

Butterflies observed in summer 2004

The best MG5 grassland was strimmed by Alan Farnsworth and two helpers in mid September and the grass raked up and some spread on poorer grass to disperse flower seeds. The MG5 grassland flowers such as lady's bedstraw and Knapweed are doing very well and attract many butterflies. The marbled white colony, though only around for a short time, were at least as numerous as in previous years. Other butterfly species recorded this year are shown in the table:

butterfly	when	comments
Brimstone	March, April	A few
Speckled Wood	April / May	few;
Gatekeeper	June / July / Aug	Some in 2 nd half of June, lots mid July to mid Aug
Large White	June	some
Small White	May / June	few
Marbled White	June	First in mid June a good number by end
Meadow Brown	June	A few by mid June lots at end
Skipper (Small?)	June	few
Blue (Holly)	April	A few
Orange Tip	April / May	some
Small Tortoiseshell	April	A few
Ringlet	June / July	First in mid June lots by end & July
Green Veined White	May to August	A few
Peacock	March, April	A few
Blue (Common)	June to August	A few early, on good numbers late August

There was also a good number of Burnet Moths in June – the management of the good quality grassland continues to suit both these moths and the marbled whites.

In the summer the site was designated a **Special Wildlife Site** on the basis of the quality of its grassland – one of about 250 grassland SWS in Worcestershire. They are considered to be the best places for biodiversity / wildlife in the county outside legally protected areas such as nature reserves and SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest).