

[June 2025](#)[August 2025](#)[Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch
E-newsletter](#)[December 2025](#)

Dear Branch Member,

Please find the latest news from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch...

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Butterfly Transect News

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Transect Recorders' meeting (see photo [© Fiona Scully]) held at Littleton Memorial Hall on 26th October was a big success, with 55 people attending and a great range of presentations on various transect-related topics. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to the speakers.

At the time of my most recent data download from UKBMS on 10 November, the total number of 2025 Hants & Isle of Wight butterfly transect records was an incredible 69,136. Many thanks to all involved, and thanks again for entering the data so promptly. As part of the verification process, the various Local Authority Transect Co-ordinators and I have been going through the data looking for any anomalous records. I'm pleased to say that only 98 records (just 0.14%) out of the vast number quoted above were flagged for further checking. **Clearly those involved with transects have very good butterfly identification skills and are meticulous with their data entry!** Almost all of the



anomalous records turned out to be minor data entry errors, whilst some were true records, but very early, due to the exceptional weather of the 2025 season.

Most butterfly species did much better in 2025 (relative to the very poor 2024 season), but more on this in the New Year...

Andy Barker (Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator, Hampshire & Isle of Wight)

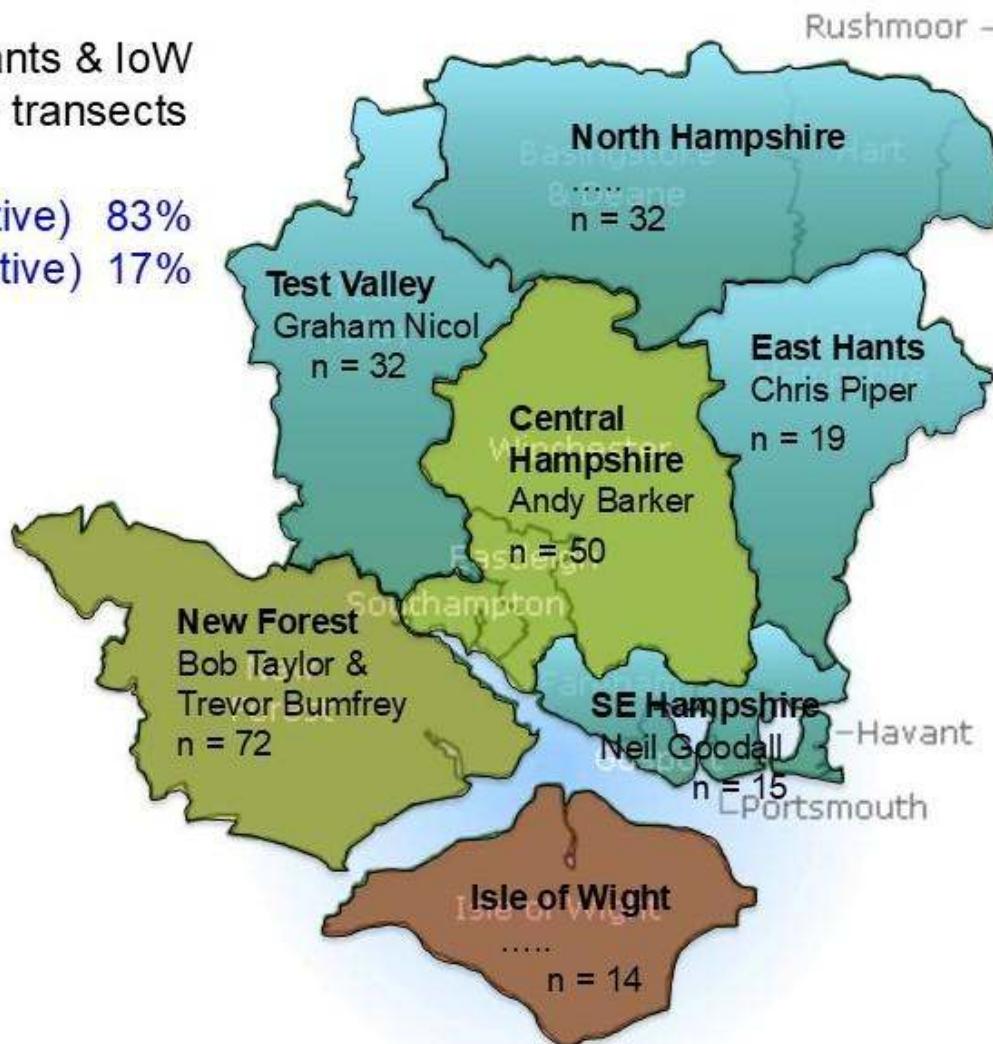
Email: andy.barker@butterfly-conservation.goassembly.com

Butterfly Transect Co-ordinators - vacancies

Having been **Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator for Hants & Isle of Wight** for 35 years, and witnessed the incredible growth of butterfly transect recording in our area, I've decided that, **with effect from 28 February 2026, it's time for me to step down from the role**. Many thanks for all your support over the years, which is much appreciated.

Hampshire has the highest number of transects of any county, so to spread the load **we are no longer looking for an overall Transect Co-ordinator (unless someone wants to do it)**, but have decided, through discussions with BC Head Office, to have a **network of Local Authority Area Transect Co-ordinators**. This is something we've been developing over several years, with key volunteers taking on a Transect Co-ordinator role for one or more local authority areas. The primary responsibility of the person in this role is to provide advice and support for butterfly transect recorders in their area, as well as oversee the process of data verification. You'll see from the list below that most areas are now covered by a Local Authority Area Transect Co-ordinator, **but we currently have vacancies for the Isle of Wight, and North Hampshire**.

Total Hants & IoW
butterfly transects
2025 =
234 (active) 83%
48 (inactive) 17%



Area	No. of transects	Who
Central Hampshire (Winchester, Eastleigh, Southampton)	50	Andy Barker
East Hampshire District	19	Chris Piper
Isle of Wight	14	(Vacant)
New Forest District	72	Trevor Bumfrey & Bob Taylor
North Hampshire (Basingstoke & Deane, Hart, Rushmoor)	32	(Vacant)
South-East Hampshire (Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth)	15	Neil Goodall
Test Valley Borough	32	Graham Nicol

If you are an experienced transect recorder and would like to consider taking on the role of Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator for either of the two vacancies, please contact me to find out more.

Andy Barker (Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator, Hampshire & Isle of Wight)

Email: andy.barker@butterfly-conservation.goassembly.com

Recording News

Thank you to all recorders who have been adding their 2025 butterfly records to various 'systems' throughout the year, and to those who have already submitted their records on our standard spreadsheet.

Although there is regrettably no Annual Butterfly Report these days, your records remain very important and, once formally verified, will be migrated to Butterfly Conservation's database (Butterflies for the New Millennium, BNM). As I'm sure you are all aware, these records form the basis for research, conservation and reporting to various government departments. In Hampshire/Isle of Wight, they are issued to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, also Isle of Wight Local Records Office. In addition, I provide local organisations with statistics, maps, graphs, etc for their various sites which they use as a basis for conservation, etc.

Finally, a reminder that all records will be downloaded for processing in early January 2026 so please ensure you have submitted your records by the end of 2025 (any late submissions will be processed later in 2026 and imported into the database with the 2026 records).

A reminder also that butterflies reported on our branch website ('News' page) and Facebook are not included in our formal database.

Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder, Hampshire & Isle of Wight)

Email: butterflyrecorder@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Reserves report

Magdalen Hill Down

The magnificent reserve volunteers are in action every Monday. They've been doing the bits that the animals don't get to - clearing the chalk scrape from clematis, and digging up

thickets of privet on the old chalk grassland. It's not an easy site, with the steep hill, prickly thorny bramble, and hawthorn bushes, but the volunteers continue to do great work helping keep the species-rich grassland open.

The Livestock Lookers were pleased to see the sheep return at the end of November. We've got 22 Shetlands, and are hoping to top that up with White-Faced Woodlands at the end of December. We currently have 15 cows on Pathfield - some British Whites, and the smaller ones are Hereford, and Hereford cross. They have come over from Winnall Moor to spend the winter on higher and drier ground! The presence of the animals brings life to Magdalen through the bleak winter.

Yew Hill

It's been a bit complicated at Yew Hill, because of the SW reservoir construction. Hurdle Way, and some of the footpaths are closed, restricting access to the reserve. We managed to arrange for the animals to be moved onto Yew Hill, and thankfully we now have 11 White-Faced Woodland rams grazing here for winter.

Due to repeated dog attacks, it's a High Risk site, so we have put up signs requesting all dog walkers use alternative routes and keep dogs out of the reserve. I was surprised by how many people blatantly ignore dogs on leads signs, when there are sheep in the field. It's unfair on all the responsible dog owners who are very careful to keep dogs on leads when livestock is present. We need to do our best to protect these gentle animals who are essential to maintain the grassland. They belong to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, so a big thanks to their amazing Grazing Team who look after these traditional breed animals. It's a fantastic partnership for our conservation grazing and management of the reserves.

Due to the construction traffic and not having access, we've not been able to cut and rake the small SW meadow just outside the reserve. We still plan on doing that, but it will have to wait until the end of winter or early spring.

Bentley Station Meadow

This shows what happens if you don't keep cutting and raking – the bramble and thistle take over! Work in progress here... The volunteers have been heading down the ride cutting and clearing the vegetation, so hopefully we'll have a nice flush of spring flowers next year. The Betony is already spreading from the previous bramble clearance but you can't stop, it all grows back so quickly! The cows did a great job on the meadow but there's still a lot to do. Hopefully we'll get it all done!

A big thank you to all our Volunteers, always so reliable, helpful and dedicated to helping our wildlife - you're amazing!! And for the support of our brilliant partners, the Wildlife Trust and their animals and South Downs National Park who give volunteer days and help fund projects.

Volunteer work days schedule

The volunteer work party dates are on the [Hampshire Branch website](#) (summarised in the Newsletter [here](#)). In essence: **Mondays at Magdalen Hill, first Wednesday of each month at BSM and fortnightly Thursdays at Yew Hill.** (Please see the Reserves Volunteering sub-section of the Dates section, below.)

Butterfly Walks on the Reserves

We'll let you know in the Newsletter, when the dates have been finalised. Please keep checking [the branch website](#).

Some photos from the reserves (all photos © Fiona Scully)...



MHD cows at Pathfield (top)
SDNP Volunteers (bottom)



Volunteers at MHD taking a break



Sheep arrive at YH

Tree 'popping' at YH

Cutting & raking at BSM

Wishing you all a restful, sparkly festive season,

Fiona

[Fiona Scully \(BC Reserves Officer, South East England\)](#)

[Email: fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org)

Snippets

- If you have any comments or suggestions for your regular e-Newsletter, please email me, the editor (enewsletter@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk).
- The 2026 branch Field Trips for Hampshire and Isle of Wight have just been announced. See below, in the Dates section.

Dates

An electronic calendar (.ics), covering all Field Trips & Reserves Walks, is available from [the Butterfly Walks webpage](#), or just copy/paste this link into your Calendar application, to **subscribe (don't 'download')** - you won't get automatic updates, if events change): https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/BC_Hants_walks.ics

Reserves Volunteering

Please check the website for updates.

Every Monday until 8th December 2025 inclusive. Start 10am, finish 3pm	Magdalen Hill Down	Please contact Fiona Scully for details.
Fortnightly on Thursday until 12th February,	Yew Hill	

2026. Start 10am, finish 3pm		
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First Wednesday of the month from 1st October until 4th March 2026 inclusive. Start 10 am, finish by 3 pm	Bentley Station Meadow	
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Branch, and branch-related Events

2026 Events to be announced.

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Branch Field Trips 2026

Hampshire walks and Isle of Wight walks...

When	Where	Target species
Sat 18 Apr	Parkhurst Forest	Orange-tip, Brimstone, Comma, Peacock
Wed 29 Apr	West Meon - Park Hill	Small Tortoiseshell, Holly Blue, Orange-tip
Sat 2 May	Thorness Bay fields	Orange-tip, Brimstone, Green-veined White, Skippers
Sun 3 May	Portsdown Hill	Wall
Wed 6 May	Butser Hill - Ramsdean Down	Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Emperor Moth
Sun 10 May	Queen Elizabeth Country Park - Coulter's Dean	Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Small Blue, Grizzled Skipper
Wed 13 May	New Forest - Ramnor & Pig Bush Inclosures	Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cuckoo, Raft Spider, Emperor Moth
Sat 16 May	Mottistone Chalk-pits	Glanville Fritillary, Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper
Wed 20 May	Martin Down	Marsh Fritillary, Adonis Blue, Emperor Moth, Forester Moth
Sat 23 May	Compton Chine	Glanville Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Small Blue, Adonis Blue
Wed 17 Jun	New Forest - Hawkhill Inclosure	Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue, Clouded Buff Moth
Wed 24 Jun	West Wood / Pitt Down	Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled White, Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary
Sat 27 Jun	Newtown Meadows / Walter's Copse	White Admiral, Marbled White, Brown Argus, Ringlet
Sun 28 Jun	Creech Wood / Forest of Bere	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Wed 1 Jul	West Walk / Forest of Bere	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Sat 4 Jul	Mottistone Down	Dark Green Fritillary, Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue
Sun 5 Jul	Basing Wood	Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral
Wed 8 Jul	Abbotswood Inclosure	Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary
Sun 12 Jul	Micheldever Road / Abbotstone Down	Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (ab. Valesina)
Wed 15 Jul	Queen Elizabeth Country Park / West Harting Down	Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary, Hummingbird Hawk Moth
Sat 18 Jul	Kemphill Moor Copse	White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (inc. ab Valesina), Purple Hairstreak
Sat 1 Aug	Mount Joy, Carisbrooke	Chalk Hill Blue, Common Blue, Wall, Brown Argus
Wed 5 Aug	Old Winchester Hill NNR	Clouded Yellow, Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue

Wed 12 Aug	Shipton Bellinger	Brown Hairstreak, Magpie Moth, Wall Brown
Sat 15 Aug	Brading Downs	Chalk Hill Blue, Brown Argus
Wed 19 Aug	Noar Hill	Brown Hairstreak, Common Blue, Clouded Yellow
Wed 2 Sep	Beacon Hill at Exton	Clouded Yellow, Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Argus
Sat 5 Sep	Thorness Bay fields	Clouded Yellow, Wall, Brown Argus, Small Copper

Accompanied Reserves Walks

2026 Reserves Walks to be announced. Email [Fiona Scully](#) to book a place on a Reserves walk.

When	Where	Target species	Information

First Late sightings (04/10/2025 - 05/12/2025)

Note: Data extracted from [Branch 'News' webpage](#) (so, NOT official!)

16th October	Speckled Wood	Hill Head
	Small White	
	Large White	
	Common Blue	
1st November	Comma	Enham Alamein (Andover)
	Painted Lady	Great Fontley
13th November	Clouded Yellow	Bransbury Common
	Holly Blue	
2nd December	Red Admiral	Enham Alamein (Andover)

Social Media links, etc.



Branch FB



Our Reserves FB



Branch X
(Twitter)



Branch Insta



Branch WWW