

Another good week (536 total excluding the exploratory Roe Transects) with many routes achieving their highest counts of the year so far. Breamore provided it's second 100+ of the year. The density this week was 6.73 butterflies/km, the highest since 2015 (7.72/km).

Four new species for the year this week: Common Blue (Kings Copse & Lepe), Small Heath (Lepe & Great Linford), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Pignal, Frohawk & Perrywood Ivy) and Grizzled Skipper showing an appearance at Hawkhill & Beaulieu Heath after a few years' absence. Strangely no Comma were recorded this week and it won't be too long before the annual 'lull' when even Brimstone will be very scarce.



Grizzled Skipper at Hawkhill
Allan Orme



Green Hairstreak
at Barton Common
Trevor Bumfrey

Fifteen different species were seen this week: Brimstone (149), Green-veined White (71), Speckled Wood (62), Small White (61), Orange-tip (51), Large White (44), Holly Blue (31), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (25), Peacock (23), Grizzled Skipper (7), Small Heath (5), Green Hairstreak (2), Small Copper (2), Common Blue (2) and Small Tortoiseshell (1).

We are still hoping for Dingy Skipper, possibly at Fields Heath and/or Breamore.

The next species likely to emerge is Silver-studded Blue (over-winters as eggs). These were very early last year, first recorded on Beaulieu Heath on 22 May 2017.

Results

Week 6: Total - 651. Week 7: Total - 571 (Both figures include exploratory Roe transects)

	Weeks			Weeks			Weeks	
	6	7		6	7		6	7
Acres Down	21	7	Hasley	13	20	Normandy Marsh	24	9
Badminton	19	23	Hawkhill	4	9	Perrywood Ivy	14	11
Barton Common	15	17	Hightown	5	1	Pignal	8	13
Beaulieu Heath	4	4	Holmsley	52	40	Pondhead	14	8
Blackwater	10	5	Ibsley	0	1	Pondhead Wood	6	15
Breamore	146	104	Janesmoor	16	10	Rockford	*	4
Broadley	21	9	Janesmoor Plain	7	3	Roe North	23	18
Dibden Bottom	0	1	Keeping Marsh	7	11	Roe South	40	17
Fields Heath	22	28	Kings Copse	33	51	Standing Hat	10	6
Frohawk	9	22	Lepe	19	26	Studland Common	11	14
Godshill	18	8	Little Linford	16	5	Vales Moor	1	7
Great Linford	9	19	Mockbeggar	24	19	Warren Farm	10	6

* - No valid transect walk

Moths to Spot: The focus this week is on two distinctive moths, both similar in size to a Skipper, that enjoy a bit of sunshine and can easily be disturbed, when they will tend to fly for a short distance before settling. Both fly during May and June and have been seen on our transects, although not in great numbers. The first is the **Mother Shipton** moth (<https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/euclidia-mi/>), named after a 16th Century witch, because the markings on its wings resemble a crone's face. The second is the **Burnet Companion** (<https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/euclidia-glyphica/>), which looks nothing like a Burnet moth, as it has a warm dark greyish brown background, with two distinct dark brown cross bands. It often rest so you can see a little bit of its hind wings, which have orange stripes, peeping out.



Cinnabar moth at Mockbeggar
John Levell