



## Welcome to the HERTFORDSHIRE AND MIDDLESEX Branch of Butterfly Conservation

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### KEEPING YOU INFORMED

There are lots of ways we keep in touch:-

- Our website ([Home - Herts & Middx Butterfly Conservation](#)) is full of information, including about latest sightings and all our events
  - the News page of our website is the best single place to find all the latest news and sightings. All members are welcome to share sightings and photos
- We are also active on social media (all link details are provided below).
  - We encourage members to link to one or more of our social media sites to keep in touch with all the latest news and events. We love to hear your thoughts and see photos and video clips you'd like to share. We also use Facebook and Bluesky to inform members of forthcoming events or short notice changes to the programme.
- Our Branch newsletters are issued twice a year
- Every spring we send you a full-colour Annual Report that summarises the fortunes of every butterfly species in our area in the previous year (example page shown below)
- We periodically send e-mails alerting members to forthcoming events or to invite them to participate in conservation activities happening nearby to them
- Over the winter months, we host a programme of informative online presentations on a range of topics. These use Zoom (which is free and simple to use). The talks are recorded and can be viewed at any time via the website – there is a list of recordings under the Events tab or you can also directly access our YouTube channel simply by clicking the icon on the home page.
- If you are 'new to butterflies' there is an [online recording](#) of a presentation introducing all the more common butterflies that you are likely to encounter in a park or garden and providing information about what you can do to encourage more into your garden, should you have one, or e.g. to a window box.

## Members' Day

This is our main event of the year, with guest speakers and lots more. A great opportunity to meet fellow members with a shared interest. In advance of Members' Day, we share with you a brief review of the Branch's activities over the previous 12 months together with the latest Branch accounts.

### KEEPING US INFORMED

- The Branch provides site advice to many landowners and managers across our area. If there is a site you know which you think could be better for butterflies, do get in touch.
- We also comment on some planning applications which threaten good butterfly and moth habitat. Do let us know if you become aware of any potential threats.

### BUTTERFLY AND MOTH EVENTS

The Branch runs butterfly walks and moth events throughout spring and summer as well as winter egg-hunts for the eggs of the Brown Hairstreak butterfly. Members are notified when this is published and it remains accessible via the website. All our walks are ideal for beginners as well as those more experienced. The programme covers a range of locations and habitats and targets both common and more specialised species.



- Everyone is welcome, regardless of level of experience
- Our events cover the whole Branch area, so at least one should be close to you
- Expert leaders will help you identify species and find less-common species
- These are social events, so you can learn from others e.g. about tips for butterfly photography
- Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult
- Our walks are free
- Where we join with other organisations on their trips, their rules will apply and are detailed in our events list and on the website.
- Safety tips are provided in our events list.

## SOME GOOD BUTTERFLY SITES

There are many places in Hertfordshire and Middlesex where you can see butterflies and some of these sites will be good for recording our common species. However, throughout the two counties, there are some very special places where the rarer butterfly species might be encountered. At some of these sites it might require more patience and the sighting might be only very brief but nevertheless we hope just as memorable.

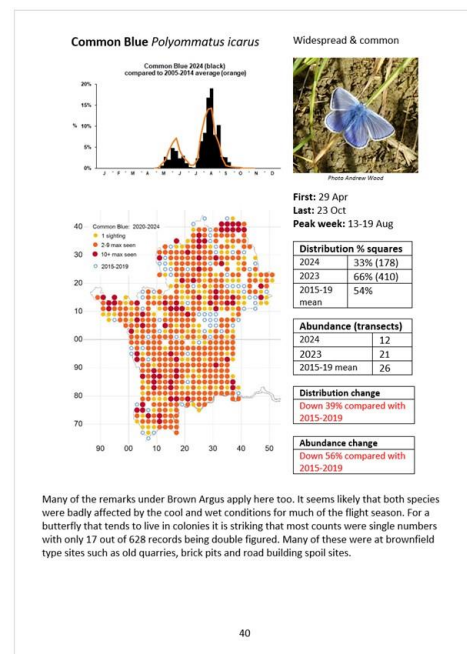
We provide details of many such locations on the website – via the home page in the Sites section, and also via the Species tab, there is a link to ‘Butterfly Sites’. The list includes most of the notable sites found throughout the Branch area. We have included a grid reference and some of the species that might be seen and at which times of the year. The sites are colour-coded by habitat type and there is also an interactive map allowing you to identify sites close to you or in areas you intend to visit.

Among these butterfly sites is our own Branch Reserve – Millhoppers Pasture – which is close to Tring. You can find lots more information on the website in the Sites section of the home page.

## RECORDING

We welcome all butterfly records. Many of these come from well-known sites, but we are also keen to receive records from all areas, including parks, gardens and fields near you. Recording is important - without data, we cannot monitor changes in butterfly populations or gauge the impact of conservation activity or quantify the effect of environmental damage.

- Everyone is encouraged to keep and to submit records of their sightings
- All sightings are kept on a Branch database and contribute to the Annual Report (example page opposite)
- Our records are shared with environmental records centres in Hertfordshire and London, and of course with Butterfly Conservation’s national database.
- You can join more formal recording schemes, e.g. the Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme or Transect recording - contact our Records Collator for more information (contact details in the newsletter)



Information on how to record and submit records can be found in the Recording section of the

website. Particularly user-friendly is the telephone iRecord Butterflies app, which can also be used to record day-flying moths. It records the location and what you have seen and automatically submits the data for verification. If you wish to record a broader range of fauna & flora, then there is the corresponding iRecord app.

If you have a particular interest in moths, or wish to learn more about them, then there is a complete section on moths on the home page of the website. We have strong ties with the Herts & Middlesex Moth Group, details of which are also provided.

## USEFUL CONTACTS & LINKS

Contact details of Branch Committee members are displayed in the Committee section of the Branch website. Two key contacts are below:

Branch Chair:	<a href="mailto:chair@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk">chair@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk</a>
Branch Membership Secretary:	<a href="mailto:membership@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk">membership@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk</a>

### Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch Website & Social Media Links:

Website:	<a href="http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/">http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/</a>
 Facebook:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex">www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex</a>
 Bluesky:	<a href="https://bsky.app/profile/bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social">https://bsky.app/profile/bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social</a> <b>@bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social</b>
 X:	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/Bc_HertsMiddx">www.twitter.com/Bc_HertsMiddx</a> <b>@Bc_HertsMiddx</b>
 Instagram:	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/hertsmiddxbutterflies/">https://www.instagram.com/hertsmiddxbutterflies/</a>

These and many other useful links are provided on the Links tab of the Branch website.

The 2016 book '*Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex*', written by our Records Collator, Andrew Wood, is available from the Herts Natural History Society:  
[www.hnhs.org/publications](http://www.hnhs.org/publications)

Butterfly photos in this leaflet by Ian Small

#### BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

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