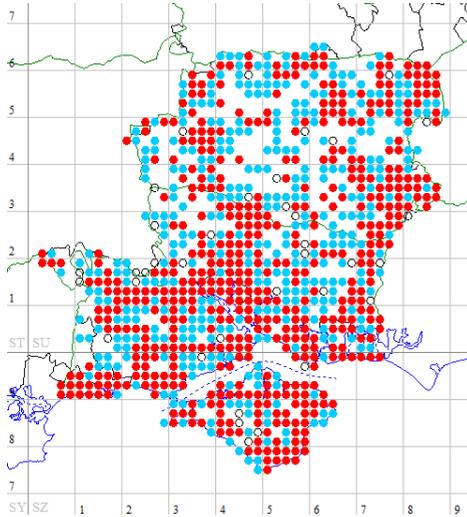
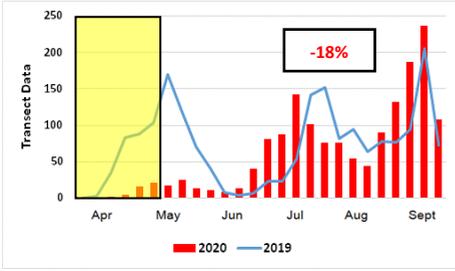
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 01 Apr 2019							
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>23 April</b> Meon Valley & Noar Hill						
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>07 June</b> Oxenbourne Down						
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 02 Oct 2011							
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Down &gt;20%</b></td> <td><b>Within ± 20%</b></td> <td><b>Up &gt;20%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>	-	-	2
<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>					
-	-	2					

Records came from Noar Hill about late April; several recorders seeing them in some numbers. April was a very warm month and merged into a very warm May. At Oxenbourne Down the butterfly has been moving into more suitable habitat, where it is occupying more sparsely scrubby areas, with more Cowslip content.

The butterfly started to peak into the second week of May at some Meon Valley sites, with reasonable numbers seen at Butser Hill on 15 May. A few years ago there were records of the species from the north west of the county near the Wiltshire border (Shipton Bellinger), but none were received this year.

Singleton records came from the far west of the county (Martin Down) near the Dorset/Wiltshire border where it seems the butterfly still exists in small numbers. The records were well spaced out.

May was the warmest on record and an egg count on Butser at the end of the month revealed several females were busy laying eggs, and adult and eggs were seen in a wood close to Andover. First and second instar caterpillars were seen feeding on Cowslip on Oxenbourne Down on 07 June.



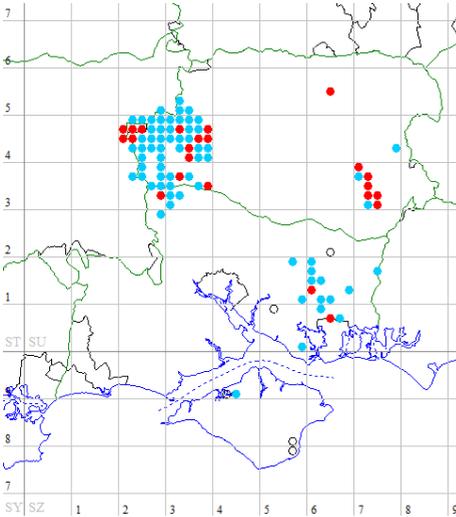
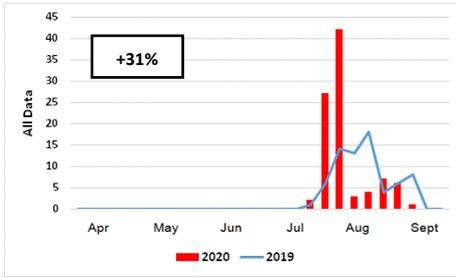
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>2,139</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>4,206</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>890</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 05 Mar 2009			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>24 March</b> Southbourne Undercliffe		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>05 November</b> St Lawrence, Isle of Wight		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 27 Nov 2003			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>48</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>

Despite the potential comparative loss of 16% of records in the unrecorded first six weeks, when compared to 2019, the first peak disappointingly failed to materialise. If the early peak were present it would have expected to have been visible in records at the resumption of recording during mid May.

The mid season emergence peaked in mid July two weeks earlier than in 2019, the third emergence peaking in mid September, the same period as last year. The overall number of records of combined transect and online field records increased by a pleasing 26% over 2019. The increase in records gave rise to a 21% increase in individual specimens that would point to the species continuing to thrive.

This species was widely reported across the county with the majority of records in low single figures. The main exceptions were transect counts at Pilot Hill in the north of the county, where five double figure counts were recorded with a maximum of 15 on 14 September, Lepe Country Park in the south of the county where 15 were recorded on 18 July 2020, Mockbeggar in the west with three counts into double figures including maximum counts of 15 on both 10 and 16 September, and the mid county Magdalen Hill Down with 14 recorded on 13 September. Whippingham Fields transect on the Isle of Wight once more produced the highest counts with 15 weekly counts into double figures, producing a impressive maximum count of 98 on 20 September.



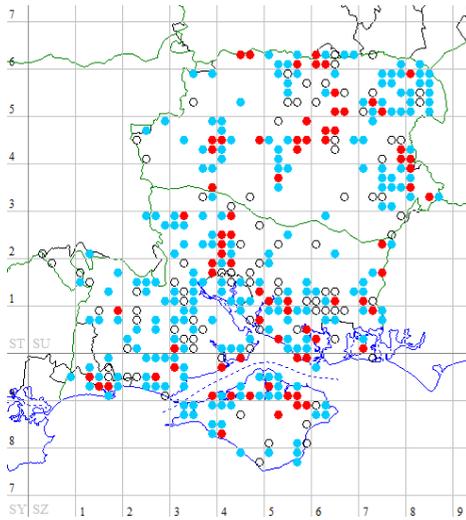
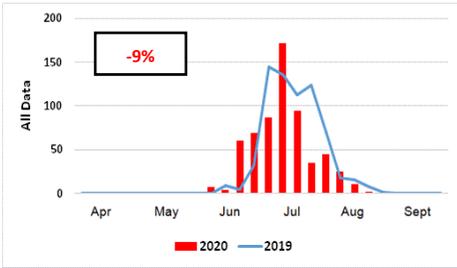
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>87</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 18 Jul 2017 & 2018			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	23 July Shipton Bellinger		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	13 September Alton		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 16 Oct 1986			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	1	-	1

2020 has provided further evidence that this elusive butterfly is more widely distributed within the county than hitherto appreciated. By 2000 the butterfly was largely confined to Noar Hill near Selborne and a swathe of land between Andover and west of Shipton Bellinger. These relative strongholds were supplemented by occasional wanderers from Wiltshire and Surrey.

Surveys over the past two years have confirmed the presence of the species in and around Soberton and Southwick down the Meon Valley and on Stockbridge Down in the Test Valley. This year has seen records from several new sites including Harewood Common and Goodworth Clatford south of Andover (combined count of 24 eggs); Upper Farringdon and Chawton north-west of Selborne (11 eggs), and a very encouraging count of five eggs on Danebury Ring, just 6km north-west of Stockbridge Down.

Two adults were also each recorded at Basing Wood near Basingstoke and, less surprisingly perhaps, on Broughton Down. Increased recording effort during the lockdown may account for some of the new sightings but the overall picture is one of a butterfly slowly expanding its range in recent years. This may be attributable to more sympathetic hedgerow and verge management practices by landowners and public authorities.



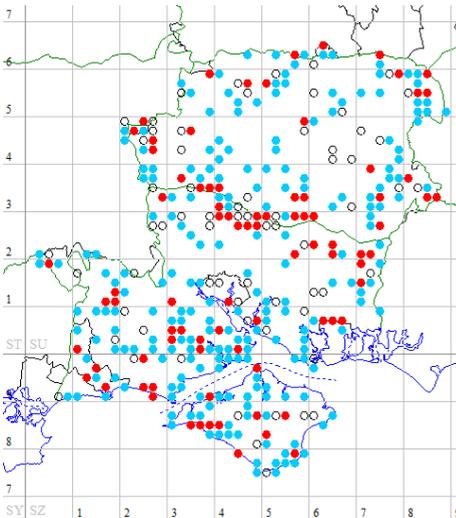
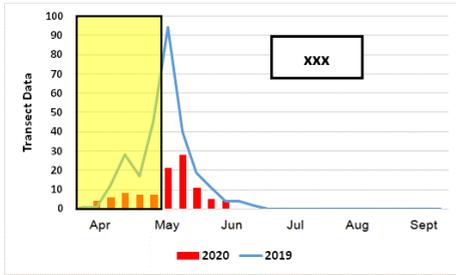
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>609</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>339</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 31 May 2010							
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>07 June</b> Ampfield Wood, Cranfield, Iford, & Queens Meadow Copse						
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>25 August</b> Southampton						
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 25 Sep 2003							
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Down &gt;20%</th> <th>Within ± 20%</th> <th>Up &gt;20%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%	9	6	5
Down >20%	Within ± 20%	Up >20%					
9	6	5					

In most respects, 2020 was another statistically sound season for this species, with sites apparently losing it this year (six) balanced by those gaining it (five). The combined Transect Trend averaged out at a reduction of just 9%, nothing to cause concern. Also at nine was the number of sites with a greater than 20% decrease in numbers, while the remaining 11 sites were stable or gaining. The flight period ran from early June until mid-August giving a flight period of 89 days, compared to 72 days in 2019.

The peak of individual numbers recorded happened in early July, and at a higher level than last year's peak which was a week earlier. Overall the season got going a little sooner and was slightly more spread out than 2019. The size of any large counts were comparable to 2019, with the top three being 50 on 10 July, 30 on 6 July both at Abbots Wood Inclosure and 24 at Axmansford on 25 June.

Records to note from the the Isle of Wight included the very first individual seen at Alverstone, 18 at Firestone Copse on 22 June and several good scores from Kempfill Moor Copse transect including 17 on 17 July, well on in this flight season.



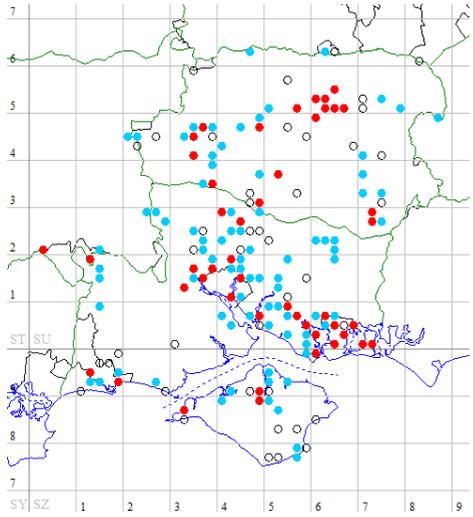
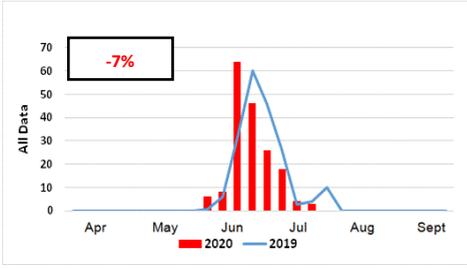
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>330</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 29 Mar 2012			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	05 April Bramshott Common		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	22 June Ashford Hangers		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 30 Jul 2007			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	6	5	8

Green Hairstreak usually emerges early April. Sadly due to the COVID19 pandemic restrictions most transects were not able to start recording until mid-May, over half way through the Green Hairstreak flight period. It is estimated that this could have had a negative impact of around 37% on the Annual Index (transect total). Whilst numbers were down on the last two years, on a brighter note the total individuals for 2020 was better than 2017 when only 333 were reported.

Total individuals recorded for the Isle of Wight were 44, a drop of 48% from 85 in 2019. The Transect flight period was seven weeks and transect numbers peaked mid-May. Mottistone Down had the highest seasonal number of individuals with 15. The highest individual sighting was a field record of five at Newport on 26 April 2020.

Total individuals on the mainland were 321, a drop of 43% from 565 in 2019. The transect flight period was 72 days and transect numbers also peaked mid-May, although one week later than the Isle of Wight. Magdalen Hill Down (Original) had the highest seasonal number of individuals with 17. The highest individual sighting was a field record of eight at Portsdown Hill on 26 April 2020.



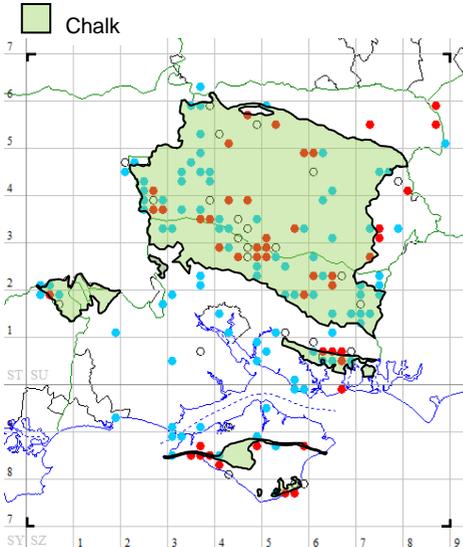
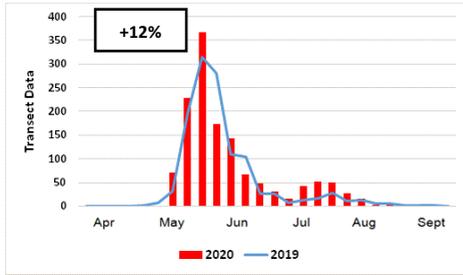
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>154</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 25 May 2011			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	07 June Cosham & Southwick		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	22 July Basing Wood, Lordshill & Cosham		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 23 Aug 2004			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	2	1	4

Numbers and reports fell by 24% and 16% respectively on 2019, but given the restrictions on recorder movement, this is hardly surprising and can be safely ignored. Again, this habitat-generalist was seen all over Hampshire, with the exception of the New Forest, where elm is scarce on the acidic soils. Records were particularly welcome from a number of newly discovered habitats at Hayling Island, Goodworth Clatford, north Winchester, and south Eastleigh.

The greatest concentration reported was on the Siberian Elms of Basingstoke ('amenity planting' dating back to the 1970's town expansion) where 23 were seen at five neighbouring urban sites on 26 June, pipping the 21 seen about the Wych Elms just off the Southwick Road south-east of the eponymous village on 21 June. Another record of note was the eight on the huge weeping Siberian Elm cultivar 'Pinnatramosa' discovered in allotments near Copnor, Portsmouth. Meanwhile the insect consolidated its foothold on the disease-resistant elms at the Great Fontley trials site.

Records from the Isle of Wight were yet again very few, comprising a singleton from a Freshwater garden, several on the LUTECE elms at Towngate, Newport, and another singleton, outside the St Mary's Hospital nearby.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>2,554</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>151</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 30 Mar 2012			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>04 May</b> Eastney		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>16 September</b> Martin Down		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 21 Sep 1991			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

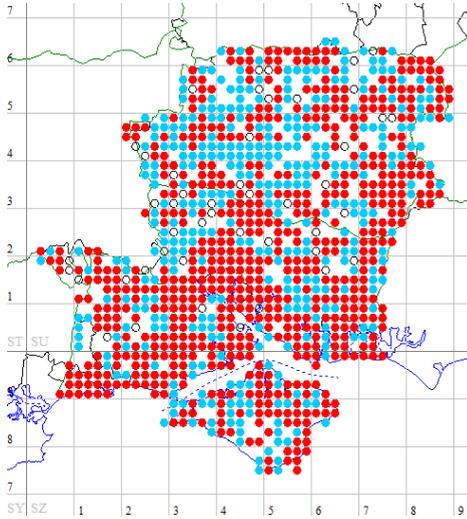
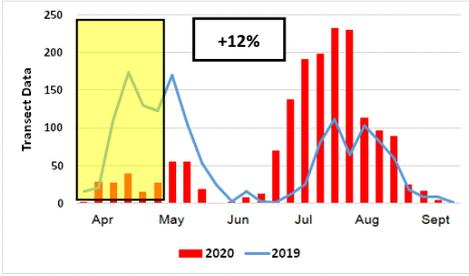
Our smallest butterfly enjoyed a third successive good year with a 12% increase in adults seen on transect. A new colony was recorded at Corhampton Golf Club with the observation of five second brood adults in August. Equally pleasingly, the colony that re-established itself in 2019 at Pitt Down near Winchester has persisted with a count of 12 adults.

Old Down, Basingstoke remains the stronghold of the species with several transect counts of over 100 during 2020 including a staggering 296 on 27 May.

The colony at Morn Hill, adjacent to Magdalen Hill Down, has strengthened with 96 adults seen on transect. In contrast, only four adults were recorded on transect at Old Winchester Hill, one each on Stockbridge Down and St Catherine’s Hill.

Only 50 adults were recorded from the Isle of Wight with no observations from sites such as Watcombe Bottom or Brook Down.

Twenty-five adults were seen across various sites on the 06 August marking the peak of a better than average second brood.



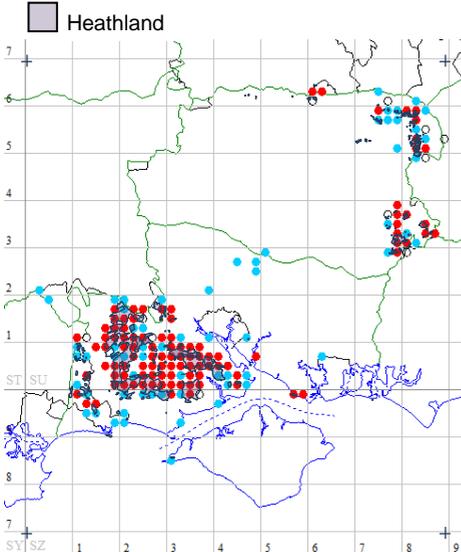
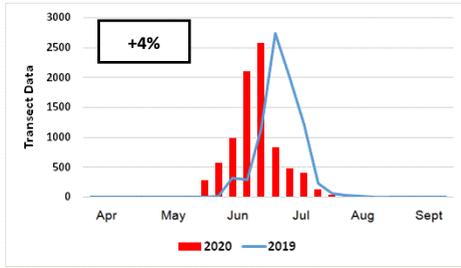
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>4,054</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>6,807</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>618</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>994</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 08 Jan 2019			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>22 March</b> Southampton		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>27 December</b> Monk's Bay		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 27 Dec 2020			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ±20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>

This year proved to be an excellent year for the Holly Blue. Despite the loss of the first six weeks of transect data (which provided 38% of all transect records in 2019), it still managed an overall increase of 12% over 2019 at monitored sites and a near doubling of records overall. Records from the Isle of Wight comprised approximately 8% of the overall total.

This is a species that is recorded in gardens and parks as frequently as anywhere, so the overall increase may have been at least a partial outcome of recorders staying local in 2020.

After a relatively late start, there was a modest peak in April, followed by a more sustained peak from mid-July to early August, tailing off sharply in September. The highest credible counts, of 30 and 25 on 31 July and 05 August respectively, came from Shipton Bellinger. (Higher numbers from the Big Butterfly Count at some downland sites are suspected to be attributable to mis-identification of other 'Blue' species by inexperienced observers). Nearly 70% of the records received were of singletons.



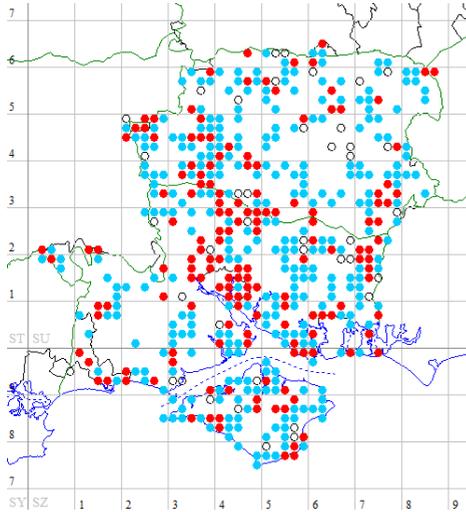
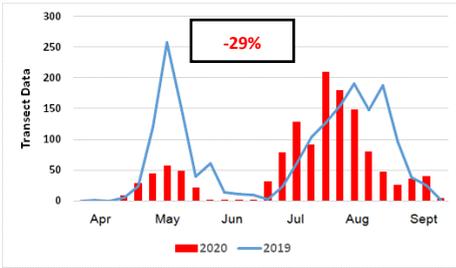
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>1,080</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>12,815</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>170</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 09 May 2011			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>25 May</b>	Hasley, New Forest	
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>20 Aug</b>	Wilverley Plain	
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 30 Oct 1921			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>

Although transect records showed only a modest 4% increase compared to 2019, the total number of records increased significantly overall by nearly 37%. This was primarily due to increased effort in the New Forest to investigate areas where no records of the species had been received during this millennium and is reflected in the corresponding increase in tetrad coverage of some 31%. The hot, dry weather of the early Summer seems to have suited the Silver-studded Blue this year

Emergence was significantly earlier than last year, with the earliest sighting over two weeks earlier, the first of 40 records for the final week of May. The flight season also ended earlier, with the latest sighting 11 days earlier than last year, and one of only two records after the middle of August.

The highest single count was 223, at Longmoor Ranges in the east of the county on 16 June, and there were a further 18 counts of over 100 individuals, seven of which were at Dibden Bottom. Silver-studded Blue is widely seen across the New Forest heathlands, and has significant colonies in the extreme east and north east of the county. As usual, there were no sightings reported from the Isle of Wight.



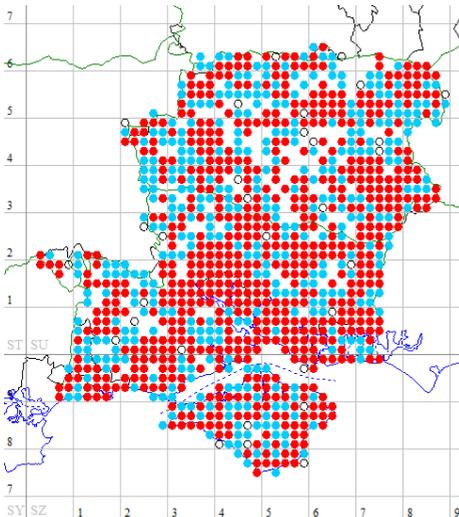
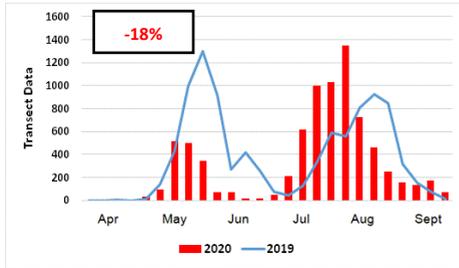
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>2,724</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>487</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 08 Apr 2002			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>23 April</b> Mottistone Down		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>11 October</b> Magdalen Hill Down & Mottistone Down		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 31 Oct 2005			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

2020 appeared to be a poorer than average year for Brown Argus but numbers were still better than in 2017.

On transect there was a 29% loss in numbers in 2020, as compared to 2019. The number of transects recording a greater than 20% fall in numbers between 2019 and 2020 accounted for around half of the transects. The first transect peak in May happened at about the same time as in 2019 but the numbers were poor, perhaps only one third of those in the previous year. It is possible that Covid-19 restrictions may have played a part in this and could partly explain the lower overall numbers, despite the very good spring weather. The second brood was, however, as strong as that of 2019, but peaked three weeks earlier.

The strongest sites for Brown Argus in 2020 were again Magdalen Hill Down Original Reserve and Beacon Hill NNR (maximum transect counts 44 both for the second brood). Other Hampshire sites with counts greater than 15 on any one date included a site at Nursling, Stockbridge Down, St Catherine's Hill (Winchester) and Bedlam Plantation. The highest single transect counts on the Isle of Wight in 2020 were at Bonchurch Down (32 for the first brood), followed by Mottistone Chalk Pits (21 for the first brood) and Coombe Bottom & St Boniface Down (16 for the second brood).



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>4,939</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>19,392</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>632</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>1,015</b>

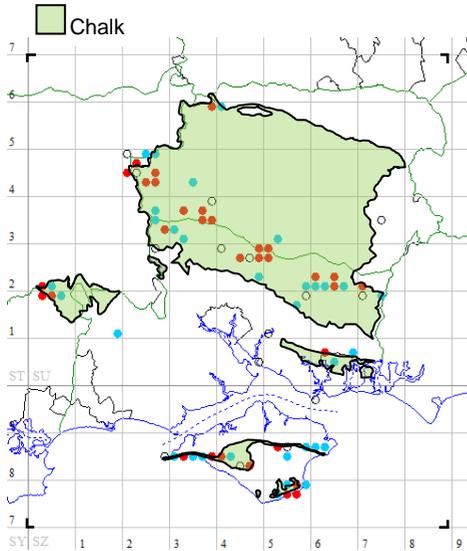
<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 04 Apr 2019			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	12 April Eastleigh & Stoke Charity		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	16 October Southbourne & Mottistone		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 12 Nov 1990			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	42	21	38

Our much loved Common Blue is susceptible to change and had a 18% decrease on transect from 2019 to 2020, following a 46% decline from 2018 to 2019.

Triple number counts this year numbered seven, compared with eight in 2019 and 15 in 2018, showing that they are becoming less numerous, though still widespread. The first triple number record was also the highest recorded with 416 individuals on 17 July 2020 at Whale Chine on the Isle of Wight. What a sight that must have been! The Island had another large count of 102 at Tennyson Down. The Island topped the triple number counts last year as well, maybe due to the favourable climate.

The mainland's first triple count was 114 at Pitt Down on 21 July. The largest count came from Stockbridge Down of 297 individuals on 07 August 2020. Stockbridge Down also did well in holding two of the other triple number counts.

Once again the stronghold for the Common Blue was Butterfly Conservation's Magdalen Hill Down with a whopping 2,389 blues in total throughout the year, compared to 2,052 the previous year. Whippingham Fields was pipped to the post of second place by Stockbridge Down with 1,306 counted, Whippingham having 1,046.



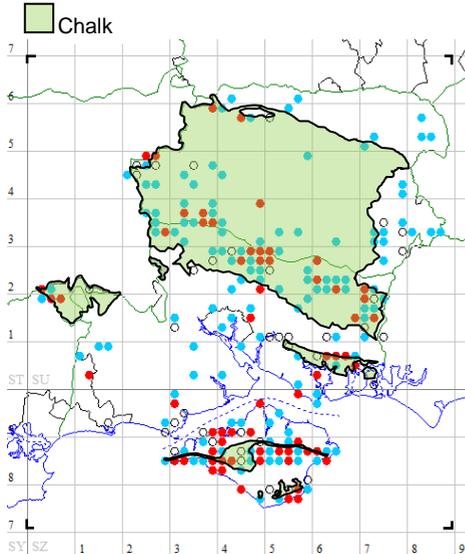
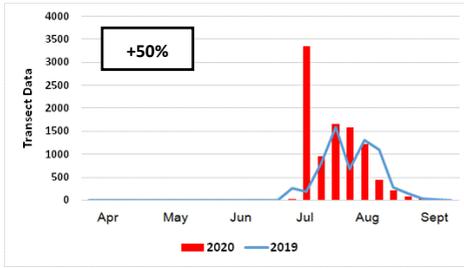
<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>981</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>75</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 26 Apr 2011			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>04 May</b> Magdalen Hill Down & Mottistone Down		
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>29 September</b> Mottistone Down & Morn Hill		
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 15 Oct 2011			
<b>Transect Site Trends</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

2020 was the second successive year of decline for this species, although less dramatic than in 2019 with the majority of transects showing an increase of 20% or more. Peak counts at Martin Down and Old Winchester Hill in Hampshire showed a slight improvement. On the Isle of Wight, the best counts were at Mottistone Down and Bonchurch Down but with lower numbers than in 2019 from both sites. Brook Down, normally one of the main sites, appeared to have been under-watched for this species (one record).

The exceptional weather in May meant that the first brood peaked slightly earlier in Hampshire, 50 at Martin Down on 19 May, and a fortnight earlier on the Isle of Wight, 32 at Mottistone Down on 14 May, in comparison to 2019. The unsettled weather in June resulted in the last sightings from both counties on 22 June.

The second brood started to appear a couple of weeks earlier than in 2019. For Hampshire the best counts were 40 at Old Winchester Hill on 20 August and 31 at Martin Down on 12 August. The Isle of Wight's second brood was poor with eight at Bonchurch Down on 12 August and 02 September being the highest count.



<b>BC Priority status</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>No of 2020 records</b>	<b>941</b>
<b>No of 2020 individuals</b>	<b>28,336</b>
<b>No of 2020 tetrads</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>No of post 2005 tetrads</b>	<b>204</b>

<b>Earliest on Database:</b> 17 Jun 1990			
<b>Earliest 2020</b>	<b>26 June</b>	Arreton Down & Yew Hill	
<b>Latest 2020</b>	<b>29 September</b>	Mottistone Down & Brook Down, Isle of Wight	
<b>Latest on Database:</b> 31 Oct 2011			
<b>Transect Site</b>	<b>Down &gt;20%</b>	<b>Within ± 20%</b>	<b>Up &gt;20%</b>
<b>Trends</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>

2020 was another good year for this species, with 16 transects showing a significant increase and a combined transect trend of +50%. Numbers across both counties indicated that the population had recovered overall from the 2016 decline.

A count of over 100 at Arreton Down, Isle of Wight on 07 July was the prelude to the best count of the season; 2,500 at this site on 18 July although this is half of the estimated total seen by the same recorder in 2013. Other notable counts from Isle of Wight sites were 1,000 at Brook Down on 23 July and 463 at Mottistone Down on 12 August.

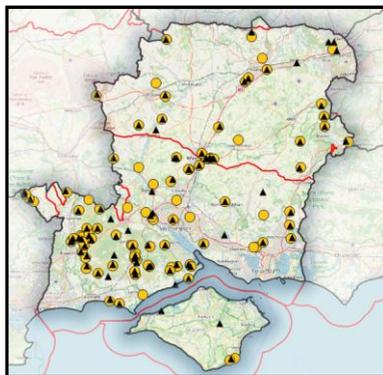
Hampshire produced their best count since 2011 with 1,821 at Stockbridge Down on 03 July while 1,000 were recorded at Old Winchester Hill on 31 July. The next best site was Oxenbourne Down (309). Unfortunately, numbers at Yew Hill remain low with a peak of 75 on 03 August (2,231 in 2011).

As per normal with this species, dispersal was evident across both counties with individuals reported in various locations. The best late season count was 50 at Oxenbourne Down on 05 September with counts of 14 and below from several sites until the end of the month.

## Moths recorded on transect

Bob Annell

Species	Records	Individuals	Transects
Silver Y	198	275	52
Six-spot Burnet	107	192	22
Cinnabar	100	125	32
Brown Silver-line	87	139	23
Small Purple & Gold	86	192	10
Burnet Companion	56	91	13
Common Heath	47	70	17
Speckled Yellow	33	45	10
Scarlet Tiger	21	27	9
Five-spot Burnet	17	27	8
Common Carpet	14	16	6
Mother Shipton	11	14	9
Treble-bar	10	15	2
Clouded Buff	10	13	7
Yellow Shell	9	11	8
Shaded Broad-bar	9	10	6
Garden Grass-veneer	7	12	1
Grass Rivulet	3	20	1
<b>Totals - 2020</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Totals - 2019</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Totals - 2015</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>40</b>



The map represents transects where moths were recorded in 2020 (black triangles) with 2019 locations shown in larger yellow circles.

The table contains only those species which returned a total count of over ten individuals during 2020.

Although the total number of transect moth records was significantly fewer than in 2019, the number of transects where moths were recorded was only slightly less.

Silver Y had a far better year in 2020, with records increasing by 70% compared to 2019. Both Six-spot Burnet & Cinnabar records decreased by over 40%.

A total of 68 different species were recorded overall compared to 75 in 2019 (only 40 in 2015).

The later start of most transects probably accounted for the apparent fall in numbers of Common Heath, also some of the other spring flying species.

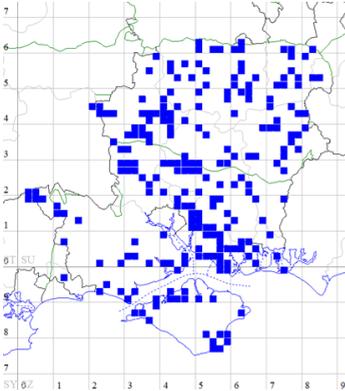
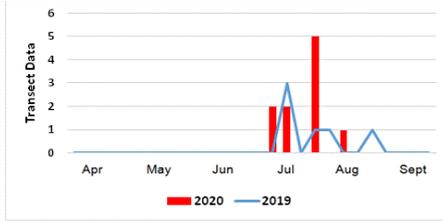
All of the Brown Silver-line moth records came from New Forest transects as did most of the Clouded Buff records.

Grass Rivulet were only recorded on the Gilbert White House Garden & Meadow transect and all of the Garden Grass-veneer on the Down Grange Meadow Kempshott transect.

Magdalen Hill Down (Tree & Shrub) submitted the highest number of moth records (97), a total of 178 individuals, also this transect had the highest species diversity (13 different species of moth).

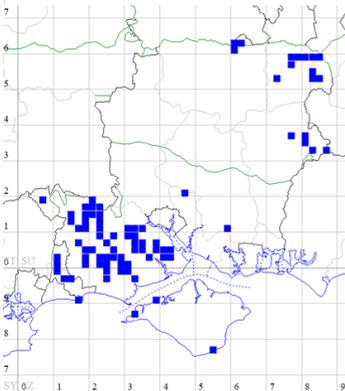
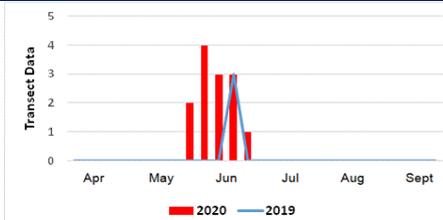
Twelve transect routes recorded one individual only.

Moths were recorded by 106 of the transect recorders this year which is slightly less than in 2019 but with the total number of transect recorders also lower this year, the percentage recording moths remains around 35%.



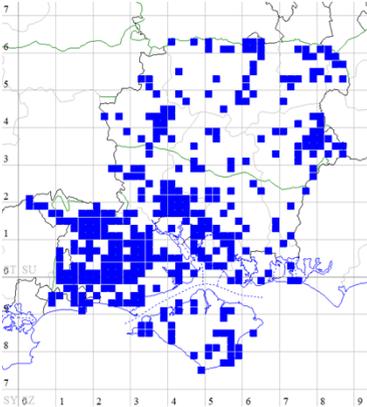
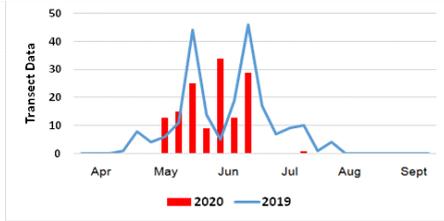
This attractive Geometrid moth is easily disturbed when walking through grassland in mid to late summer, but typically only seen in ones and twos. The favoured habitats are unimproved chalk downland, meadows and coastal sites, where the larval foodplants (clovers and vetches) are found in abundance. It is uncommon in New Forest woodlands and heaths.

The collated annual transect tally for Hampshire and Isle of Wight sites is typically in the range 6-17 individuals. The 2020 figure was mid-range, peaking in the first week of August. Most transect records, this year and last, came from Magdalen Hill Down and Martin Down.

72.023 Clouded Buff *Diacrisia sannio*

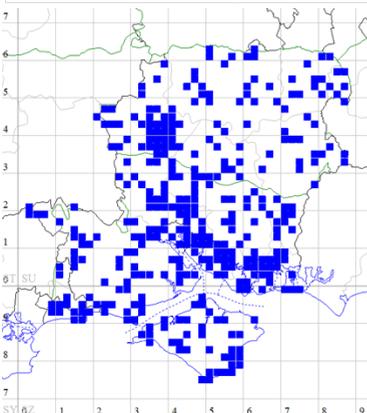
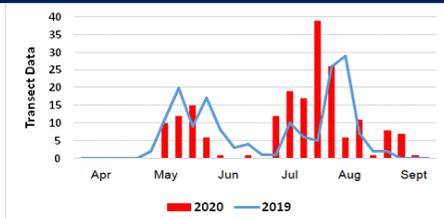
In Hampshire, this species is associated with heathlands of the New Forest, and those of east and north-east Hampshire. It is extremely local on the Isle of Wight. The flight period is typically late May to mid July, and the larval foodplants are heathers and associated low-growing plants.

In 2020, 13 individuals were recorded on transect, the first on 30 May and the last on 24 June. Two of these were at Broxhead Common (East Hampshire), whilst all others were from the New Forest. Although easily disturbed, this distinctive species is very twitchy, and difficult to approach for a good view or photograph.



This is a common species of bracken woodlands on acid soils, such as the New Forest, and one of very few insects whose larvae feed on bracken. The flight period extends from mid April to end July, but May-June is the time when it will most often be seen.

If seen at rest, its flat chevron-like posture and distinctive markings make this moth easily recognisable. Numbers recorded on transect were about 30% down in 2020 compared with 2019, but the early flight period was missed due to Covid restrictions. Even so, it was still the fourth most commonly recorded moth on transect.

63.006 Small Purple & Gold *Pyrausta aurata*

This small but attractive micro-moth, also known as the "Mint Moth", is probably familiar to all who have marjoram, mint or similar herbs in their garden. Away from the garden it is chalk downland where the species is most often seen. Care is needed when recording, to avoid confusion with *Pyrausta purpuralis*, but once familiarised, identification becomes easy.

The Small Purple and Gold is double-brooded, with an initial brood in May and early June, followed by a second, usually stronger brood, from July to mid-September. This was the equal second highest moth species recorded on transect in 2020, only exceeded by Silver-Y.

Please interpret these all-time Earliest/Latest dates with caution as our records for earlier years are far from complete.

Species	Earliest on Database	Earliest 2020	Latest 2020	Latest on Database
Dingy Skipper	12 Apr 2011	16 Apr	30 Aug	03 Sep 1993
Grizzled Skipper	02 Apr 2009	11 Apr	08 Jun	07 Sep 2004
Essex Skipper	26 May 2007	07 Jun	20 Aug	21 Sep 1996
Small Skipper	16 May 2011	28 May	20 Aug	19 Sep 1991
Silver-spotted Skipper	11 Jul 2018	29 Jul	18 Sep	11 Oct 1986
Large Skipper	28 Apr 2007	16 May	13 Aug	22 Sep 2013
Orange-tip	10 Mar 1990	16 Mar	24 Jun	22 Sep 2011
Large White	<b>20 Jan 2020</b>	<b>20 Jan</b>	06 Nov	07 Dec 2012
Small White	09 Jan 1991	15 Jan	26 Oct	08 Dec 2007
Green-veined White	03 Mar 1989	16 Mar	19 Oct	05 Nov 2017
Clouded Yellow	08 Feb 2005	06 Apr	19 Nov	30 Dec 2007
Brimstone	01 Jan 2001	09 Jan	28 Nov	29 Dec 1999
Wall	14 Apr 2002	16 Apr	<b>10 Nov</b>	<b>10 Nov 2020</b>
Speckled Wood	11 Jan 2013	21 Mar	13 Nov	15 Dec 2011
Small Heath	08 Apr 1997	19 Apr	01 Oct	29 Oct 2011
Ringlet	24 May 2016	29 May	08 Sep	11 Oct 2011
Meadow Brown	30 Apr 2011	17 May	17 Oct	07 Nov 2010
Gatekeeper	24 Mar 1999	09 Jun	21 Sep	19 Oct 1995
Marbled White	<b>29 May 2020</b>	<b>29 May</b>	14 Sep	25 Sep 2003
Grayling	03 Jun 2002	21 Jun	16 Sep	08 Oct 1986
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	17 Apr 2003	21 Apr	28 May	09 Jul 1950
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	03 May 2007	17 May	02 Jun	29 Aug 2009
Silver-washed Fritillary	Late May 1893	05 Jun	06 Sep	23 Sep 2017
Dark Green Fritillary	<b>28 May 2010/2020</b>	<b>28 May</b>	12 Aug	08 Sep 2012
White Admiral	Late May 1893	02 Jun	10 Sep	04 Oct 2003
Purple Emperor	17 Jun 2017	21 Jun	30 Jul	23 Aug 2013
Red Admiral	01 Jan*	05 Jan	20 Dec	31 Dec*
Painted Lady	01 Jan 2013	27 Mar	03 Nov	31 Dec 1987
Peacock	01 Jan*	04 Jan	20 Dec	31 Dec*
Small Tortoiseshell	05 Jan 1999/2018	09 Jan	19 Nov	25 Dec 2013
Large Tortoiseshell	10 Feb 2008	05 Apr	11 Jul	20 Aug 2011
Comma	09 Jan 1998	11 Mar	18 Nov	22 Dec 2013
Marsh Fritillary	27 Apr 2007	05 May	02 Jun	20 Jun 2004
Glanville Fritillary	08 Apr 2007	23 Apr	01 Jul	09 Jul 2010
Duke of Burgundy	01 Apr 2019	23 Apr	07 Jun	02 Oct 2011
Small Copper	05 Mar 2009	24 Mar	05 Nov	27 Nov 2003
Brown Hairstreak	18 Jul 2017/2018	23 Jul	13 Sep	16 Oct 1986
Purple Hairstreak	31 May 2010	07 Jun	25 Aug	25 Sep 2003
Green Hairstreak	29 Mar 2012	05 Apr	22 Jun	30 Jul 2007
White-letter Hairstreak	25 May 2011	07 Jun	22 Jul	23 Aug 2004
Small Blue	30 Mar 2012	04 May	16 Sep	21 Sep 1991
Holly Blue	08 Jan 2019	22 Mar	<b>27 Dec</b>	<b>27 Dec 2020</b>
Silver-studded Blue	09 May 2011	25 May	20 Aug	30 Oct 1921
Brown Argus	08 Apr 2002	23 Apr	11 Oct	31 Oct 2005
Common Blue	04 Apr 2019	12 Apr	16 Oct	12 Nov 1990
Adonis Blue	26 Apr 2011	04 May	29 Sep	15 Oct 2011
Chalk Hill Blue	17 Jun 1990	26 Jun	29 Sep	31 Oct 2011

\* Recorded on this date in several years

This table is based on 125 Hampshire & Isle of Wight transects with data for both 2019 and 2020.

Species	Combined Transect Trend	>20% Decrease 2020	Within ±20% No Change	>20% Increase 2020	0/20 1+/19 Loss	1+/20 0/19 Gain
Dingy Skipper	-41%	16	4	8	8	3
Grizzled Skipper	xxx	2	3	9	1	5
Small/Essex Skipper	-22%	60	16	38	8	2
Silver-spotted Skipper	-14%	2	-	1	1	1
Large Skipper	-21%	65	18	33	8	2
Orange-tip	xxx	12	9	4	-	1
Large White	+7%	28	22	62	1	-
Small White	+1%	37	29	44	-	-
Green-veined White	+9%	40	26	38	11	7
Clouded Yellow	+188%	5	5	22	3	14
Brimstone	-57%	10	8	3	-	1
Wall	-32%	6	2	2	3	-
Speckled Wood	-36%	69	28	3	9	-
Small Heath	-11%	24	14	41	-	-
Ringlet	-45%	70	17	22	9	1
Meadow Brown	-33%	65	34	21	-	-
Gatekeeper	-22%	63	25	30	-	-
Marbled White	-30%	52	26	27	6	6
Grayling	-15%	6	6	9	1	3
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	xxx	5	2	-	1	-
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.*	-7%	-	1	-	-	-
Silver-washed Fritillary	-31%	48	16	12	14	2
Dark Green Fritillary	-34%	23	5	19	9	9
White Admiral	-19%	14	5	15	4	6
Purple Emperor*	+30%	2	-	4	2	4
Red Admiral	-7%	45	24	39	-	4
Painted Lady	-98%	95	3	2	73	2
Peacock	+15%	47	25	36	5	1
Small Tortoiseshell	+72%	16	15	40	9	15
Comma	-8%	32	23	34	13	5
Marsh Fritillary*	-4%	4	-	2	1	2
Glanville Fritillary*	-25%	-	-	3	-	1
Duke of Burgundy	xxx	-	-	2	-	-
Small Copper	-18%	48	29	23	16	6
Brown Hairstreak*	+31%	1	-	1	-	-
Purple Hairstreak*	-9%	9	6	5	6	5
Green Hairstreak	xxx	6	5	8	3	5
White-letter Hairstreak*	-7%	2	1	4	1	4
Small Blue	+12%	8	7	8	4	3
Holly Blue	+12%	38	22	45	12	6
Silver-studded Blue	+4%	6	8	13	4	-
Brown Argus	-29%	27	14	15	9	8
Common Blue	-18%	42	21	38	6	7
Adonis Blue	-17%	5	1	8	1	2
Chalk Hill Blue	+50%	5	8	16	4	3

\* Figures based on 'All Data' for species poorly represented on transect

xxx - Not determined in 2020 as most of flight season missed due to Covid-19 restrictions

2020 rank position of BC Reserves (based on transect) for particular species in top 20 compared with 130+ other Hampshire and loW sites with butterfly transects.  
(bracketed) values are 2019 positions.  
"p" if present on site but not ranked in top 20.

Species	Magdalen Hill Down					Yew Hill	BSM
	Original	Ext	North	Allot.	N(T&S)		
Dingy Skipper	7(9=)	6(15=)	p(p)	-(p)	15(19)	13(p)	-
Grizzled Skipper	1(2)	-(18=)	p(p)	-(9)	-(p)	6(18=)	-
Small/Essex Skipper	20(18)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	19(p)
Silver-spotted Skipper	-	-	-	-	-	p(-)	-
Large Skipper	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	20(16)
Orange-tip	5(9=)	9(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Large White	p(p)	19(15)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	14(p)	p(p)
Small White	6(2)	20(15)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	10(12)	p(p)
Green-veined White	p(20)	17(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Clouded Yellow	3(3)	9(p)	16(8=)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-
Brimstone	1(1)	p(12)	p(17)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Wall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Speckled Wood	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Small Heath	10(15)	p(p)	p(p)	14(p)	p(p)	7(10)	p(p)
Ringlet	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	15(9)
Meadow Brown	8(10)	14(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	16(p)	p(p)
Gatekeeper	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	19(p)	p(p)
Marbled White	16(5)	2(3)	15(6)	p(p)	p(p)	4(20)	p(p)
Grayling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Silver-washed Fritillary	-	-	-	-	-	-	p(p)
Dark Green Fritillary	p(19=)	p(11)	p(p)	-	-	16(p)	-
White Admiral	-	-	-	-	-	-	14(p)
Purple Emperor	-	-	-	-	-	-	p(-)
Red Admiral	p(p)	20(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Painted Lady	p(15=)	p(5)	p(14)	p(p)	8(9)	p(p)	p(p)
Peacock	8(7)	9(20)	11(p)	18(p)	2(6)	p(p)	p(p)
Small Tortoiseshell	14(6=)	13(6=)	12(11=)	18(2)	5(p)	19(p)	-(-)
Comma	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	13(14)
Marsh Fritillary	5(-)	4(-)	-	-	-	-	-
Glanville Fritillary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duke of Burgundy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Copper	3(4)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)	p(12)	p(p)	p(p)
Brown Hairstreak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-(p)
Purple Hairstreak	-	-	-	-	-	-	p(p)
Green Hairstreak	1(2)	p(14=)	12(-)	p(-)	5(p)	p(14=)	p(p)
White-letter Hairstreak	-	-	-	-	-	4= (-)	-
Small Blue	7(13=)	4(5)	5(10)	11(13=)	14(16=)	15(18=)	-
Holly Blue	12(6)	p(p)	p(p)	p(20=)	p(p)	p(p)	p(p)
Silver-studded Blue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Argus	1(1)	17(17=)	p(9)	3(9)	15(16)	14(p)	p(p)
Common Blue	1(1)	6(5)	16(p)	13(18)	5(2)	11(p)	p(p)
Adonis Blue	6(13)	-	-(-)	13(-)	-	-	-
Chalk Hill Blue	2(3)	19(20)	11(10)	12(14)	p(p)	8(15)	-(-)

# Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Report 2020



Butterfly  
Conservation

