

Inkberrow Millennium Green Big Butterfly Count

24/07/2019

Temperature 25C

Butterfly	From entrance to Millennium Seat in field 2 via upper path	Return via main steps and lower path	
Meadow brown	24	30	54
Gatekeeper	46	54	100
Small white	1	3	4
Large white	1	2	3
Marbled white	11	8	19
Green veined white	0	3	3
Ringlet	5	10	15
Red admiral	1	1	2
Brimstone	1	0	1
Silver washed fritillary	1	0	1
Peacock	1	1	2
Small skipper	3	7	10
Totals	95	119	
Over all total			214

What a difference the weather makes! Total last year 81 (25 July) - mainly the same species though no painted ladies, blues or orange tips this year but a couple of peacocks instead. The huge numbers of gatekeepers ties in with the survey we did in Grafton Wood two days earlier.

Orange tips were seen in April and May. In March I saw 10 brimstones, a tortoiseshell, a peacock and a comma during a warm spell and in April a few holly blues as well. It has also been a very good year for marbled whites as well, and plenty of meadow browns, ringlets and small skippers. Also I think the fact that Tieren did not cut the grass quite so short as previous contractors could be a factor in the huge increase in numbers of meadow browns, gatekeepers, marbled whites and ringlets which are all dependent on surviving over winter as caterpillars in the base of the grass. They hatch out a few weeks after eggs are deposited in the grass by the adults which are at their height in July

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