

Prestwood Nature Butterfly Transect 2022

Prestwood Nature has taken part in the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme organised by Butterfly Conservation since 2006. The standardised methodology enables year on year comparison with walks carried out each week, weather permitting, from 1st April through to the end of September. This year, 17 volunteers were available to walk the transect route.

The most noteworthy aspect of 2022 that has a potential impact on butterflies has been the extended drought we have experienced. On the whole, high temperatures with lots of sunshine provide perfect conditions for butterflies. The problem for butterflies is that their caterpillars need fresh green plants on which to feed. If the plants have withered due to drought, then the caterpillars will starve which has an impact on the next generation of butterflies. So, although numbers have been reasonably buoyant this year, there may be knock on effects into next year.

In total, 2368 butterflies were recorded on the transect in 2022. This compares to an average of 2174 butterflies per year in the last 10 years. Twenty-five different species were recorded.

The top five butterflies reported in 2022 compared to the previous 10 years are shown below. As usual, the Meadow Brown takes the top spot. The Marbled White had a good year, although numbers tailed off quite early in the season. The Common Blue had a poor first brood but made up for it with a good second brood making it into the top five.



	2022	Average from 2012-2021
Meadow Brown	954	922
Ringlet	283	274
Marbled White	260	203
Gatekeeper	155	136
Common Blue	124	105

Prestwood Nature Butterfly Transect 2022																											
Week Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
% Sun	-	50	85	70	70	80	20	50	60	60	80	100	30	35	95	95	100	35	100	100	50	95	-	80	100	60	
Average temp °C	-	18	22	16	17	21	19	15	18	17	24	27	17	19	28	23	26	23	20	28	27	22	-	21	15	16	
Small/Essex Skipper	-								1			1	1	6	57	15	2		1				-				84
Large Skipper	-									1		6	1	4	2	2							-				16
Dingy Skipper	-			6		7			3														-				16
Brimstone	-		5	1	8	6	3		5			1				1			1				-				31
Large White	-					3			1	1			1	4	5	6	7	3	3	2	5	4	-			1	46
Small White	-		1		7	1	1		5			1		1	17	9	5	2	12	1	1	2	-	7	2		75
Green-veined White	-			11		4								1	1		2	4	1	1		1	-				26
Orange Tip	-		3	3	13	6	2		4	1													-				32
Green Hairstreak	-		1	1		1			1														-				4
Small Copper	-								1												1		-		1		3
Brown Argus	-															1			2			3	-				6
Common Blue	-							1	2	2	1	1			1	1	15	17	38	26	6	11	-		2		124
Holly Blue	-		1	2		2											2			1			-				8
Red Admiral	-									1		1	4	2	1	2	1	1					-		1		14
Small Tortoiseshell	-		3																				-				3
Peacock	-	2	23	3	12	5	1			1						2	2						-				51
Comma	-	1	2											4	6	10	3	1			1		-				28
Speckled Wood	-		2	2	5	3		1	3		3	23	3	5	2	4	2	1	6	14	6	22	-		4		111
Marbled White	-										9	17	50	91	72	19	1	1					-				260
Gatekeeper	-												4	32	46	30	23	15	5				-				155
Meadow Brown	-								1	3	38	90	123	86	142	170	62	46	74	84	12	20	-		3		954
Ringlet	-										6	4	13	113	118	25		3	1				-				283
Small Heath	-					3	3	4	2	2		2						5	2			4	-				27
Silver-washed Fritillary	-													3	4	4							-				11
Totals	-	3	41	29	45	41	10	6	29	12	57	147	196	324	460	317	134	107	156	135	31	67	-	7	13	1	2368