

Butterfly Survey Report

Following Ian Seccombe's move away from East Sussex I attempted the Butterfly Survey for 2022.

A total of 333 butterflies were seen over the season compared to 384 in 2021. This should not be seen as a decline in the population but rather the weaker field identification skills of the surveyor! Several times I was unable to distinguish a butterfly and so they were not added to the records.

A total of 20 species were identified compared with 26 in 2021 and 19 in 2020.

As in previous years Meadow Brown was, by a substantial margin, the most frequently observed butterfly with a total of 153 sightings. Although the Holly Blue was not recorded on the surveys in 2022 two specimens were observed in April while working on the Common confirming their continued presence on the site. The highlight of the year was five sightings of White Admiral on June 24th. Despite it appearing to be widespread throughout the Common, there were no other sightings of this beautiful butterfly in 2022.

The table below shows the observations for the last five years.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Small Skipper	22	44	6	18	0
Large Skipper	8	2	30	15	17
Brimstone	21	17	4	9	9
Large White	43	28	21	10	18
Small White	9	7	2	9	12
Green-veined White	1	2	1	2	4
Orange Tip	0	3	0	3	3
Clouded Yellow	0	0	1	0	0
Small Copper	2	1	4	1	1
Holly Blue	4	3	11	1	0
Common Blue	31	4	0	4	3
White Admiral	9	4	3	1	5
Red Admiral	2	4	6	21	2
Peacock	12	15	7	11	18
Comma	4	7	6	6	7

Silver-washed Fritillary	15	15	0	9	13
Small Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	1	2
Marbled White	7	21	16	32	17
Purple Emperor	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Hairstreak	14	22	0	3	2
Speckled Wood	40	18	22	18	29
Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown	52	165	101	101	13
Meadow Brown	157	215	108	101	157
Ringlet	7	12	5	3	1
Small Heath	11	31	10	2	0
Large Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	1	0
Painted Lady	1	5	0	2	0
	472	645	364	384	333