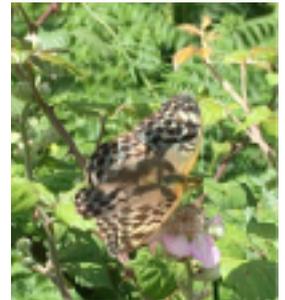


An amazing week for numbers, with a total of 2,774 butterflies, over three times that counted in Week 11. This equates to 34.83 butterflies/km, once again the highest density for the corresponding week since we began in 2011. Ringlet are now around, also Silver-washed Fritillary in good numbers and the first Valezina already seen (on Perrywood Ivy transect, see photo). A late Grizzled Skipper at Pignal was the first sighting of this species on this transect since 2004 and a Brown Argus was seen at Rockford for first time.



Silver-washed Fritillary (Valezina) at Perrywood Ivy Keith Brook

We have had a number of Small Skipper records this week. The question is, are they really Small Skipper? Is everyone confident they can tell the difference between a Small and an Essex Skipper, especially under transect conditions?

Small Tortoiseshell at Lepe, Neil Smith



Please record as Small/Essex Skipper unless you are 100% sure they are either Small or Essex. Also, Large Skippers are actually quite small in size and are more likely to be seen on the woodland routes.

The forecast looks good again for this week, so expect to be seeing good numbers again, especially Silver-studded Blue on the heathland and Silver-washed Fritillary in the woodland enclosures.

Twenty-three different species were seen overall: Meadow Brown (1,245), Silver-studded Blue (701), Large Skipper (290), Ringlet (100), Speckled Wood (91), Marbled White (61), Small Heath (56), White Admiral (55), Small/Essex Skipper (54 - of which seven were identified as Small Skipper), Small White (34), Silver-washed Fritillary (23), Large White (15), Brimstone (11), Green-veined White (9), Common Blue (9), Red Admiral (7), Small Tortoiseshell (4), Comma (4), Grizzled Skipper (1), Green Hairstreak (1), Brown Argus (1), Painted Lady (1) and Gatekeeper (1)..

Silver-studded Blue At Vales Moor John French



Results

Week 11: Total - 934 Week 12: Total - 2,873 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

	Weeks			Weeks			Weeks	
	11	12		11	12		11	12
Acres Down	43	33	Hasley	11	109	Normandy Marsh	67	45
Badminton	17	41	Hawkhill	8	80	Perrywood Ivy	15	216
Barton Common	12	27	Hightown	0	13	Pignal	11	100
Beaulieu Heath	10	138	Holmsley	16	26	Pondhead	10	29
Blackwater	6	12	Ibsley	17	60	Pondhead Wood	19	47
Breamore	58	255	Janesmoor	2	11	Rockford	57	168
Broadley	10	11	Janesmoor Plain	1	6	Roe North	8	64
Dibden Bottom	63	164	Keeping Marsh	6	14	Roe South	16	35
Fields Heath	25	226	Kings Copse	12	70	Standing Hat	9	26
Frohawk	9	93	Lepe	23	91	Studland Common	15	31
Godshill	2	27	Little Linford	6	25	Vales Moor	53	156
Great Linford	30	11	Mockbeggar	254	387	Warren Farm	13	26

Moth to Spot: The damp heaths of the New Forest are one of the main places in Hampshire that the Clouded Buff (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/diacrisia-sannio/male/>) may be seen flying at this time of year. The males have a wingspan of around 40mm. Their forewings are yellow with a pinkish red blob in the centre and more subtle pink fringe and streak along the trailing edge. The males are most likely to be seen around in the day and a number were photographed on transects by group members last year. If seen, the females are smaller, more orange in colour with reddish orange veins. Please remember only to record those moths that you see within the transect 'cube', the same as for butterflies.