

## Golden Orchard for Orchid Wood



**Erewash Tree Wardens 22 January 2024**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

Erewash Tree Wardens Bob Swebstone, Pat Ancliff, Jaimey Lim (Network co-ordinator), Clare, Mark, Hannah, Stefan Majer meet at Orchid Wood Local Nature Reserve to plant a Golden Orchard (see article Page 31)

### Inside this issue:

Nature Connectedness	2
Local Nature plan	2
Grasshoppers	2
Barker's Pond our Garden	3
Birds on Reserves	4-6
Garden Birds, Butterflies & Dragonflies	8-11
Nature Notes & Bats A Heath	11-12
Long Eaton Weather	13-16
West Park Fox Covert	16
Forbes Hole Butterflies	17-18
Toton Washlands Butterflies	19-20
Manor Farm Butterflies	21-22
Clover Close Butterflies	23-24
Bennerley Butterflies	25-26
Brian Parkes Butterflies	27-28
Erewash Tree Warden Events	29
Flooding Network Rail Biodiversity Biosecurity	30
Diary of a Tree Warden LENS at DaNES Insect Show LENS meet Stapleford Brownies	31
Waxwing Winter Future events Contact details	32

## Elvaston Woodland Festival



**Elvaston Woodland Festival  
16 & 17 September 2023**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

We had a great time at the festival which was held on 16th and 17th of September, two lovely sunny days.

We were on the events field and never tired of seeing Seed save his plants from Superslug.

Our stalwart volunteers were as busy as bees at the festival: Penny Newton, Joan Breakwell, David Pinney and Bryce et al.

Carefully child crafted Alder cone bees bobbed all over the site and the Duck Pond was very busy. It was great to meet up with friends Monica and Adrian.

Thanks to #TheTreeCouncil, we were able to reward participants in Joan's tree quiz with a set of tree identification postcards.

Sadly there is no festival scheduled for 2024, but it will return in 2025.

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# Nature Connectedness

Taken from Professor Miles Richardson [m.richardson@derby.ac.uk](mailto:m.richardson@derby.ac.uk)

Biodiversity is vital to the survival of humankind. The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries with, on average, only 50% of its biodiversity left. Biodiversity degradation is more pronounced in affluent urban economies. Key drivers are a lower motivation to engage with nature and less opportunity to experience it. Many measures of human wellbeing, focus on economic factors, encouraging policymakers to put in place actions that actively damage nature. A change in people's attitudes and habits is vital so they care about nature and take positive action to halt biodiversity decline. We need to create a society in which people care for the natural world. The University of Derby Nature Connectedness Research Group promotes pro-nature behaviours which give improved wellbeing whilst proactively supporting the restoration of ecosystems and wildlife.

The human-nature relationship can unite to improve human and nature's wellbeing. Access to greenspace is important, but connecting people to nature so they develop stronger relationships with the natural world are better. Key strategies:  
Encourage the use of the planning system and urban design to improve the visibility and availability of nature in every local area.  
Engage in simple activities of nature connectedness, such as listening to birdsong.  
Promote education with a relationship with nature at its heart.  
Own the local environment and undertake activities that will halt the decline of species and habitats.  
Promote active travel (lose the car!).  
Enable artists to celebrate the beauty of the natural world



**Give something back to Nature  
Angus Bryce clearing the beach at  
Forbes Hole LNR**

**12 February 2024**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Local Nature Plans

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

A Neighbourhood Nature Plan is a chance to join your voice with thousands of others across Derbyshire. It is critical that there is a strong and diverse voice for nature during the 2024 General Election. Our group must decide on our priorities for nature, campaign effectively for these, and hold elected MPs to account for delivery. Your committee has registered LENS Wildlife Group with the NNP website and added our name to the map. As an urban group we find our green space under continuous assault due to the national policy of unsustainable economic growth and urbanisation.

This is what we do for nature at a local level: Education through Wildlife Talks and outreach at local events

Conservation -organise and attend regular working parties on LNRs.

Raise awareness of local wildlife sites, by species recording to i-record and publicising on facebook

Promote nature connectedness by organising short summer walks

Promote re-wilding on local greenspace, eg parks, traffic islands and road verges by engagement with local authorities.

Respond to planning consultations with local knowledge.

This is not enough on it's own, we need our MP to prioritise saving nature so we are formulating a neighbourhood nature plan.



**Maggie Throup MP at Erewash CVS**

**30 November 2023**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Grasshoppers

When visiting a wildlife site in late summer we are often greeted by the chirps of grasshoppers and crickets. In floodplain of the Trent Valley expect to find the following species on any piece of rough grassland: Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, Common Green Grasshopper, Common Field Grasshopper, Meadow Grasshopper, Long-winged Conehead, Roesel's Bush Cricket and Speckled Bush Cricket. Slender and Common Groundhoppers may also be found. On one occasion an Oak Bush Cricket flew into Alan Heath's Long Eaton house at night, presumably attracted by the light, it is surprising that we don't see more as Oak trees are common. I am always expecting to see the Dark Bush Cricket but I am still waiting. This year it was a great surprise when visiting Wilford Clay Pits to see a species I had not expected

it was a Southern Bush Cricket! According to Naturespot this is an arboreal species found on deciduous trees and shrubs. This specimen was on marshy ground. There was no mistaking this large, smooth shiny, pale green bush-cricket with a broad cream dorsal stripe. This was a female with a long, slightly upturned ovipositor. Both sexes have vestigial wings and are flightless.

Looking at the NBN records it seems there have already been a few records from Nottinghamshire, the first one from an Attenborough garden in 2020. Has anyone else recorded this species locally?

Marion Bryce 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023



**Southern Bush Cricket  
Wilford Clay Pit 6 August 2023**

Photo credit Marion Bryce



# Barker's Pond & Our Garden

## Fay & John Blackburn

BARKER'S POND & OUR GARDEN 5.2.23 to 1.3.24  
Fay & John Blackburn

Goosanders were still visiting Barker's Pond during March 2023 in varying numbers with the last sightings on 16<sup>th</sup> comprising 2m, 3f with the largest number, 5m, 8f seen on 13<sup>th</sup>. Autumn saw the earliest arrival we have ever recorded of 3 juveniles on 13<sup>th</sup> October which must have been an advance party since there were no more sightings until 18<sup>th</sup> November when a pair made an appearance. Varying numbers have visited the pond on most days the largest number being 3m, 7f on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

A cormorant has been a fairly regular visitor and 2 were sighted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Hopefully they won't visit our garden pond looking for fish as we already have enough problem contending with the herons' visits which no doubt will be soon since 2 frogs have already been noted and the heron ate at least 6 last year!

As stated in my last report the lone swan remained until 4<sup>th</sup> April before departing presumably in search of a mate. Since last October a pair haven taken up residence. There was an intriguing situation on 20<sup>th</sup> November when, with the pond mostly frozen over, a further pair and two juveniles arrived making 6 in total. Mayhem ensued when the ice melted and the resident pair swiftly and ferociously despatched the intruders.

Canada geese put in the occasional appearance along with greylag geese with a male tufted duck seen on 21<sup>st</sup> November and a lesser black-backed gull on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Mallards are still present in reassuring numbers with 36 recorded on 29<sup>th</sup> November. They seem to have enjoyed a reasonable breeding season as have the moorhens and coots.

Sparrowhawks, both male and female visit the garden chancing their luck, but we haven't seen them catch anything recently, although on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 a female put all the birds up before landing on a tree in the garden. It had feathers stuck to its' claws so perhaps it had already eaten.

Small numbers of siskins were seen through to mid-March 2023 and we are pleased to report that they have arrived again this winter in larger numbers with 7m, 3f noted on the feeders on 28<sup>th</sup> February. A female great spotted woodpecker was a frequent visitor to the feeders last summer but has not been seen since. It was pleasing to see 2 coal tits on 21<sup>st</sup> November with the occasional visit of one on the feeders. Blackcap were also noted but not as frequently as in previous years. Sadly no reed buntings visited the garden this winter.

We have seen starlings on the big trees by our garden with 30ish on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Worryingly our sparrows seem to have deserted us. I was unable to record any on the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, nor any chaffinches, although greenfinches and goldfinches seem to be doing very well. We are also seeing blue tits, great tits and long tailed tits regularly, along with robin, wren, dunnock and blackbirds. Of course the wood pigeons are still with us as are the pesky feral pigeons. They seem to have outed the collared doves.

Something that may be of interest to LENS members. There were large patches of cowslips on the slopes of the bund at West Park on 4<sup>th</sup> May. We also saw a little egret in the Golden Brook on the same day.



**Our Garden looking towards Barker's Pond Winter 2023**

Photo credit Fay Blackburn



**Our Garden Spring 2023**

Photo credit Fay Blackburn



**Siskin**



## Manor Farm LNR

YEAR	2023						RECORDER							Marion Bryce
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total	
Blackbird		2	8	1	1	1	4			1	4	2	24	
Black headed gull		3		3							5	5	16	
Blackcap				1			1						2	
Bluetit		9		1	1	1				2	7	2	23	
Bullfinch		4	1										5	
Buzzard													0	
Carrion crow		5	1	3	2					2	3	2	18	
Chaffinch					1								1	
Chiff chaff			1	2	1	1				2			7	
Coal-tit													0	
Collared Dove													0	
Cormorant			1									1	2	
Duncock		1	1	1	1	1				1			6	
Goldcrest				1						2			3	
Goldfinch		25			5		1			4	8		43	
Goosander													0	
Great tit		3	4	1	1	1				4	3	1	18	
Great spotted woodpecker			1			1				1			3	
Green woodpecker		1											1	
Greenfinch											1		1	
Grey wagtail											1	1	2	
Heron			1	1				1	1	1	1		6	
House sparrow				1						10	8		19	
Jay		1						1	1	2			5	
Kingfisher				1				1	1	1			4	
Lesser redpoll													0	
Little egret			1					1	1	1	1		5	
Long tailed tit		2	3		5	5				10	8	10	43	
Magpie		3	4	1		1	1	1	1	1	3	4	20	
Mallard			2	2	1	2			1	1	2		11	
Mistlethrush			1	2									3	
Moorhen					1					2			3	
Pheasant													0	
Raven													0	
Redwing			3									5	8	
Robin		4	6	1	1	1	3			4	3	1	24	
Song thrush		2								1			3	
Sparrowhawk													0	
Starling		5								100	10	50	165	
Swan (mute)		1											1	
Swift							5						5	
Whitethroat				1									1	
Willow warbler													0	
Wood pigeon		5		4			2			8	8	6	33	
Wren		1	1	1	1	5	3			1	1		14	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>548</b>

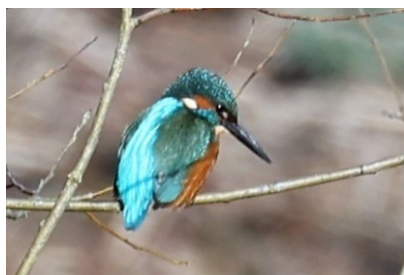


# Birds on Reserves 2023– Forbes Hole LNR

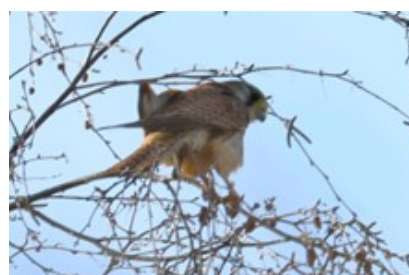
LENS BIRD MONTHLY FIELD RECORDING FORM													
FORBES HOLE LNR													
YEAR	2023						RECORDER						
							Marion Bryce						
MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL NO OF SIGHTINGS
Blackbird	14	4	1	1		4	1	1	1	1	2	2	32
Black headed gull	12	1	1										14
Blackcap				1									1
Bluetit	6	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	8	35
Bullfinch													0
Buzzard		1	1										2
Carriion crow	1			3							2	1	7
Chaffinch	2	1	1									2	6
Chiff chaff	1			1					1	1			4
Coot	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	24
Cormorant								1					1
Dunnock		4	4	1							2		11
Goldcrest		2								2	2		6
Goldfinch	2	2	6	4							2		16
Goosander		2											2
Great tit		2	4								1	2	11
Great spotted woodpecker										1			1
Green woodpecker									1				1
Greenfinch			2	1									3
Greylag goose				2									2
Heron	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Jay		1											1
Kestrel		1		1									2
Kingfisher		1	1							1			3
Little egret											1		1
Long tailed tit	6		2								12	15	35
Magpie	1	2	4	2		2				4	1	1	17
Mallard	8	6	4	4						4	2		28
Mistlethrush					1								1
Moorhen	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		17
Nuthatch											1		1
Pigeon Feral		1											1
Redwing	12												12
Robin	2	8	5	2					4	2	6	2	31
Sedge Warbler									1				1
Song thrush	1	1		1								1	4
Sparrowhawk						1							1
Swan (mute)				2									2
Treecreeper		1	1										2
Wood pigeon	18	7	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8	50
Wren		2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>410</b>



Coot at Forbes 20 January 2023  
Photo credit Marion Bryce



Kingfisher at Forbes  
14 February 2023  
Photo credit Marion Bryce



Kestrel at Forbes  
14 February 2023  
Photo credit Marion Bryce

# Garden Birds 2023– 114 Breedon St John and Roe Langford

John Langford, 114 Breedon Street, Garden Birds 2023

Bird	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D																																																				
Blackbird	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2																																																				
Blackcap	2	2 <sup>1M</sup> 1F	2 <sup>1M</sup> 1F	3 <sup>2M</sup> 1F								1F																																																				
Blk-headed gull																																																																
Bluetit	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	2																																																				
Buzzard																																																																
Carrion crow			1	1	1				1																																																							
Chaffinch		1F	1F																																																													
Coal tit	1	1	2	1	1				1	1	1																																																					
Collared dove	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2																																																				
Dunnock	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2																																																				
Feral pigeon																																																																
Goldfinch	12	3	2	2	4	3	1																																																									
Great tit	2	2	1	1	1			2	3	3	2	2																																																				
Greenfinch																																																																
Gt spotted wdpkr																																																																
Herring gull																																																																
House sparrow	8	8	7	7	3	5	3	6	5	8	8	10																																																				
Jackdaw																																																																
Lesser redpoll																																																																
Little egret																																																																
Long tailed tit	3	6	2		1	1																																																										
Magpie	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		3	2	1																																																					
Mallard																																																																
Robin	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																																																				
Song thrush																																																																
Sparrowhawk		1M					1	1																																																								
Stock dove			1																																																													
Starling	6	12	4	5	8	8	2					2																																																				
Wood pigeon	4	8	4	6	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3																																																				
Wren			2			1		1		1	1																																																					
<p>The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month. 0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Goldcrest</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1H</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redwing</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chiff chaff</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><del>2</del></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total species over the month</td> <td>16</td> <td>18</td> <td>20</td> <td>16</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>													Goldcrest	2	2	1	1H									Redwing	3	3	7									1	Chiff chaff			<del>2</del>	1					1				Total species over the month	16	18	20	16	14	12	11	10	12	11	11	11
Goldcrest	2	2	1	1H																																																												
Redwing	3	3	7									1																																																				
Chiff chaff			<del>2</del>	1					1																																																							
Total species over the month	16	18	20	16	14	12	11	10	12	11	11	11																																																				

### Notes.

- We do not record birds seen overhead.
- Note absence of Greenfinch and occasional F. Chaffinch in Feb + March.
- Goldcrest - song on 13/3 and 19/3 - Lawson Cypress next door - Song 23 April.
- Redwing - up to 7 in early March; last single bird on 21/3.
- Blackcap - some song from early March. Not sure whether 2M + 1F seen late March are wintering birds about to go, or new arrivals. Watching these closely into April. Last Blackcaps 19 April (a Male).  
One Blackcap record only so far Winter 2023/4 - a F. on 16 Dec

## Garden Birds 2023—Joan Breakwell

Bird	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Blackbird	2	2	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
Blackcap	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Blk-headed gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bluetit	2	2	2	2	2	4	6	10	5	3	3	3
Carrion crow	1	1	0	0	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	1
Chaffinch	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Coal tit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Collared dove	1	2	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dunnock	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
Feral pigeon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldfinch	17	6	11	6	4	4	2	6	4	10	12	3
Great tit	2	2	1	1	4	8	3	4	2	2	2	2
Green woodpecker	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenfinch	3	4	4	3	2	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
Gt spotted wdpr	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Grey heron	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
House martin	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
House sparrow	7	9	9	7	5	7	8	9	6	7	7	5
Jackdaw	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	-
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-
Little egret	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Long tailed tit	6	2	2	2	3	2	4	5	4	10	2	5
Magpie	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
Mallard	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red kite	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reed bunting	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Siskin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Song thrush	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Stock dove	5	2	6	3	3	3	2	10	1	-	2	3
Starling		0	1	2	5	20	-	-	-	-	0	-
Swift	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Wood pigeon	3	5	5	5	3	7	4	4	7	4	7	6
Wren	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-

These birds were seen at 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton by Joan Breakwell.  
 The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month.  
 0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.



## Garden Butterflies and Dragonflies 2023—Joan Breakwell

Butterfly	J	F	M	A	M	Jn	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Brimstone			1	2	1	-	1	-	-	2		
Comma			1	1	-	1	3	1	2	2		
Gate-keeper						1	2	12				
Grn-vned white					2	-	1	1				
Holly blue				1	3	4	4	3	2			
Large skipper						1						
Large white					1	2	2	2	2			
Meadow Brown						1	1					
Orange tip				3	2							
Painted lady								1				
Peacock							1	1				
Red admiral							3	2	20	18	1	
Ringlet						1	3					
Small trtshell												
Small white				1	2	1	2	2	3	2		
Speckled wood					2	-	2	2	2			

Dragonfly	J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Banded demoiselle								1				
Broad-bodied chser												
Brown hawker							1	1				
Cmmn blue dmslfly					1	2						
Common darter								2	2	1		
Emerald damselfly								2	1			
4 spotted chaser						1						
Southern hawker							1	1	2			
Migrant hawker								1	1			

Butterfly and dragonfly records from 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton.



## Nature Notes 2023—Alan Heath

LUNAR HALO - 2023 November 25d 22.00 UT

The ring around the Moon was seen on Saturday evening over much of England including Staffordshire, the West Midlands, Surrey, Berkshire, Dorset, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and the Isle of Wight according to BBC News.

The phenomenon is caused by refraction of moonlight from ice crystals in the upper atmosphere, the type of cloud required for this to be seen is Cirrostratus which are at a height of around 10 km forming an even veil which is thin.

My attention was drawn to this by my daughter with whom I am staying due to the house being flooded in October.

The Phase of the Moon was two days from full. There was a halo close to the Moon which showed a multitude of colours and with Moon being 0.5 degree was estimated to have a diameter of about 2.0 degrees. Much further out and also much fainter was a Halo the diameter of which was about 50 degrees. The radius of the Halo was therefore around 25 degrees which agrees well with the expected 23 degrees. The measures were taken from a photograph taken on a mobile phone and also from a photograph on BBC News taken in Ashbourne. Another view of the Moon on Sunday November 26th at 02.10 UT did not reveal any sign of the Halo.

According to the Met Office, the halo can mean rainfall might be approaching. Monday November 27 was cloudy with rain all day locally and I recorded a total of 15.0 mm.

I have seen many Solar Halos but this was the first Lunar Halo I have seen.

NATURE NOTES - 2023

### GARDEN BIRDS

Blackbird  
Collared Dove  
Crow  
Dunnock  
Goldfinch  
Great Tit  
Jackdaw  
Longtailed Tit  
Magpie  
Robin  
Wood Pigeon  
Common Gull  
Blackheaded Gull  
Pied Wagtail

### GARDEN BUTTERFLIES

Comma  
Orange Tip  
Red Admiral  
Small White  
Speckled Wood  
Unidentified White

The first butterflies were seen in April and the last in October. The majority of butterflies were Whites.

Unidentified White are those at a distance or in flight

POND LIFE - No samples taken this year

RECORDS interrupted by Floods in October and being away from the house for the rest of the year.

### BATS

Between May 26 and August 26 bats were recorded on 45 kHz on 40 nights.

The year 2023 completes 70 years of Nature Study



# Garden Bats 2023—Alan Heath

BATS 2023      6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton Notts NG10 2ER  
 Recorded at 45 kHz

Date	Time	Number Normal	Number High Pitch	Temp °F
May 26	22.10	2		66
27	22.00	1		64
29	22.10	1		56
June 2	22.05	1		56
3	22.10	1		61
8	22.05	1		57
9	22.15		1	60
10	22.20		1	74
13	22.10		1	68
14	22.45	1		68
15	22.20		1	69
22	22.25		1	70
24	22.15	1		74
July 4	22.15	1		59
7	22.25		1	74
9	22.25		1	63
10	22.20		1	64
11	22.20	1	1	63
12	22.20		1	65
13	22.20		1	65
14	22.20		1	62
16	22.25		2	60
17	22.15		1	65
19	22.20	1		65
21	22.05		1	61
25	22.05		1	
27	22.10		2	
August 3	22.05	1	1	65
10	21.30		2	79
	22.00		1	
11	21.30	1		73
	22.10	1		
13	21.30	2	1	67
15	21.35	1		68
16	22.10		2	71
17	22.10		1	67
19	21.30	1		72
21	22.10		1	70
24	21.00		1	65
26	22.05	1		62

SUMMARY      a      Between May 26 and August 26 (93 days) a total of 20 bats were heard (21.5%) and 30 high pitch) (32.25%) This a total of 50 bats (53.76%)  
 During the period the highest temperature was 74°F and the lowest was 56°F  
 It is assumed that the high Pitch were Soprano Pipistrelle Compared with 2022 the total was 55 on 96 days (57.29%) of which 12 were high pitch (21.87%) A slight increase is indicated over a similar period (2022 May 21 to August 31. Down by 3.53% for 2023

Alan W Heath  
 6, Harlaxton Drive  
 Long Eaton  
 Notts. NG10 2ER

# Long Eaton Weather 2023—Alan Heath

## WEATHER SUMMARY - 2023

PREVAILING WIND	West
LEAST WIND	South-East
WARMEST DAY	June 11th - 94 <sup>o</sup> F
COLDEST DAY	January 22nd - 22 <sup>o</sup> F
WETTEST DAY	
WETTEST MONTH	October - 139.2mm-5.48 inches
DRIEST MONTH	February - 4.0mm - 0.16 inches
DAYS WITH OVER AN INCH OF RAIN IN 24 HOURS	
TOTAL RAIN	35.2 inches +
DRY DAYS + NIGHTS	
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON THE GROUND	2
TOTAL SNOW	2.65 inches
THUNDERSTORMS	4
FOG	4
FOR ALL DAY	
BAROMETER	Maximum 31.00
	Minimum 28.80

### STRONG WINDS AND GALES

AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE  
AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE  
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURE OF 70<sup>o</sup>F OR MORE  
80<sup>o</sup>F OR MORE  
90<sup>o</sup>F OR MORE

LAST FROST April 4  
FIRST FROST November

FRONT refers to Air Frost where the temperature is 32<sup>o</sup>F or less

RECORDS : Warmest September I have recorded  
Wettest October including Floods

Records incomplete due to illness and floods

NOTE : The previous highest Rain Total was 2012 with 36.1 inches. The total for 2023 was 35.2 inches and some rain came in 2023 which was not recorded due to floods and rain gauge being inaccessible. It is possible that 2023 may be the highest rain total since my records began.

# Long Eaton Weather 2023—Alan Heath

## WEATHER SUMMARY - 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE Max	56	60	66	70	78	94	87	87	93	78	58	58
Min	22	26	27	30	40	45	50	46	45	35	26	25
Day	33.0	2.1	43.7	22.4	24.8	22.4	84.3	20.9	35.7			
Night	17.7	1.9	43.7	41.8	9.3	31.0	30.5	25.0	64.3			
RAIN mm	50.7	4.0	87.4	64.2	34.1	53.4	114.8	45.9	100.0	139.2	69.3	131.35
DAYS DRY	21	26	18	20	24	26	16	21				
NIGHTS DRY	27	26	21	23	26	25	21	23				
DRY DAYS + NIGHTS	48	52	39	43	50	51	37	44				
DAYS WITH RAIN	10	2	14	10	6	5	15	10				
NIGHTS WITH RAIN	10	2	10	7	5	6	7	8				
RAIN - Inches	2.0	0.16	3.44	2.53	1.24	2.10	4.52	1.81	3.94	5.48	2.73	5.18
WETTEST DAY	11	16	10	21	5/9	18	11	2	18			
THUNDERSTORMS	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1			
BAROMETER Max	30.75	31.0	30.55	30.5	30.5	30.4	30.0	30.15	30.3	30.2	30.1	30.2
Min	29.10	29.8	29.0	29.4	29.75	29.6	29.3	29.0	29.25	28.8	29.5	29.0
FOG	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SNOW - Inches	-	-	3/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9
DAYS WITH TEMP OF 70°F OR MORE	-	-	-	1	14	25	20					
90°F OR MORE	-	-	-	-	-	4						
32° OR LESS	9	7	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Record incomplete due to illness and flooding



# Long Eaton Weather 2023—Alan Heath

## MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY - 2023

JANUARY First half of the month rather wet. Snow flurries on the 16th but did not settle

FEBRUARY A very dry month. Mild for the time of year

MARCH The last three weeks wet. 3/4 inch of snow on 9th Very windy on 13th. Mild for time of year, especially the second half of month. A mixed month. Windy on 6th, 12th and 13th.

APRIL A mixed month and last air frosts on 3rd and 4th

MAY Most of the rain between 5th and 11th. Warm in the second half of the month.

JUNE No rain until the 12th. Short wet period 18th to 20th. Over an inch of rain in 24 hours 18-19th a hot period produced 90°F or more on four days with hottest on 11th. Dominance of NE and E wind between 2nd and 9th and Westerly 20th to 26th

JUNE A wet month mainly 8th to 19th. Two thunderstorms Windy on 15th. Record interrupted 24th to 28th due to illness

AUGUST A mixed month with 7 days with temperature of 80°F or more

SEPTEMBER A heatwave between 8th and 13th. Warmest September since my records began with 93°F being recorded between 6th and 13th but date uncertain as records interrupted due to illness. Second half of month wet with thunderstorm on the 18th which produced over an inch of rain in 24 hours (32.9mm, 1.30 inches)

OCTOBER Records up to 20th are correct but intermittent after that. A very wet month including floods after the 20th. Wettest October I have recorded 139.2mm = 5.48 inches

NOVEMBER A mixed month and cold on last 3 days. Lunar Halo on evening of 25th which was seen over much of the country and the first I have seen

DECEMBER A wet month with snow on the 3rd. Windy on 21st and 27 th.

Record incomplete due to illness and floods

Alan W Heath  
6, Harlaxton Drive  
Long Eaton  
Notts. NG10 2ER

# Long Eaton Weather 2023—Alan Heath

WIND - 2023									
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	TOTAL
Jan	2	1	-	-	1	1	4	4	13
Feb	3	1	3	-	1	-	4	1	13
Mar	3	3	2	-	-	7	5	1	21
Apr	3	2	4	-	3	3	3	2	20
May	5	5	4	-	1	1	2	1	19
Jun	-	4	4	-	-	1	5	1	15
Jul	1	-	-	-	2	3	10	3	19
Aug	2	1	2	-	-	3	8	4	20
Sep	-	-	3	-	1	2	2	1	9
Oct	-	-	1	2	1	-	4	1	9
Nov	2	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	14
Dec	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-	8
TOTAL	21	17	24	2	12	21	64	19	180
PERCENTAGE WIND									
NORTH	11.6								
NORTH EAST	9.4								
EAST	13.3								
SOUTH EAST	1.1								
SOUTH	6.6								
SOUTH WEST	11.6								
WEST	35.5								
NORTH WEST	10.5								

Record incomplete due to illness and floods

## Long Eaton Fox Covert

Planned replacement of the Broad Street footbridge to the canal and West Park, means building up the ground levels to create a new waterside terrace, thereby reducing the capacity of the West Park flood basin. That extra impervious volume in the flood basin has to be made up by lowering elsewhere in West Park so they've decided to dig out part of the LNR. Provided documents don't mention the LNR except the Peak Ecology report into Biodiversity Net Gain which doesn't take into account the LNR designation. Their Habitat Survey tables show that the only area that has any real biodiversity is the meadow area in the LNR which has been rated poor despite having a reasonable list of indicator species and the survey having been carried out after the end of the flowering season. Digging it out to create extra flood capacity will apparently raise the value of the habitat, but it's not explained how that will be achieved - perhaps by sowing purchased wildflower seed to give a created meadow, which might be worse than what is already there. Chris Monk

How do you prove the value of a nature reserve?



Meadow at Long Eaton Fox Covert 21 June 2021

Photo credit Marion Bryce

# Forbes Hole Butterfly Transect 2023

## FORBES HOLE LNR BUTTERFLY TRANSECT 2023

**METHOD:** Standard UKBMS Butterfly Transect as previously described (see LENS Bulletin)

### RESULTS:

FORBES HOLE LNR	2022	2023	9 yr ave
SMALL SKIPPER	26	24	17
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	0	3
LARGE SKIPPER	12	0	5
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	19	8	15
LARGE WHITE	81	60	56
SMALL WHITE	105	103	57
GREEN VEINED WHITE	50	92	71
ORANGE TIP	23	34	36
SMALL COPPER	2	5	2
BROWN ARGUS	4	3	8
COMMON BLUE	66	15	31
HOLLY BLUE	52	9	19
RED ADMIRAL	12	58	14
PAINTED LADY	2	1	3
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	7	3	25
PEACOCK	15	35	37
COMMA	20	27	13
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	100	97	131
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	54	131	45
MEADOW BROWN	93	90	87
RINGLET	80	18	86
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>759</b>



Forbes Hole 20 April 2023

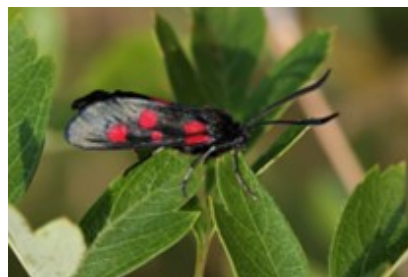
Photo credit Marion Bryce



6-belted Clearwing Forbes Hole 8 July 2023

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## DAY FLYING MOTHS 2023



Narrow-bordered  
5-spot Burne  
Forbes Hole 23  
June 2023

Photo credit  
Marion Bryce

**Total Butterfly Sightings** 813, 10 fewer than 2023, above the 9 year average of 759.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** = 19 in 2023 compared with 20 in 2023.

**Not seen**, Large Skipper not recorded in 2023. but seen in previous years giving an historic total of 24 species.

**Peak count** was week 17, 26 July.

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Gatekeeper (131), Small White (103) and Speckled Wood (97) were 2nd and 3rd most common.

**Increased sightings** of Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Small Copper, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Gatekeeper,

**Virtually unchanged** Small Skipper, Small White, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown

**Decreased sightings** of Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small Tortoise-shell,

**Migrant butterflies** - 1 Painted Lady and numerous Red Admirals



Stefan Majer, Martin Redshaw, Robin Bryce Friends of Forbes Hole 16 October 2023

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## DISCUSSION:

A very satisfactory result.

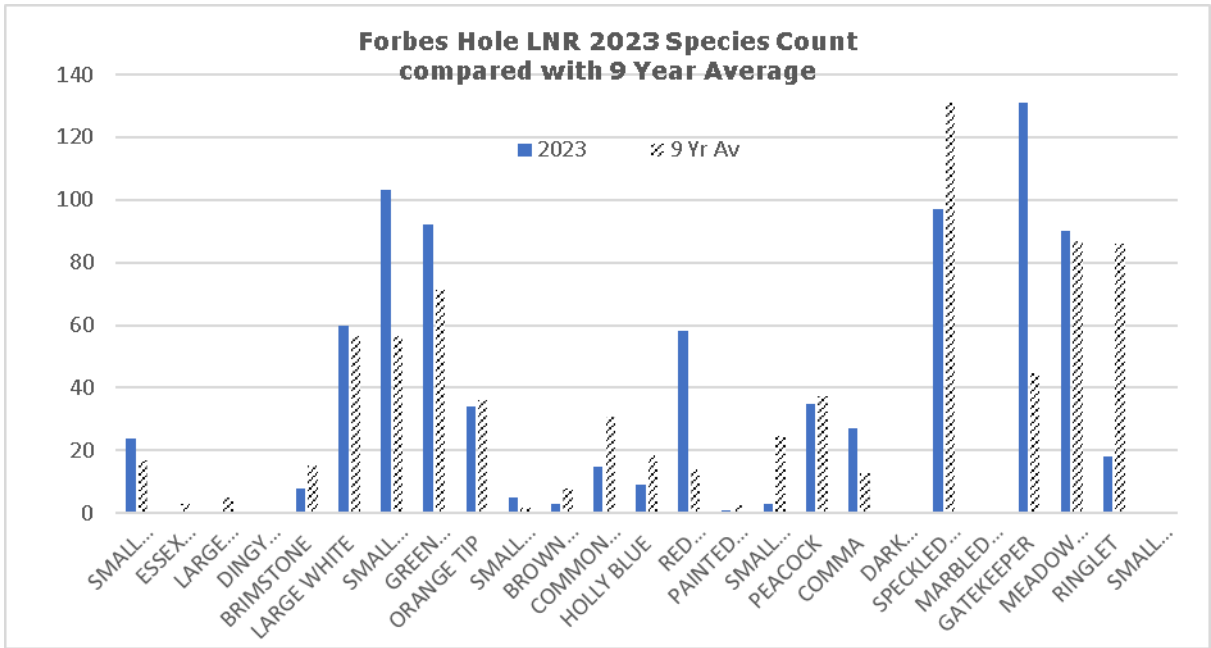
Management for biodiversity has continued weekly through the year by the Friends of Forbes Hole, Robin and Sally Bryce, Marion Bryce, Stefan Majer, Martin Redshaw and Martin Burkinshaw. Litter picking by John and Roe Langford all supported by Jaimey Lim, Erewash Borough Council Nature Reserves Officer.

A big thank you to all of our butterfly transect volunteers at Forbes Hole LNR. Fay & John Blackburn, Norman Blake, Marion Bryce, Charlotte & Brenda Hyman Christine Carrier and Ivan.

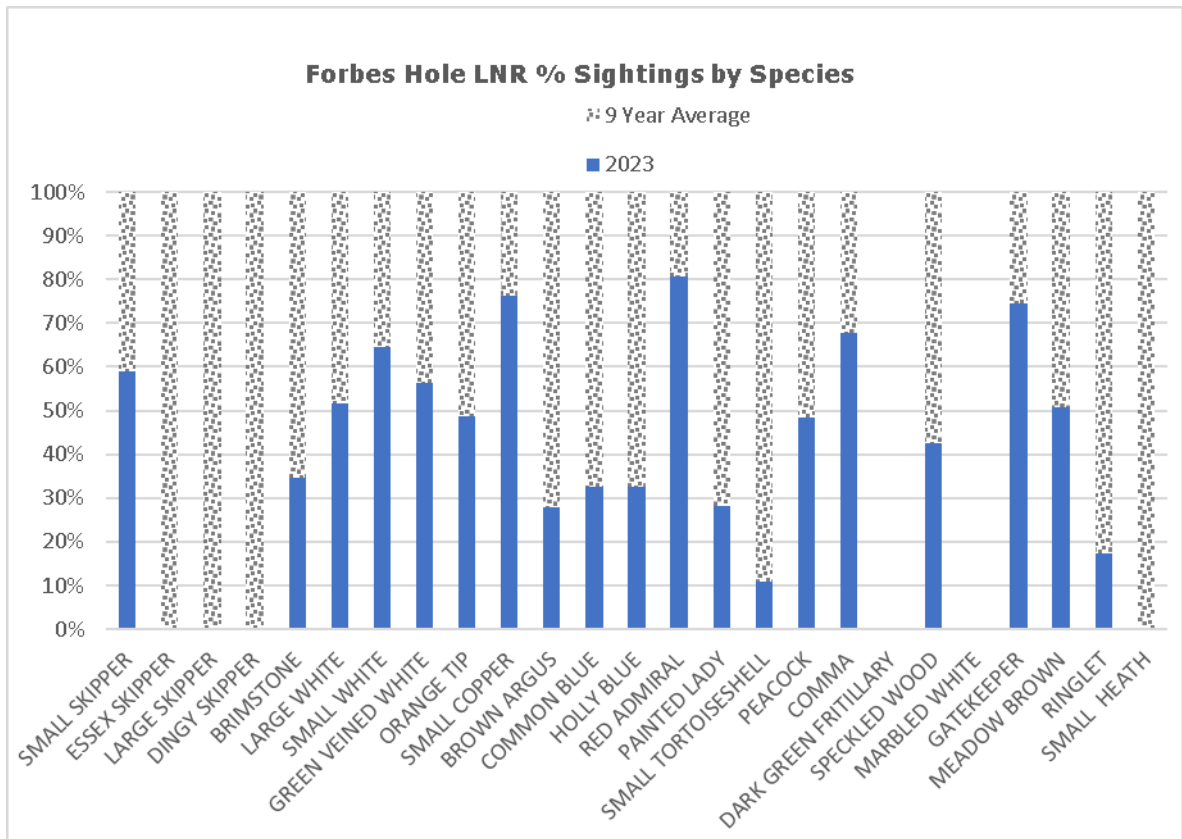


# Forbes Hole Butterfly Transect 2023

## Butterfly Species Counts 2023 compared with 9 Year Average



## Butterfly Species % Count 2023 compared with 9 Year Average



# Toton Washlands Butterfly Transect 2023

**TRANSECT ROUTE AND METHOD:** Standard UKBMS Butterfly Transect as previously described (see LENS Bulletin

**RESULTS:**

	2022	2023	10 Yr av
SMALL SKIPPER	25	10	26
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	0	3
LARGE SKIPPER	13	2	17
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	6	4	9
LARGE WHITE	42	67	69
SMALL WHITE	71	125	104
GREEN VEINED WHITE	87	42	63
ORANGE TIP	43	22	34
SMALL COPPER	0	0	1
BROWN ARGUS	1	0	0
COMMON BLUE	8	4	5
HOLLY BLUE	181	18	25
RED ADMIRAL	12	35	6
PAINTED LADY	1	1	1
SMALL TORTOISE-SHELL	78	17	72
PEACOCK	14	8	27
COMMA	47	56	18
SPECKLED WOOD	139	157	89
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	157	109	71
MEADOW BROWN	120	90	43
RINGLET	233	87	191
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
WHITE LETTER HAIR-STREAK	0	1	0
SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>876</b>



**White-letter Hairstreak Toton Washlands 18 August 2023**  
Photo Credit Marion Farrell

**Total Butterfly Sightings** decreased by 422 to 856 compared to 2022, slightly below the 10 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 20 in 2023 compared with 19 in 2022, giving an historic total of 23 species.

**New for site** White-letter Hairstreak, photographed by Marion Farrell and a Silver-washed Fritillary sighted by Gill Martin.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Essex Skipper, Small Copper.

**Peak count** was 222 in week 14 July 11th (Brenda and Mick).

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Speckled Wood (157), followed by the Small White (125) and Gatekeeper (109).

**Increased sightings** of Large White, Small White, Red Admiral, Comma, Speckled Wood

**Decreased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper compared with 2022.

**Migrant species** - Painted Lady and Red Admiral

**DISCUSSION:** Some siding up was carried out by the Environment Agency but there is an increasingly narrow path between towering bramble. They also dug out 2 of the old meanders to make shallow pools. Further work was delayed due to other commitments. This site has great potential if management can maintain varied habitats as recommended by Biodiversity Officer.



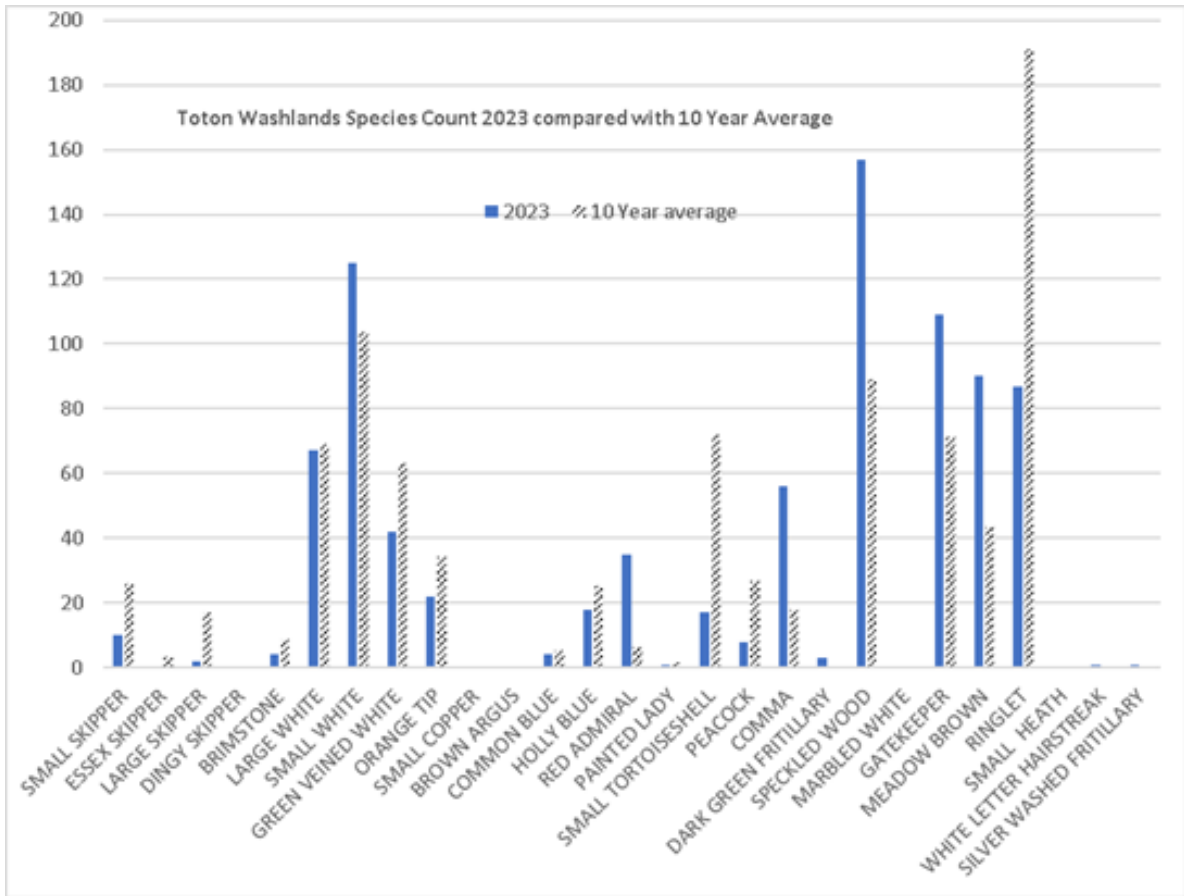
**Small Tortoiseshell 18 July 2023**  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce



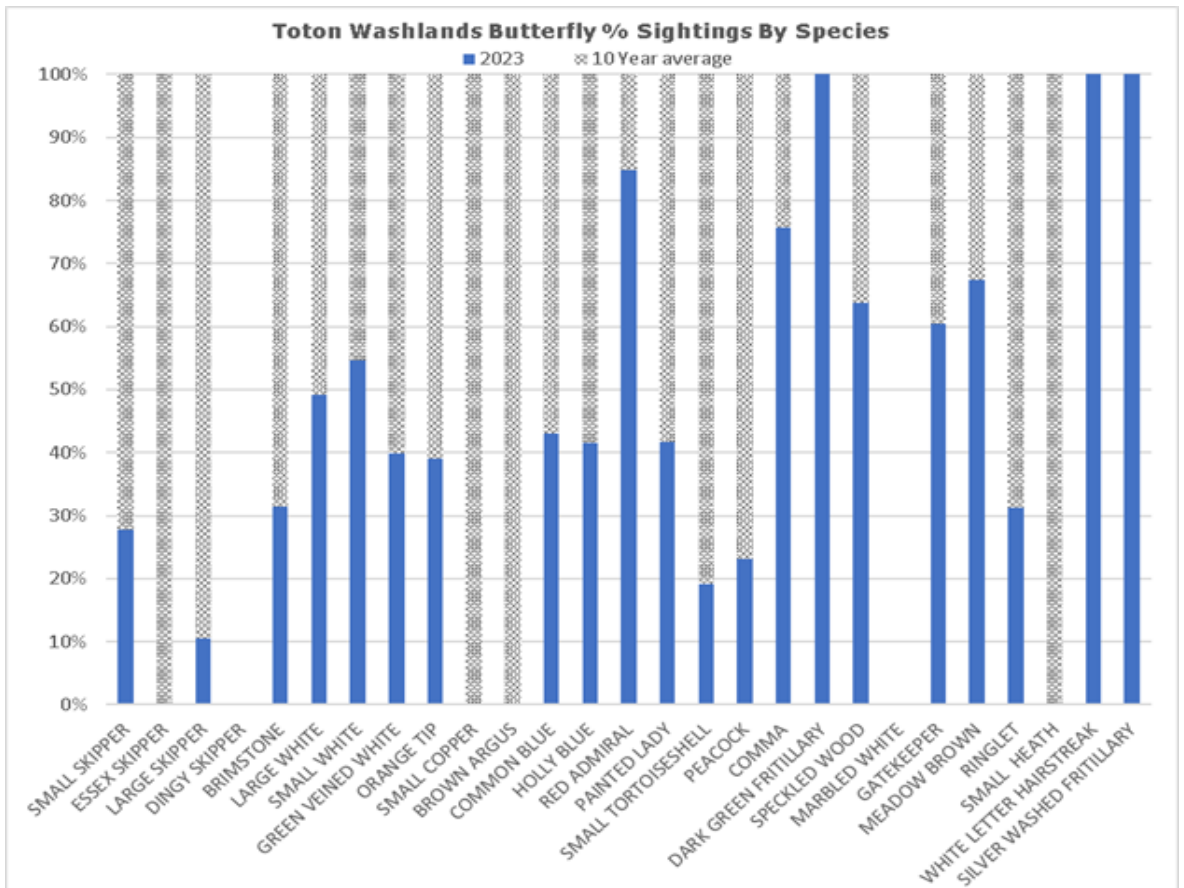
**Syncopacma taeniolella Toton Washlands 27 June 2023**  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

# Toton Washlands Butterfly Transect 2023

**Butterfly Species Counts 2023 compared with 10 Year Average**



**Butterfly Species % Count 2023 compared with 10 Year Average**





# Manor Farm LNR Butterfly Transect 2023

## MANOR FARM Grid Ref SK504343

This transect in the flood plain of the River Erewash incorporates Manor Farm Green Space (Norfolk Road Park) then follows the River Erewash footpath at Manor Farm Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Erewash Borough Council manage the LNR and mow the grassland annually. The woodland area by section 4 and 5 regularly floods up to the floodbund.

MANOR FARM	2022	2023	5 yr av
SMALL SKIPPER	82	51	112
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	48	29
LARGE SKIPPER	14	8	23
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	6	9	7
LARGE WHITE	150	118	128
SMALL WHITE	122	64	93
GREEN VEINED WHITE	109	61	118
ORANGE TIP	88	43	59
SMALL COPPER	1	1	0
BROWN ARGUS	0	0	0
COMMON BLUE	2	2	3
HOLLY BLUE	93	29	35
RED ADMIRAL	9	42	10
PAINTED LADY	0	0	3
SMALL TORTOISE-SHELL	86	18	85
PEACOCK	18	14	27
COMMA	51	58	34
SPECKLED WOOD	316	315	261
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	140	187	119
MEADOW BROWN	78	91	74
RINGLET	276	154	254
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>1475</b>



**A Red Admiral Year on all Transects!**  
**23 September 2023**  
 Photo Credit Marion Bryce



**Red Admiral Caterpillar**  
**23 September 2023**  
 Photo Credit Marion Bryce

## DAY FLYING MOTHS 2023



**Box Moth Manor Farm**  
**9 July 2023**  
 Photo Credit Marion Bryce

## DISCUSSION:

**Total Butterfly Sightings** decreased to 1313 from 1641 in 2022 slightly below the 5 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** 19 in 2023 compared with 18 in 2022, an historic total of 22 species, Essex Skipper had returned.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Brown Argus, Painted Lady. Marbled White.

**Peak count** was in week 15 July 18th.

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Speckled Wood (315), followed by the Gatekeeper (187) and Ringlet (154).

**Increased sightings** of Essex Skipper, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Comma, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown Speckled Wood, and Ringlet compared with 2022. .

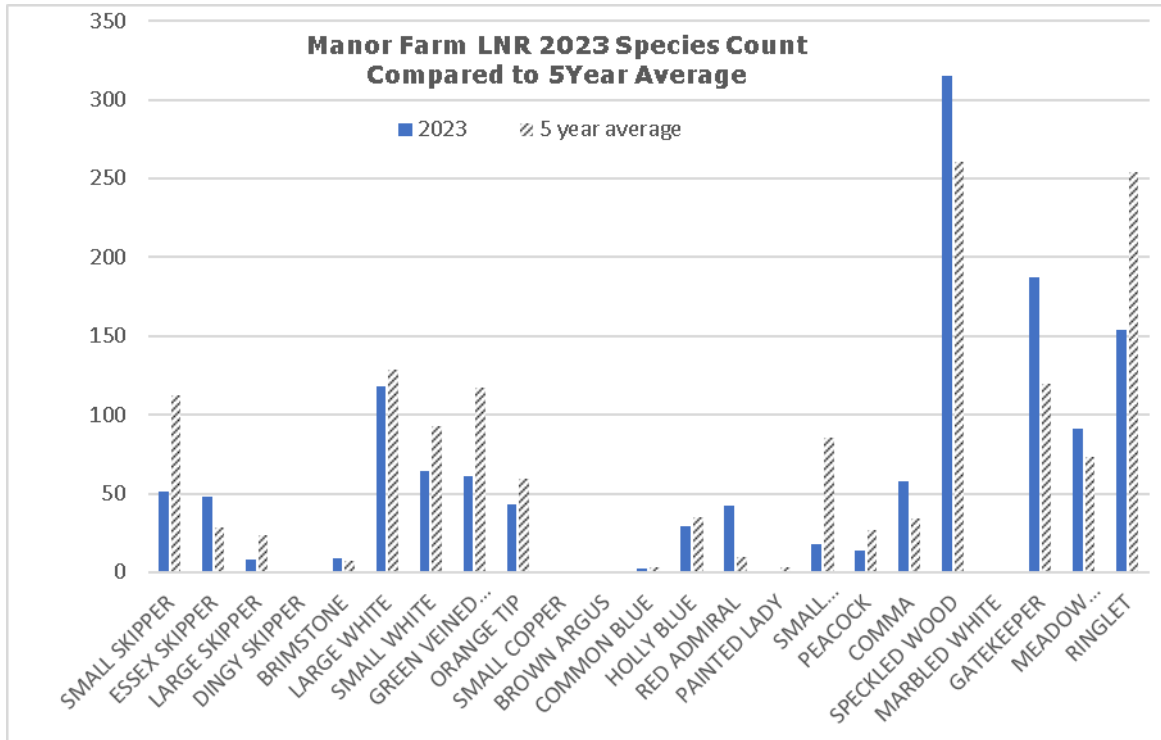
**Unchanged** Small Copper (1 sighting), Common Blue (2 sightings)

**Decreased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Large White, Small White, Orange Tip, Green-veined White Holly Blue, Peacock, and Small Tortoiseshell.

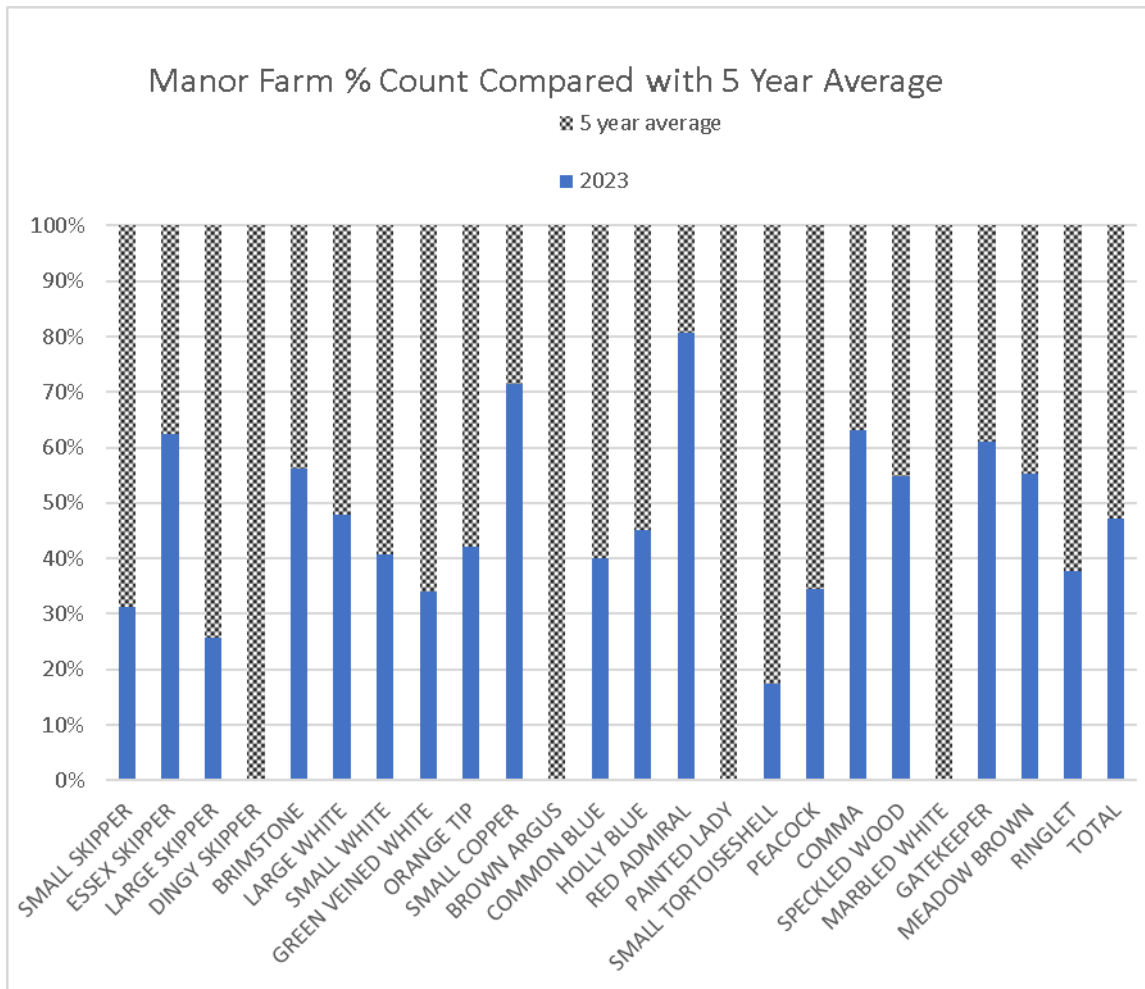
**DISCUSSION:** Common Blue would benefit from planting Bird's-foot Trefoil. Small Tortoiseshell numbers have plummeted on all transects. Good to see the return of the Essex Skipper, counts depend on flowering of Creeping Thistle. No change in management but a lot depends on the timing of mowing of the floodbund and if the nettles along the footpath are allowed to thrive. Not an easy transect to walk as the footpath on Section 2 along the River Erewash is overgrown with bramble and the riverbank is crumbling, the Environment Agency have kindly agreed to cut back vegetation and remediate the riverbank.

# Manor Farm LNR Butterfly Transect 2023

**Manor Farm Species Counts 2023 compared with 5 Year Average**



**Manor Farm % Count 2023 compared with 5 Year Average for Individual Species**



# Clover Close Butterfly Transect 2023

## Introduction

In the summer of 2023 members of LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society Wildlife Group and the Friends of Elvaston Park walked a butterfly transect at Clover Close, The Coronation Meadow at Derbyshire County Council's Elvaston Castle Country Park. [UKBMS guidelines](#) were followed

CLOVER CLOSE 2023	2022	2023	6 yr a
SMALL SKIPPER	29	110	39
ESSEX SKIPPER	36	29	24
LARGE SKIPPER	3	15	10
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	5	10	6
LARGE WHITE	16	23	56
SMALL WHITE	18	59	60
GREEN VEINED WHITE	18	32	79
ORANGE TIP	4	16	13
SMALL COPPER	46	61	54
PURPLE HAIRSTREAK	0	0	1
WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK	0	0	0
BROWN ARGUS	9	0	3
COMMON BLUE	85	74	31
HOLLY BLUE	5	3	14
RED ADMIRAL	1	7	10
PAINTED LADY	1	0	1
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	5	2	20
PEACOCK	5	6	27
COMMA	14	17	21
SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	7	17	26
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	101	131	152
MEADOW BROWN	1312	1752	1073
RINGLET	21	30	379
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1741</b>	<b>2394</b>	<b>2100</b>



Clover Close 5 June 2023  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased from 1741 in 2022 to 2394 in 2023.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 19 in 2023, compared with 22 in 2022. 26 species have been recorded on the transect in the past 6 years.

**Peak count** was 323 in week 12 June 26th of which 308 were Meadow Browns. Most numerous butterfly overall was the Meadow Brown(1312), followed by the Gatekeeper(101).

**Increased sightings of** Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Small White, Large White, Small White, Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Small Copper, Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, Ringlet, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood compared with 2021.

**Decreased sightings of** Essex Skipper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell,

**Migrant butterflies** - Red Admiral

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years, Marbled White, Painted Lady, Small Heath, White-letter Hairstreak, Purple Hairstreak, Silver Washed Fritillary, and Dingy Skipper.

## DAY FLYING MOTHS



Mother Shipton Clover Close 5 June 2023  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

## DISCUSSION

Sympathetic management for biodiversity using a combination of winter grazing with and autumn cut over the past few years have been successful in increasing biodiversity. This is seen as an increased variety of wildflowers including Common Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids. Long grass due to the lack of an annual haycut decreased the waxcaps on the meadow but meant the cows had more natural fodder. This butterfly transect had 8th highest count on a Derbyshire transect in 2023 and was well above the 6 year average.

A big thank you to all of our Butterfly Transect Volunteers Joan Breakwell, Robin and Sally Bryce, Christine Carrier, Marilyn Horner and Robert. A special thanks to Fay Simnett for all of her hard work looking after Clover Close.

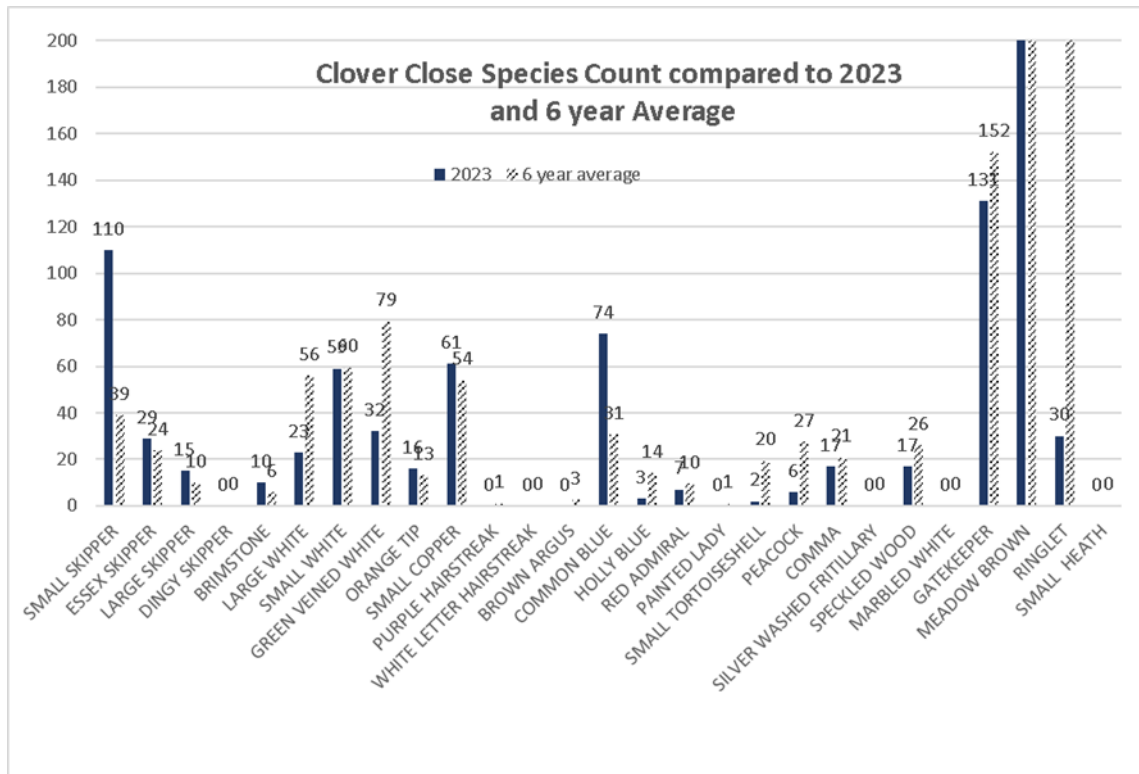
Marion Bryce BSc Hons

16 March 2024

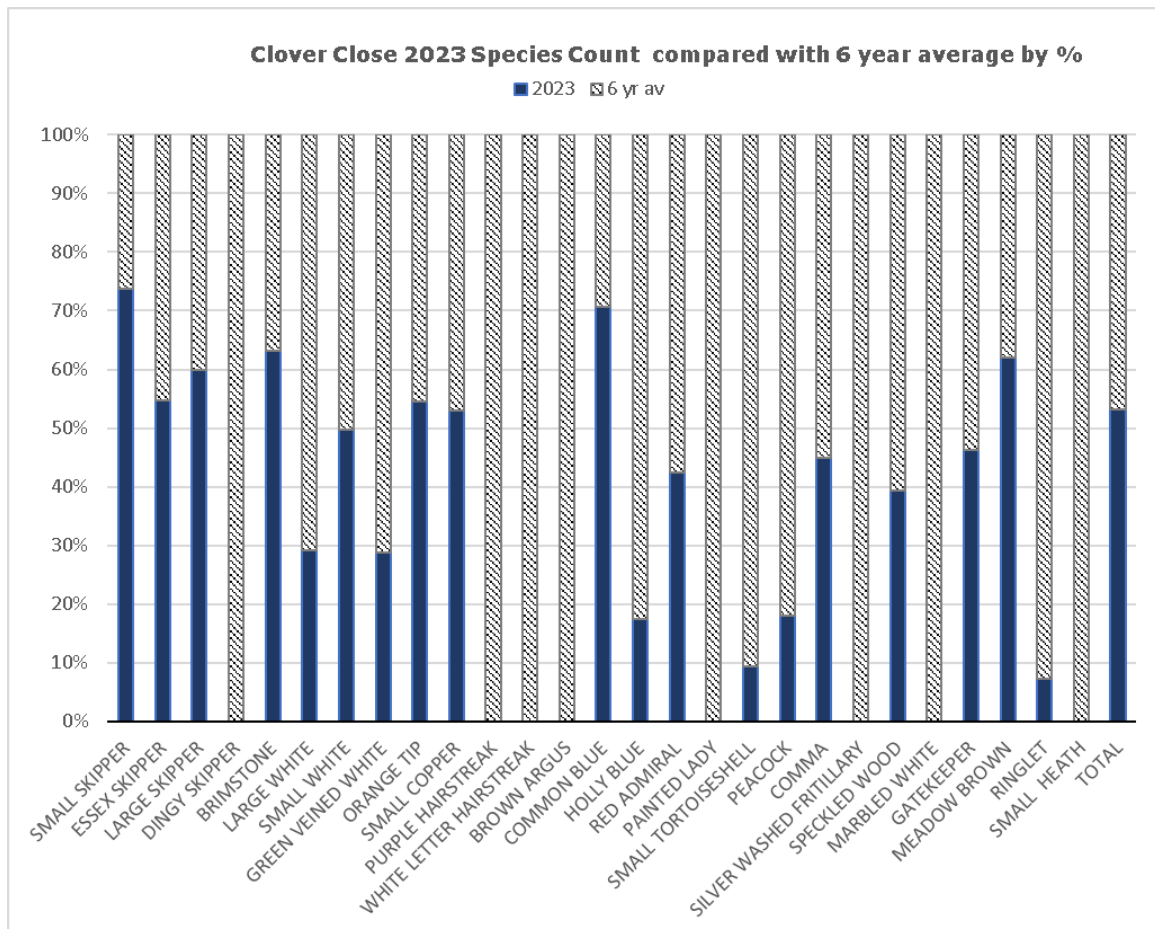


# Clover Close Butterfly Transect 2023

**Clover Close Butterfly Species Counts 2023 compared with 6 Year Average**



**Clover Close Butterfly Species % Count 2023 compared with 6 Year Average for Individual Species**





# Bennerley Butterfly Transect 2023

Throughout the summer months of 2023 butterflies, day-flying moths and dragonflies were recorded in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of a butterfly transect walked around Bennerley Viaduct. [UKBMS guidelines](#) were followed.

BENNERLEY	2022	2023	6 Yr Av
SMALL SKIPPER	123	173	72
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	18	5
LARGE SKIPPER	76	9	32
DINGY SKIPPER	23	6	12
BRIMSTONE	16	12	7
LARGE WHITE	67	50	107
SMALL WHITE	138	145	144
G V WHITE	103	78	134
ORANGE TIP	39	36	37
SMALL COPPER	9	11	9
BROWN ARGUS	4	0	2
COMMON BLUE	132	77	96
HOLLY BLUE	34	9	10
RED ADMIRAL	6	60	14
PAINTED LADY	4	5	6
SMALL TORT	22	6	30
PEACOCK	14	8	32
COMMA	24	24	15
SPECKLED WOOD	66	95	77
WALL BROWN	0	0	1
GATEKEEPER	141	240	80
MEADOW BROWN	284	172	165
RINGLET	190	167	157
SMALL HEATH	65	87	20
SMALL BLUE	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>1260</b>



Dingy Skipper at Bennerley 10 May 2023

**Total Butterfly Sightings** 1488.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 22 in 2023 and 2022 giving an historic total of 25 species.

**Peak count** was 229 in week 16 July 16th

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Gatekeeper(240), followed by the Small Skipper(173).

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Essex Skipper (good to see it back), Small White, Small Copper Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Gatekeeper, Small Heath and Speckled Wood.

**Decreased sightings** of Large Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Ringlet.

Comma and Painted Lady **unchanged**.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Brown Argus, Wall Brown, Small Blue.

**Migrant species:** Painted Lady and Red Admiral

**Notable day flying moth:** Ringed China-mark-not common locally.

**Principal Species of Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity:** Dingy Skipper Small Heath, Shaded Broad-bar, Latticed Heath and Cinnabar.



Bennerley Viaduct 25 June 2023

Photo Credit Marion Bryce

**DISCUSSION:** This is a tremendously varied transect route. Canalside, woodland, limestone track, coally heath, pondside and roadside. The management is variable and haphazard on some sections, but it has the best variety of butterflies of our 5 transects.

There will be changes, Harworth industries plan to convert the coally heath into a country park subject to planning permission. The viaduct itself is to have a visitor centre and access has improved.

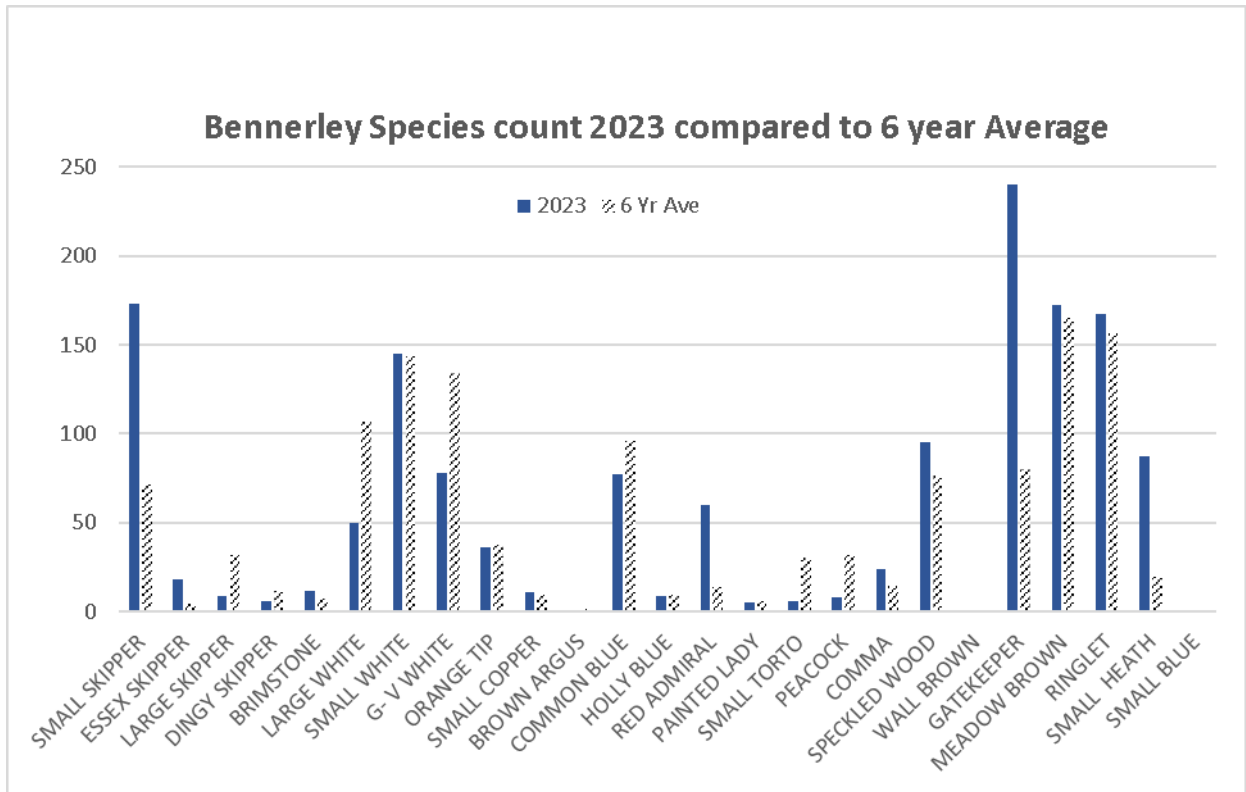
A pleasing set of records well above the 6 year average for most species. Small Tortoiseshell is a species of concern across all transects.

A big thank you to all of our butterfly transect volunteers. Butterfly recorders in 2023 were Marion Bryce, Stephanie White, Joan Breakwell, Catherine Harrison. Helen Knewstubb and Norman Blake.

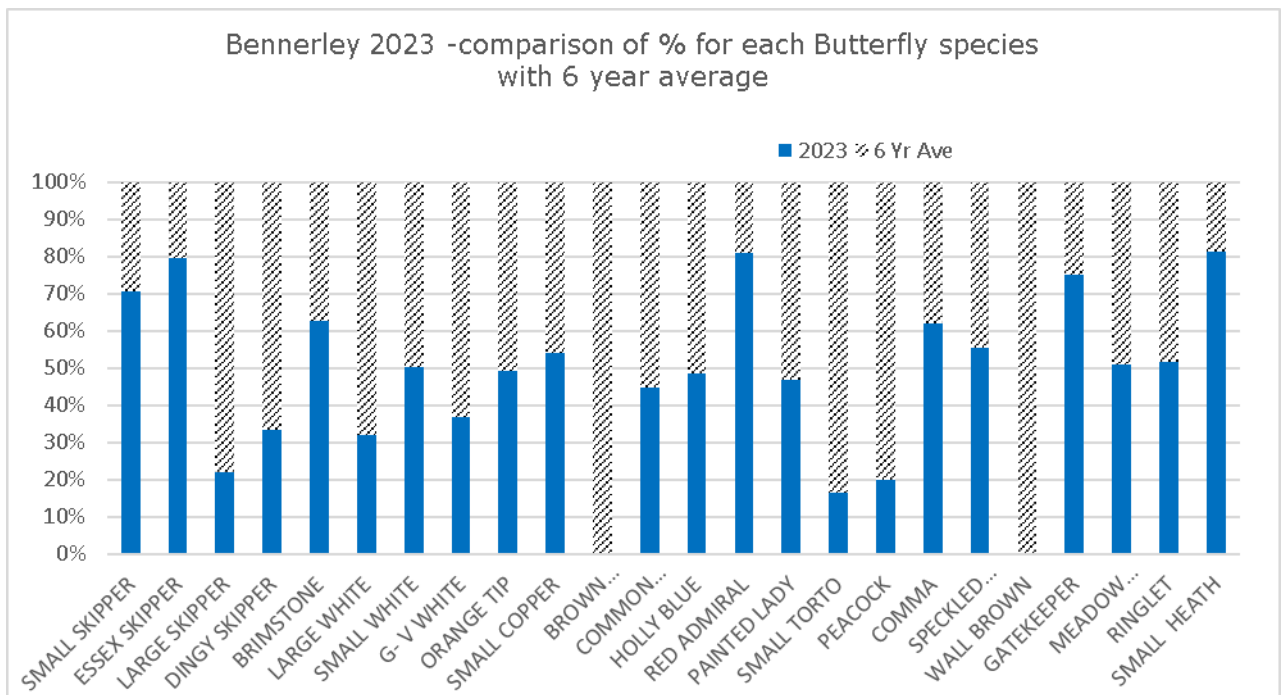
If you wish to take part in the Bennerley Wildlife Group butterfly transect counts please contact [Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com).

# Bennerley Butterfly Transect 2023

## Bennerley Annual Abundance of Individual Species Compared



## Bennerley Butterfly Species % Count 2023 compared with 5 Year Average



# Brian Parkes Local Butterfly Records 2023

Recorder BRIAN PARKES						
Date	Site	Grid Ref	Species	No	Stage	Notes
20/4/2023	TOTON HILL	SK489352	SMALL WHITE	1	ADULT	
13/5/2023	TOTON <sup>SOUTH END</sup> SIDINGS	SK491345	ORANGE-TIP	1	ADULT	FEMALE
13/5/2023	" "	SK491345	HOLLY BLUE	1	ADULT	
16/5/2023	TOTON <sup>SOUTH END</sup> SIDINGS	SK491345	ORANGE-TIP	2	ADULT	1 MALE/1 FEMALE
16/5/2023	" "	SK491345	PEACOCK	2	ADULT	
21/5/2023	TOTON <sup>SOUTH END</sup> SIDINGS	SK491345	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
21/5/2023	" "	SK491345	BRIMSTONE	1	"	MALE
"	" "	SK491345	GREEN HAIRSTREAK	1	"	AT 11:22 <sup>ON WILD ROSE</sup>
"	" "	SK491345	ORANGE-TIP	1	"	MALE
"	" "	SK491345	MOTHER SHIPTON <sup>(MOTH)</sup>	1	"	
"	" "	SK491345	COMMON BLUE	1	"	MALE
22/6/2023	LONG EATON WAGON SHOP VERGE	SK491344	RINGLET	1	ADULT	
22/6/2023	TOTON <sup>SOUTH END</sup> SIDINGS	SK491345	MARbled WHITE	3	ADULT	
"	" "	SK491345	SMALL SKIPPER	1	"	
"	" "	SK491345	MEADOW BROWN	1	"	
"	" "	SK491345	LARGE WHITE	1	"	
"	" "	SK491345	SIX SPOT BURNET <sup>(MOTH)</sup>	1	"	
29/6/2023	LONG EATON WAGON SHOP VERGE	SK491344	SPECKLED WOOD	1	"	
"	" "	SK491344	GATEKEEPER	1	"	
"	" "	SK491344	RINGLET	2	"	
"	" "	SK491344	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
"	" "	SK491344	SMALL SKIPPER	1	"	
"	TOTON FIELDS <sup>(N.R. GREENWOOD)</sup>	SK494345	COMMA	1	"	
"	" "	SK494345	RINGLET	1	"	
"	" "	SK494345	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
"	TOTON SIDINGS <sup>SOUTH END</sup>	SK491345	MARbled WHITE	6	"	INCLUDING 2 MATING
"	" "	SK491345	RINGLET	9	"	
"	TOTON <sup>BANKS ROAD/LEHNS</sup>	SK497347	RED ADMIRAL	1	"	
4/7/2023	TOTON HILL <sup>BANKS ROAD TOP/SLANE</sup>	SK489352	SMALL WHITE	5	ADULT	
"	" "	SK489352	MEADOW BROWN	1	"	
"	" "	SK489352	GATEKEEPER	6	"	
"	" "	SK489352	RINGLET	5	"	
"	" "	SK489352	SMALL SKIPPER	2	"	
6/7/2023	TOTON FIELDS <sup>(N.R.)</sup>	SK494345	MEADOW BROWN	1	"	
"	" "	SK494345	RINGLET	1	"	
"	" "	SK494345	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
"	" "	SK494345	RED ADMIRAL	1	"	
"	LONG EATON WAGON SHOP VERGE	SK491344	COMMA	1	"	
"	LONG EATON WAGON SHOP VERGE	SK491344	RED ADMIRAL	1	"	



# Brian Parkes Local Butterfly Records 2023

Recorder BRIAN PARKES						
Date	Site	Grid Ref	Species	No	Stage	Notes
6/7/2023	LONG EATON WAGON ST/PIPER	SK491344	ESSEX SKIPPER	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK491344	RINGLET	1	"	
"	TOTON SIDINGS SOUTH END	SK491345	GATEKEEPER	3	"	
"	"	SK491345	RINGLET	3	"	
"	"	SK491345	MEADOW BROWN	1	"	
"	"	SK491345	MARBLED WHITE	2	"	
"	"	SK491345	SMALL WHITE	2	"	
"	"	SK491345	SMALL SKIPPER	1	"	
"	"	SK491345	SIX-SPOT BURNET <sup>(MTH)</sup>	1	"	
20/7/2023	TOTON HILL	SK489352	GATEKEEPER	1	"	
28/7/2023	ST. LEONARDS LONG BRIDLEPATH EATON	SK500342	SMALL WHITE	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK500342	SPECKLED WOOD	2	"	
"	"	SK500342	LARGE WHITE	1	"	
3/8/2023	LONG EATON WAGON ST/PIPER	SK491344	PEACOCK	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK491344	RED ADMIRAL	1	"	
"	TOTON SIDINGS SOUTH END	SK491345	GATEKEEPER	5	"	
"	"	SK491345	MEADOW BROWN	2	"	
"	"	SK491345	SMALL WHITE	2	"	
"	"	SK491345	SMALL COPPER	1	"	
"	TOTON FIELDS LNK	SK494345	SPECKLED WOOD	1	"	
"	"	SK494345	GATEKEEPER	3	"	
4/8/2023	PORTLAND ROAD MEADOW TOTON	SK503344	SMALL WHITE	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK503344	GATEKEEPER	2	"	
9/8/2023	ATTENBORO N/R OLD CAR PARK	SK522344	SMALL WHITE	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK522344	GATEKEEPER	5	"	
"	"	SK522344	COMMON BLUE	1	"	MALE
"	"	SK522344	BROWN ARGUS	1	"	FEMALE
"	"	SK522344	MEADOW BROWN	1	"	
"	"	SK522344	SPECKLED WOOD	1	"	
"	"	SK522344	SIX SPOT BURNET <sup>(MTH)</sup>	1	"	
"	GLERE FIELD ATTENBORO N/R	SK524345	MEADOW BROWN	3	"	
"	"	SK524345	COMMON BLUE	1	"	MALE
"	"	SK524345	BRIMSTONE	2	"	MALE & FEMALE
"	"	SK524345	GATEKEEPER	1	"	
11/8/2023	ST. LEONARDS LONG BRIDLEPATH EATON	SK500342	SMALL WHITE	2	ADULT	
"	"	SK500342	GATEKEEPER	3	"	
"	"	SK500342	MEADOW BROWN	2	"	
"	"	SK500342	SPECKLED WOOD	3	"	
"	"	SK500342	RED ADMIRAL	2	"	
3/8/2023	NEWMARKET CLOSE TOTON	SK494345	PAINTED LADY	1	ADULT	
11/8/2023	ST. LEONARDS LONG BRIDLEPATH EATON	SK500342	COMMA	1	ADULT	
17/8/2023	TOTON HILL	SK489352	SPECKLED WOOD	3	ADULT	
"	"	SK489352	GREEN-VENED WHITE	1	"	
"	"	SK489352	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
22/8/2023	TOTON HILL	SK489352	SPECKLED WOOD	1	ADULT	
"	"	SK489352	GREEN-VENED WHITE	1	"	
"	"	SK489352	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
29/8/2023	TOTON HILL	SK489352	SPECKLED WOOD	4	ADULT	
"	"	SK489352	SMALL WHITE	1	"	
3/10/2023	ATTENBORO STATION	SK516344	SMALL WHITE	1	ADULT	



# Tree Warden Events 2024

	Time	Place	Activity
January	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 10am – 1pm	Stanton Gate, Stanton-by-dale, DE7 4QS – meet at roadside parking	<a href="#">Woodland management</a> Re-coppice willow by pond and stepping stones to maintain wetland habitat.
February	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 10am – 1pm	Forbes Hole, Fields Farm Road, Long Eaton, NG10 1GA – meet in car park	<a href="#">Woodland management</a> Prune hedges and trees adjacent to footpaths and coppicing willow on the beach with Friends of Forbes Hole.
March	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 10am – 1pm	Pioneer Meadows, Wirksworth Road, Ilkeston, DE7 4GN – meet in car park	<a href="#">Woodland management</a> Crown lift trees around the woodland edge to allow light for ground vegeta- tion and cut back saplings encroaching in to the wildflower meadow.
June	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 10am – 1pm	West Park, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, NG10 4AA - meet at leisure centre car park	<a href="#">Tree Health Walk</a> Learning to spot trees with hazards, pests and disease and how to report them.
September	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 10am – 1pm	Straw's Bridge, High Lane East, West Hallam, DE7 6HZ – meet in car park	<a href="#">Woodland management</a> Re-coppice willow by pond and meadow to maintain wetland habitat with Friends of Straw's Bridge.
October	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 10am – 1pm	Orchid Wood, Sawley Road, Breaston, DE72 3QF – meet in car park	<a href="#">Woodland management</a> Cutting blackthorn saplings encroaching on to the wildflower meadows and pruning vegetation back from footpaths.
November	Wednesday 27th November 10am – 1pm	TBA	<a href="#">Tree planting in National Tree Week</a> Plant specimen trees in a park setting or Plant whips in rewilding areas.

**Invitations for events organised by Tree Wardens will be emailed to the network as and when arranged throughout the year.**

Tree Wardens will be provided with a hi-viz vest, gloves and safety glasses.

Please bring these with you for practical sessions.

All equipment or learning resources will be provided for each session.

Please dress appropriately for weather and activity, including suitable footwear.

Don't forget to bring your own refreshments and snacks for tea break. Free to join: Contact [Jaimey.Lim@erewash.gov.uk](mailto:Jaimey.Lim@erewash.gov.uk)

# Flooding

Long Eaton has suffered frequent storms and flooding over the past few months. West Park is still underwater. The town has largely been saved by the floodbund but people, property and livestock have been severely impacted.

Small mammals have had nowhere to go as their underground tunnels filled with water and there was no high ground.

Invertebrate species may overwinter as inactive adults, pupae, larvae or eggs. These insects slow down their metabolism in hibernation and need very little oxygen, so are able to survive short-term flooding events. Some simply float and are washed up in flotsam.

But research has shown 90% of invertebrates drown, worms, bees and pupae of lepidoptera, the fauna of topsoil. Research has shown that insects that live in frequently flooded areas are more likely

to survive, floodplain fauna have already been selected for flood resilience. The vulnerable species have already moved out, specialist species selected, there are fewer overall species present.

It takes a long time for the earthworm population to recover resulting in less aeration of the soil making flooding more likely in future. All it takes is one container of a toxic chemical to empty into the floodwater and there is more widespread death and destruction.

Floodplain is a specialist habitat which should be carefully managed to allow a healthy and abundant specialist flora and fauna able to resist flood damage to survive.

Development on flood sinks should stop. As climate changes, it has been predicted we will get more frequent and dramatic flooding in future.



**Drowned Mole at Toton Washlands  
18 October 2023**

Photo credit Tony Maggs

# Network Rail Biodiversity

Help restore nature in your local area by sharing your knowledge with Network Rail.

The railway in our area dates back almost 200 years and in many places supports a variety of wildlife. Network Rail recently produced an ambitious Biodiversity Action Plan for managing the nation's lineside estates to increase biodiversity, restore habitats, and support nature across the wider landscape by working together with community partners.

The project team wants to hear about: Important species and managed wildlife sites present alongside and close to the railway – particularly within 1km of the railway track and the priorities

that are being worked towards, both now and in the future

What opportunities are there for biodiversity enhancement alongside the railway? How can management of the local railway amplify biodiversity outcomes across the local area?

Use the [online survey](#) to share your knowledge about specific sites.

If you would like to share details about multiple sites, or can offer landscape level insight, email : [NRBiodiversity@emec-ecology.co.uk](mailto:NRBiodiversity@emec-ecology.co.uk).



**Ironville 13 February 2020**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

# Biosecurity—Ruth Coxon Environment Agency

Every year LENS Wildlife Group organizes a series of monthly talks on subjects of wildlife interest. Some are entertaining, others inspiring. We try to make them relevant and informative with regards to the local environment. One talk this year was about Invasive species, by Ruth Coxon of the Environment Agency and she put over an important message.

Invasive species are not native to our local environment, they can quickly get out of control as there are none of the ecological control systems in place which would limit their spread, this drives species extinction.

Ruth taught us to recognize species of particular local concern. Alien plants

such as Himalayan Balsam, Floating Pennywort and Water Primrose.

The Signal Crayfish, which has invaded our native waterways spreading crayfish plague to our native white-clawed crayfish.

We also discussed Oak Processionary Moth, Harlequin Ladybird and Daddy Longlegs spider. All out of control. What can we do?

Practice **BIOSECURITY**.

After each outing meticulously clean all soil (and seeds) from footwear with a handy biosecurity kit of scrubbing brush, water bowl and picker. Help stop the spread of invasive species!



**Portable 'Biosecurity Kit**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Diary of an Erewash Tree Warden 2024

Our Tree Warden Year runs from September to March and Erewash Tree Warden Co-ordinator Jaimey Lim lets us know well ahead what tasks and activities she has planned for us. So this year we have been learning to identify trees, assessing tree health, cutting back trees and planting trees in parks.

In addition there have been several other exciting projects to get involved with. #Butterfly Conservation, following on from last years free tree giveaway of alder buckthorn (for brimstone butterflies), donated Goat Willow, White Willow and Grey Willow whips to three of the local nature reserves where we walk regular butterfly transects for Long Eaton Natural History Society Wildlife Group. These were planted in December. To follow on, we planted honeysuckle to attract White Admirals.

Last year we were fortunate to obtain a grant from #Severn-Trent Community Fund for two benches for Orchard Wood. This is an Erewash Borough Nature Reserve which was the site of an orchid translocation from a development site in 1996, the orchids are still there. The two Friendship benches were put in position last year so that the local community can breathe in healing nature and make friends.

When the #Tree Council wrote to say that they were giving away Golden Orchards to celebrate 50 years, we thought this would perfectly complement the friendship benches, so we applied, and to our great delight we were awarded one of the Golden Orchards. The fruit trees were specially selected varieties producing golden fruit: Golden Delicious, Julia's late Golden, Paradise Gold and Golden Glow apples; crab apples Golden Gem and Golden Hornet; Apricot Golden Glow; Mirabelle Plum and Gages Golden Sphere and Oullin's Golden. The trees arrived in January so we got out our spades again.

I have been a Tree Warden for over 40 years and each year look forward to more exciting projects to tackle with our Erewash Tree team.

Marion Bryce 11 March 2024

## LENS at DaNES Insect Show 2023

DaNES Insect Show is an annual free event dedicated to celebrating insects. It was organised this year by Alison Thornhill at Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Campus. There was a huge spider at the entrance so it wasn't just about insects. LENS focus was on butterflies this year, with a butterfly picture matching quiz and for the first time, 'flapping butterfly', after some practice we had an attractive series of butterflies on display. There was a constant stream of children, cutting,

colouring and crafting at LENS stall throughout the day. They kept David Pinney very busy as he both entertained and educated. A series of talks on various subjects were held throughout the day, it was impossible to take it all in. This is a good networking event with local and national specialist groups, individuals and trade represented. It was held on Remembrance Day and we observed a minutes silence at 11 am, the stall opposite us had huge paintings of poppies.



**DaNES Insect Show 11 November 2023**  
Photo credit Marion Bryce

## LENS with Stapleford Brownies

On a fine October evening by kind invitation of Hannah Kitchin, Pioneer Meadows was the venue for LENS meeting with Stapleford Rainbows. Rainbows is for girls from age 4-7 and are part of the Girl Guiding Movement. We followed a mammal theme starting with mammal identification and then leading a walk round the meadows looking for mammal tracks and signs. Obvious field signs were molehills, field vole runs, fox paths and badger scrapes showing clear claw marks. The Grey Squirrel didn't let us down either, happily scampering in the tree-tops. We had laid a round trail of mammal tracks using stencils, flour and gravy powder which then became a form of 'treasure hunt' enthusiastically followed by the large crowd of Rainbows and parents. Everyone

was given an identification sheet of water mammal footprints copied from an original from #Severn-Trent. There was a lot of puzzling over the footprints, not least by passing dog-walkers, but eventually they were all identified. All too soon we were back at the car park, for a resume and as we left we heard the Rainbow Song:

Look at the world around.  
Learn everything you can.  
Laugh as you go along.  
Love this world of ours.

Look, Learn, Laugh, Love.  
We've had lots of fun.  
Bye bye Rainbows.  
Sleep well everyone.

Marion Bryce and Joan Breakwell



**Stapleford Brownies at Pioneer Meadows 12 October 2023**

Photo credit Hannah Kitchen



**LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society**

**LENS Field Trips**

**Mon Apr 22 Aquabox Charity:** Meet 10.30am in the car park, postcode DE4 3QL. For non-sat navers follow A6 to Cromford traffic lights. From Derby turn left up the hill, from Matlock turn right. The Aquabox depot is in a small industrial estate on the right just before the brow of the hill. (If you pass under the bridge you've gone too far!) The depot has a big sign and is in the far left corner. **THE CAR PARK SURFACE IS DREADFUL SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL TO AVOID THE POTHOLES.**

Leader Roz Adamson. Visit Rose End Meadows after lunch, weather permitting.

**Mon Apr 29 Bluebell Time at Spring Wood, NT:** Meet 2pm in the Severn Trent car park, postcode DE73 8BJ, grid ref SK 3782 2201, on the eastern side of Staunton Harold reservoir, near Melbourne. Leader Rob Waldron

**Mon May 20 Birdwatching at Rosliston Forestry Centre:** Meet 7pm in the car park (£1.50 charge) on Burton Road, DE12 8JX, for a walk on mostly good paths with some slopes. Leader Tony Slater

**Mon Jun 3 Orchid Wood:** Meet 7pm at St Chad's Water (LNR) car park, Wilne Lane, Draycott, DE72 3QG, grid ref SK 448 318, for walk on good footpaths. Rest on Derek's bench and enjoy the orchids. Leaders Joan Breakwell and Christine Carrier

Contact Joan Breakwell 07527 007280 [joan.breakwell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joan.breakwell@yahoo.co.uk) or [Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com)

Wear suitable clothing. Cost £1.50 for members, £2.50 for visitors.

see **LENS Website** for full program

**A Waxwing Winter**



**Bohemian Waxwing Long Eaton KFC car park 9 January 2024**

Photo credit Michael Bilbie

For me the local waxwing irruption started on Dec 1st on Ebenezer St, Ilkeston telegraphed by Dave Jones on the Bennerley Birders Facebook page. Fugitives from Scandinavia they greedily gorged on Rowan berries. They had no fear of man

From then on these gorgeous birds were reported from various local sites including Lilac Grove Beeston and Main Street, Long Eaton. The largest group of over 400 was at Hassop Station.

**A Memorable Day**

A clear, verdant vista  
on a pleasant Summer day.  
A glint of light  
playing upon glossy lily leaves  
attracts attention.  
A cheerful, friendly greeting from our host.  
With wellingtons and jaunty cap  
he exudes pride and humility.  
We descend through a profusion of wispy grasses  
mindful to avoid the goose poo.  
A hum of leisurely conversation is audible.  
The scattered group gathers to gaze at a solitary bat  
basking in foliage by the lake.  
Disturbed, it disappears.  
Members crouch and peer at purple jewels  
in the precariously undulating undergrowth.  
A sudden sharp shower speeds progress.  
Hasty shelter under colourful hoods.  
As friendly bovines amble over to greet us  
the clouds disappear.  
Members cluster and crane their necks  
keen to spot a rare moth secreted in its leafy habitat.  
Slowly we ascend, anticipating  
relaxation and refreshment.  
Replete we head for home.  
A most memorable day

**Roe Langford  
Musing on LENS at Meynell Langley 17 July 2023**

**Wildlife Talks start Wednesday 25th September 2024**

7.00 pm in the United Reformed Church, 26 Midland Street, Long Eaton, NG10 1HQ. Full disabled access.

Cost £1.50 for members, £2.50 for visitors. All welcome.

**Committee Meeting** 9 September 2024

Agenda items invited.

**LENS Wildlife Group**

We welcome articles and photographs of local wildlife

**CONTACT**

Marion Bryce 07754851290