

and climatic change. There are more than 30 branches across the UK, of which this branch is the largest. Butterfly Conservation has over 25 reserves, three of which are in Hampshire.

As a member, you will receive:

- the national magazine *Butterfly* three times a year and the Branch newsletter at least twice a year
- an annual report summarising the status of butterflies and moths in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Have an opportunity to

- attend field trips, training courses and talks
- help manage reserves such as this one
- take part in systematic recording of butterflies and moths in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

For more details about the reserves and the Branch, please contact the Branch Organiser:

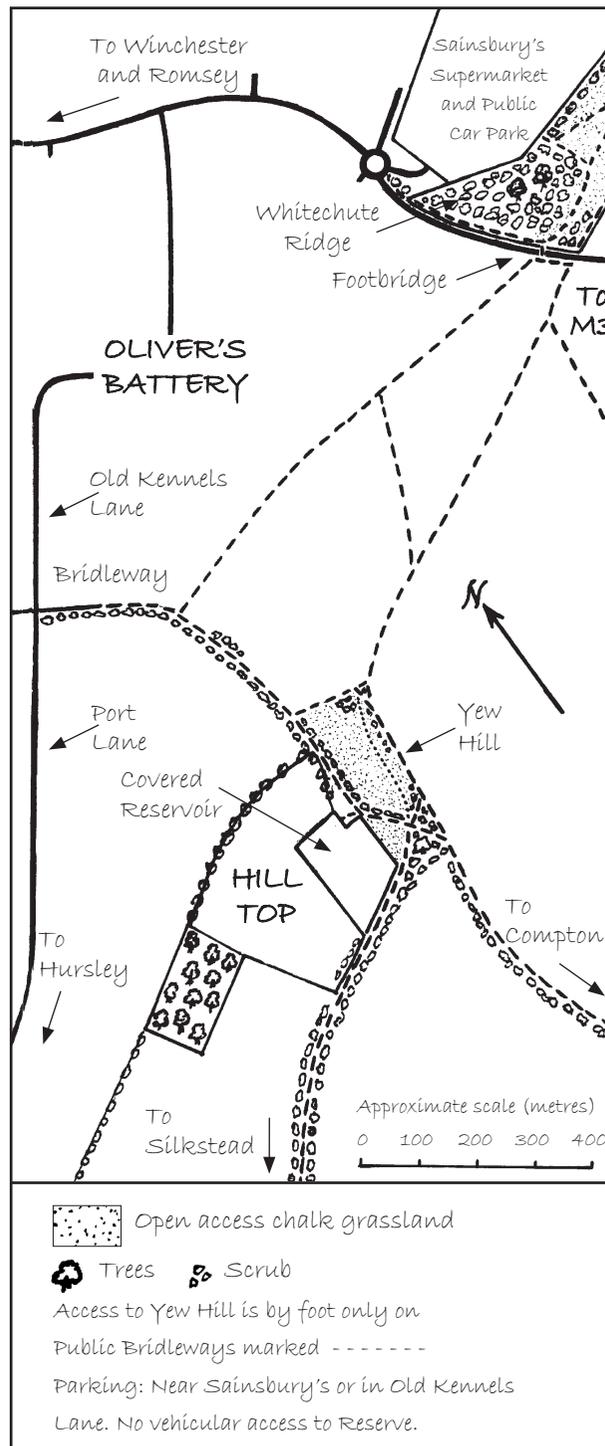
Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Titchfield Lane, Wickham, PO15 6EA Tel 01329 832177 Or visit our web site www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Benefactors of Yew Hill include:

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Butterfly Conservation

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Yew Hill

Nature Reserve



This reserve is five acres of open downland. Adjoining it is a five-acre covered reservoir where Southern Water have thoughtfully allowed natural regeneration to take place. The reserve and reservoir are small pockets of unimproved chalk downland. Much has been lost to farming and yet more to the aftermath of myxomatosis, which, by decimating the rabbit population, allowed scrub to invade and destroy the essential open character of downland.

Thus many species of plants and butterflies have become rare. The isolated nature of the remaining downland means that if a species dies out on a particular site it is unlikely to reappear naturally. Hence the need for reserves like this and for conservation in general. In 2004 Butterfly Conservation was able to start renting a field of 8.5 acres behind the reservoir, which will increase the habitat that butterflies and moths need.



This reserve still has areas of short turf, especially near ancient ditches, which are rich in downland plants such as cowslip, milkwort, scabious and thyme, together with various orchids, fragrant orchid being the most common. Knapweed is abundant on the reserve, as is the unusual knapweed broomrape (left).

Both the Chalkhill Blue and the Common Blue butterfly occur in good numbers. Altogether,



about 30 species of butterflies and a number of red data book moths occur on the site. The mixture of fine downland grasses and the rich variety of flowering plants on which the caterpillars depend is conserved by grazing with sheep or cattle in autumn or early winter.

In addition to foodplants for their caterpillars, butterflies need nectar and shelter. Knapweed, thistles and brambles are all rich sources of nectar, while trees and shrubs provide valuable shelter on this rather exposed site. Additionally some trees and shrubs are also foodplants for caterpillars of many moths and some butterflies: the bright yellow Brimstone uses buckthorn and the Holly Blue feeds on Dogwood, Holly and Ivy.

The conservation work at the reserve, which includes some mowing and grazing by cattle, is supported by a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme administered by Natural England. Group visits are welcome by appointment.

Please help us to protect this beautiful place.

The calendar opposite shows the likely months in which each species of butterfly might be seen.

Butterfly Conservation is a national charity. Founded in 1968 it is dedicated to saving butterflies and moths and our environment. It is recognised that butterflies and moths are indicators of biodiversity and of environmental

Butterfly	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Brimstone	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brown Argus			•	•	•	•	•	
Chalkhill Blue					•	•	•	
Clouded Yellow				•	•	•	•	•
Comma	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Common Blue			•	•	•	•	•	
Dark Green Fritillary				•	•	•		
Gatekeeper					•	•		
Green Hairstreak			•	•				
Green-veined White	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Holly Blue	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Large Skipper				•	•	•		
Large White	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Marbled White				•	•	•		
Meadow Brown				•	•	•	•	
Orange-tip	•	•	•					
Painted Lady				•	•	•	•	•
Peacock	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Red Admiral	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ringlet				•	•	•		
Small Blue			•	•	•	•		
Small Copper	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Small Heath		•	•	•	•	•	•	
Small or Essex Skippers				•	•	•		
Small Tortoiseshell	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Small White	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Speckled Wood	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
White-letter Hairstreak					•	•		