



Silver-Studded Blues in the Western Weald

Transects and what to do with the data!

Silver-Studded Blues



Silver-Studded Blues

- *It's a red data list species*
- *Needs its heather food plants*
- *Needs its ant partner*
- *Has a very short life as a butterfly*
- *Very sedentary*
- *On the wing in (May)/June/July*

Silver-Studded Blues in East Hampshire/West Sussex

- SSBs are doing well in East Hants/West Sussex on a small number of sites
 - They are present in low numbers on a few other sites
- Transects are walked on four of these
 - All other sites are visited during the flight season
- Transect data is used to focus conservation effort on key butterfly areas
 - SSBs are very sedentary and short lived
 - Will move to adjacent areas if habitat suitable

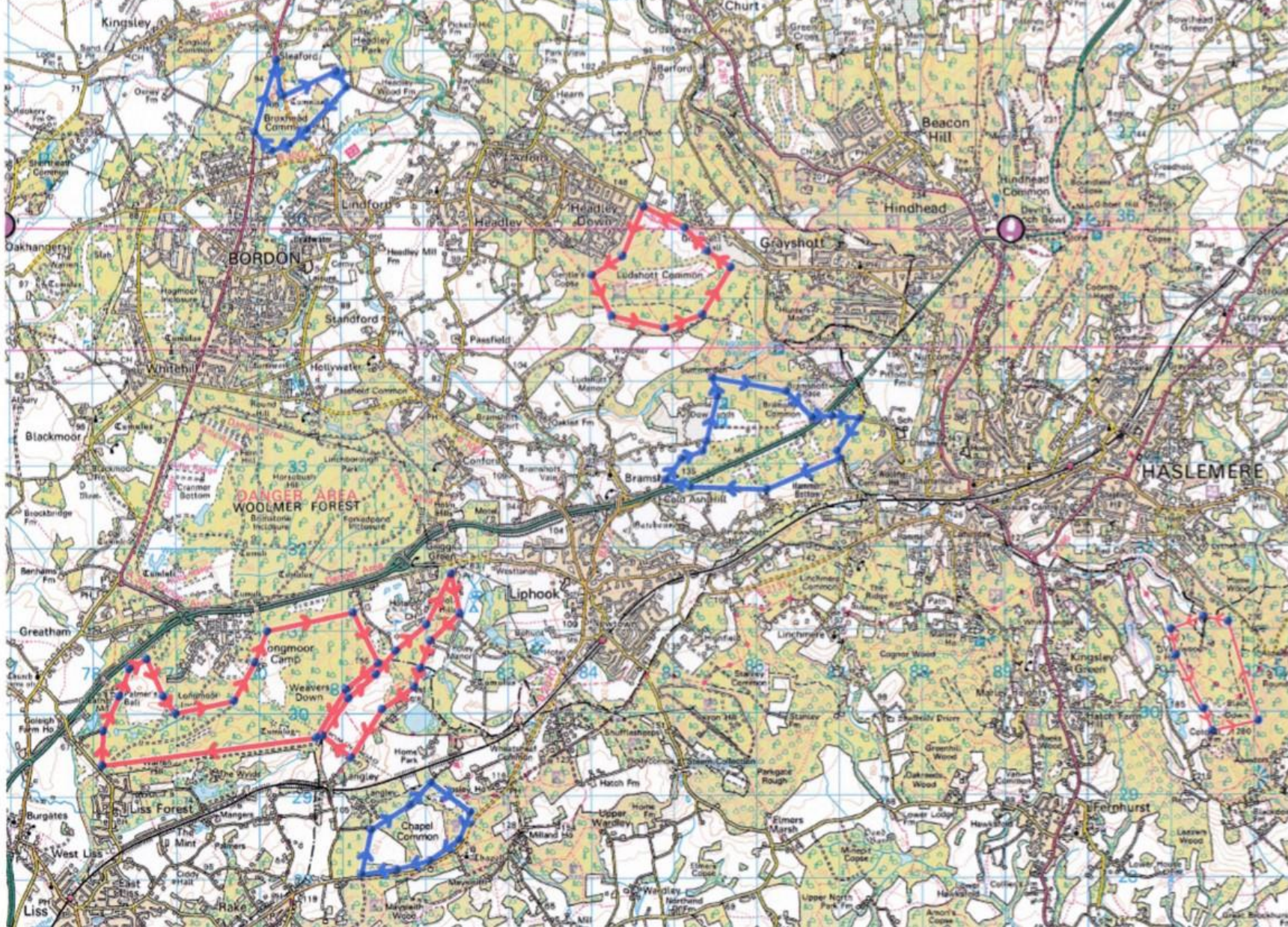
Silver-Studded Blues in East Hampshire

- Bramshott Common (Transect)
- Broxhead Common (Transect)
- Ludshott Common
- Longmoor Ranges
- Weavers Down
- (Woolmer Forest)/Hogmoor Enclosure/The Slab

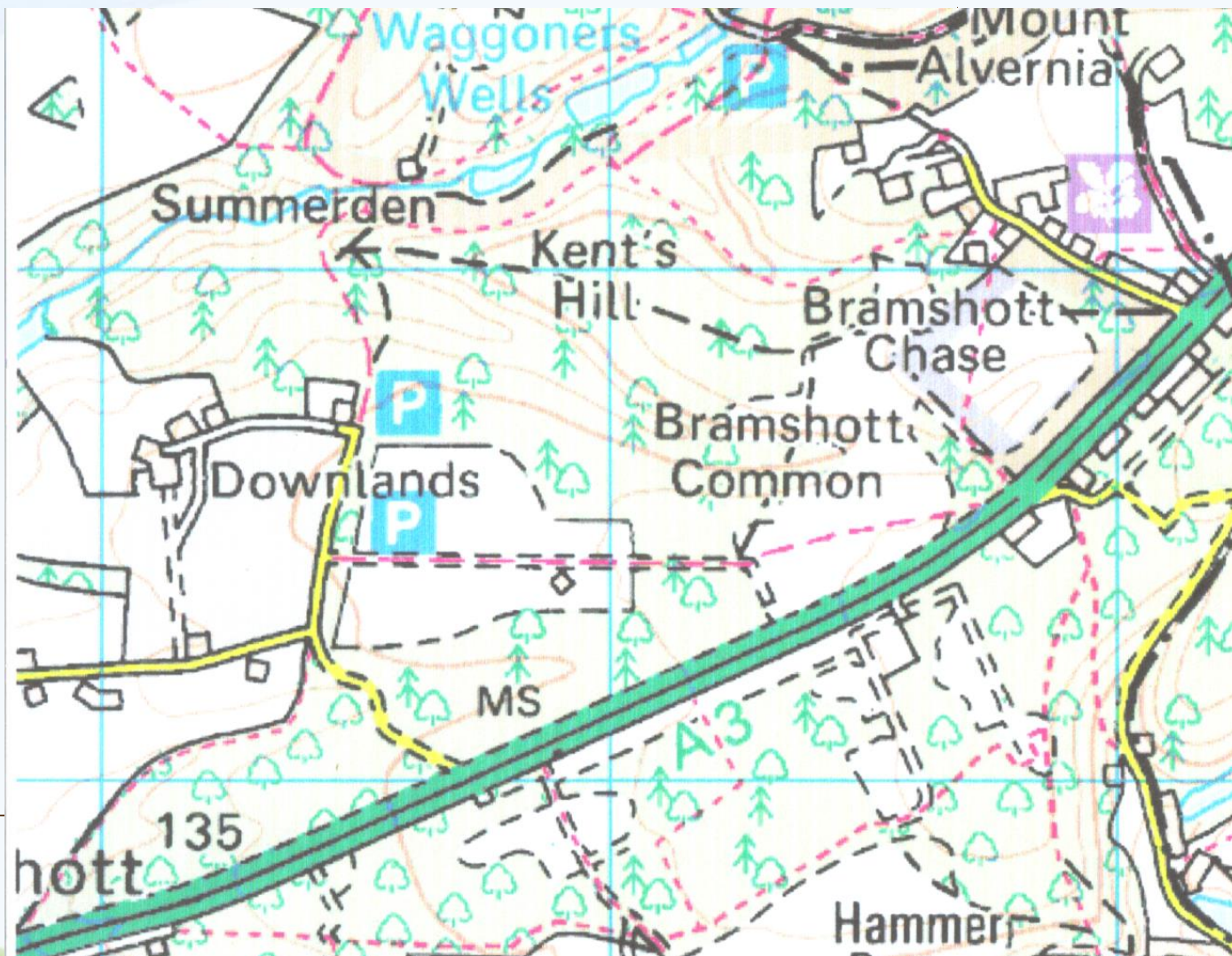
Silver-Studded Blues in West Sussex

- *Chapel Common (Transect)*
- *Iping/Stedham Commons (Transect)*

- *Black Down (Reintroduction)*
- *(Linchmere Common)*



Bramshott Common



Bramshott Common

- This is a big site with a wide variety of habitat
 - Up to thirty butterfly species recorded each year
- The SSBs are present in a main colony area and in a number of satellite colonies across the site
- Main colony is in an area of wildflower rich heathland
- Transect Data:

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Index	333	1,279	1,864	1,750	1,723	673	1,684	711	714	880	1,153
Max Seen	182	436	712	809	532	168	569	280	275	218	389
First Sighting	2nd June	31st May	25th May	30th May	31st May	13th June	19th June	5th June	11th June	8th June	2nd June

Bramshott Common

- I've been monitoring butterflies there for almost thirty years
- Transect started in 2007
- This is an MOD site
 - Low footfall, a few regular dog walkers
 - I sit on the Longmoor Conservation Group
 - Land manager engagement is key to habitat management
 - The MOD are very keen to embrace the balancing of military training and conservation
 - Annual site visits are made to butterfly areas to discuss site clearance and tree management

Bramshott Common



Bramshott Common

- *Other goodies on Bramshott!*



Bramshott Common

- *Other goodies on Bramshott!*



Broxhead Common

- This is another MOD Site near Bordon
 - This is a much less diverse site than Bramshott
- Habitat managed by MOD, HLOWWT and ARC
- Transect data has enabled better targeting of conservation work
 - Transect only walked from Mid May through to August
- Transect Data (since 2014):

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Index	100	111	298	596
Max Seen	33	42	111	239
First Sighting	8th June	19th June	15th June	3rd June

Chapel Common

- This is a privately owned site near Rake in West Sussex
 - Has been managed by the SDNP
- Superb heathland habitat
 - Much extended by conservation volunteers
 - Quite wildflower rich
- Transect data has enabled better targeting of conservation work
- Transect Data (since 2010):

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Index	452	894	517	793	620	873	841	1,027
Max Seen	127	259	179	271	205	378	351	344
First Sighting	4th June	1st June	13th June	19th June	10th June	10th June	10th June	2nd June

Chapel Common



Prospects for 2018

- All major colony sites are in good condition
 - Conservation work targeted from transect data
 - Now we just need the sun to shine in June!
- Bramshott Field Trip
 - Sunday 24th June at 10:30
 - Meet at car park at end of Rectory Lane (SU855337)
 - Come along, you won't be disappointed

Any Questions?

