



ROTTINGDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

BEACON HILL NATURE RESERVE

Gateway to the South Downs National Park
TQ 364028

ANNUAL NATURE REPORT 2023/24

From the Beacon Hill NR Stewardship Group of Rottingdean Parish Council



Aurora Borealis in July 2024

Beacon Hill NR Stewardship Group and Report Distribution

Stewardship Group Members:

Cllr Mike Nixon	Rottingdean Parish Council Chair and BHSG Chair
Cllr Bernard Turnbull	Rottingdean Parish Council and Beacon Hub Trustee
Louise Arnold	Friends of Beacon Hill Secretary
John Cumming	Founder of Beacon Hill LNR
Will Furze	Conservation Manager B&HCC & Founder
Neil Doyle	Countryside Ranger B&HCC
Peter Whitcomb	Wildlife Co-ordinator and Specialist
Dave Harris	Butterfly transects
Joanne Spickett	Specialist
Bernadette Skinner	Ovingdean Residents & Preservation Society
Colin Dellar	Rottingdean Heritage
John Funnell	Sussex Archaeological Society
Bob Webzell	Former Chair RPC and Beacon Hill Working Group
Rob Walker	City Infrastructure B&H City Council

External:

Nick Hibberd	Director of Environment B&HCC
Geoff Raw	Chief Executive Officer, B&HCC
Mark Rose	South Downs National Park Authority
Ward Councillors (2)	B&HCC
Dr Niall Burnside	Biogeography/Ecology Brighton University
Helen Clark	Rottingdean in Bloom
Jay Butler	Beacon Hub Trustee
All Councillors	Rottingdean Parish Council
Malcolm Emery	East Sussex Nature Reserves
Laura Bristow	Information Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust
Penny Green	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
David Hunt	Rottingdean Scouts
Atlanta Cook	Beacon Hub Trustee
Longhill High School	
Our Lady of Lourdes School	
St Margaret's School	
The Grange Library	
Booth Museum of Natural History	
Blind Veterans UK	
The Keep	

NB This Annual Wildlife Report can be downloaded free of charge from the Rottingdean Parish Council website: www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk along with quarterly Nature Notes for Beacon Hill NR. The species records of BHNR are regularly uploaded onto irecord by Dave Harris, Wildlife Co-ordinator for BHNR 2

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's Report by Cllr Mike Nixon	4
The 2023/24 Management Report by Neil Doyle	5
Friends of Beacon Hill by Louise Arnold	6
The Windmill by Colin Dellar	7
Stewardship and Monitoring Reports	9
Plant Report by Dave Harris and Jay Butler	9
Butterfly Monitoring Report by Dave Harris, Jay Butler, Ian Porter	12
Moths Report by Dave Harris and Jay Butler	17
Bees and Wasps Report by Dave Harris, Heather Ball, Pete Varnham, Jay Butler	21
Beetles and Bugs Report by Dave Harris, Heather Ball and Pete Varnham	22
Hoverflies and misc by David Harris, Pete Varnham, Heather Ball, Jay Butler	23
The Birds of Beacon Hill by Dave Harris and Jay Butler	24
Weekly Butterfly Count	30
Maps of Beacon Hill	32



Aurora Borealis in July 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

by Cllr Mike Nixon

Beacon Hill remains a tremendous asset to Rottingdean and Ovingdean residents being right on our doorstep. The Chalk Grassland Nature Reserve is a special place for many of us but it is also a vital habitat for a wide variety of birds, insects and plants. Over the years, with careful management, our experts on the Stewardship Group have reported a healthy development of the ecosystem.

However, in 2024 the wet Spring and Summer has favoured vegetation growth but resulted in a significant drop in insect numbers and, consequently, bird life.

While the weather is outside our control, The Friends of Beacon Hill and the BHCC Ranger Neil Doyle continue to work on the fundamentals of Reserve management that allow the Chalk Grassland ecosystem to continue to thrive over time.

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) members of the Stewardship Group accepted the proposed 2024/5 management plan for Beacon Hill which includes mechanical removal of scrub along the East side of the reserve and a slightly later grazing plan from January to April 2025 in 4 sections. This will be supported by further removal of invasive plant species where possible during the year.

A number of personnel changes were also confirmed at the AGM: Bernard Turnbull resigned as representative of Rottingdean Parish Council (RPC) but will continue to be a member of the Stewardship group as a Trustee of the Beacon Hub. Councillor Phil Evans has joined the Stewardship group to represent RPC and replace Bernard.

Concerns have been raised by residents and members of the Stewardship Group about protection of ground nesting birds, especially Skylarks, during the nesting season. Steps will be taken to raise awareness of this in Spring and remind dog owners to keep their dogs under control and on the mown paths. The vast majority of users respect the importance of this but a friendly reminder may be needed to give the birds a chance to recover after the 2024 season.

The Rottingdean Windmill remains popular, having many visitors during the open days on summer weekends. The Beacon Hub continues to be an essential feature of Beacon Hill and work is ongoing by the Trustees to establish the next steps in its development

The Beacon Hill Nature Reserve can only continue to develop for the benefit of all with the support of the BHCC Ranger, volunteers such as the Friends of Beacon Hill, our Wildlife experts and, of course, those who respectfully use the Hill. A huge thanks to you all.

Please read on to find out more from our volunteers and experts!

THE MANAGEMENT REPORT

by Neil Doyle

It's been a very productive few weeks at Beacon Hill, we finally managed to get the AEBI (the off road mowing machine) up there to cut back lots of the bramble and Hawthorn, which were in danger of taking over the north eastern end of the reserve. The scrub was very dense and chest high in some places, and whilst to some locals the work may look a bit drastic, in terms of keeping the landscape open, and conserving the hill as a large grassland area, we, in CityParks are very happy with the cut and we can now see what we are working with. I do wish we had been able to do the cut earlier (the old AEBI was in the workshop for a long time, then that was written off, by the time we got a new one, we had so much rain over the winter, that if the machine did go up there it would have left muddy tyre tracks all over the hillside, and when the sun finally did come out the birds were nesting in the brambles!) anyway, we are where we are. The plan going forward is to try to keep the scrub at bay in this northeastern section. This winter we are again going to graze the hill in four sections, starting in January and the sheep will graze this newly cut section last, by which time it will be early spring, and the sheep should chew off the newly formed bramble shoots.

Thank you to the Friends of Beacon Hill for helping rake off the grass and chopped up bramble. When people walk across Beacon Hill, they are often unaware of the hard work (most of it done with the help of volunteers) that goes into maintaining the open grassland, whether that's scrub bashing with the friends of beacon hill or the effort that goes into setting up the grazing every year. Without this work, as we have seen recently, the precious down land would soon be lost under the seemingly never-ending tide of scrub. Thanks again to the Friends for helping us to look after the nature reserve, it was very nice today to take a volunteer to Beacon Hill who had never been there before and to hear them say what a beautiful place it was, in the sunshine, on the downs with the sea in the background. Very nice. I'll see you there

Cheers

Neil

FRIENDS OF BEACONHILL

by Louise Arnold

The summer 2023 came to an end with some spectacular September days to start off our scrub bash season. Our new Ranger, Neil, scheduled 2 dates in September with the South Downs Volunteers who drop into various sites across the Brighton area. We concentrated on the Eastern Side, up by the copse. Disappointingly we had to cancel 2 back-to-back scrub bash sessions due to the very stormy weather. Luckily on both occasions we were able to regroup at the Arts Café in Rottingdean to lift our spirits with coffee and cake. During 2nd half November and into December we had fantastic scrub bashing sessions on the Eastern side of the Nature Reserve, more than making up for the stormy October. The rainy days do, however, mean the ground is soft and spongy, making it really easy to pull up the roots using our tree poppers.

This season we acquired some ton sacks which makes the transportation of the risings from the scrub area to the wood edge much easier. These piles of risings then create an excellent habitat for various creatures which can be found living in and around the woods.

Scrub bash season ends in April as we like to practice what we preach and avoid wandering off the paths during skylark nesting season. We managed 4 sessions of pulling Hoary Cress and definitely seem to be getting ahead of it spreading across the Nature Reserve.

The flock of around 250 sheep arrived for their Autumn 2023 Graze on 10th October and left us on 30th December. They grazed over 2 sections (South and West) for a total of 81 days. We had a wide variety of breeds this year, all sourced from a very responsible farmer who's breeding standards are excellent. This year the Ranger decided to reduce the number of designated grazing areas. In previous years the Nature Reserve was split into 6 or 7 areas which meant 8 trips up to the hill to erect and move the electric fencing. Due in the main to the dwindling resources of BHCC it has been decided to reduce this to 3 areas. At all times during grazing times there was at least 66% of the Nature Reserve open and always access to the penned in areas. The sheep returned on 18th March 2024 for a short Spring Graze lasting 25 days on a portion of the Eastern Section. We had a recurring escapee this year who just wasn't content with the huge area she was on with her mates. The grass is always greener it seems even in sheep world.

From September 2023-August 2024 Friends of Beacon Hill took part in 19 Workdays which amassed a huge 55 work hours. Congratulations to all those that attended. We have a great core group of around 14 members but are always happy to welcome newcomers so please feel free to contact us on fobeaconhill@gmail.com.



The Windmill

By Colin Dellar

The Mill is in good condition, the usual minor repairs have been carried out and this Autumn the base of the Mill will be re painted. We plan to have the featherboarding and the sweeps pressure washed and repainted next Spring.

It has been a busy summer, with 1680 visitors and we were very pleased to welcome the Oxford International College from Ovingdean whose students held an art exhibition inside the Mill in June and they have indicated that they would like to have a repeat exhibition next year.

Another art exhibition, which was arranged and managed by Jo Goddard entitled 'Roost at the Mill' was held in July. The 'Homeward Bound Shanty Singers' have held a few very popular ticket only events during the summer and we hope that they will return next year.



Mill at Moonrise
Pauline Dellar

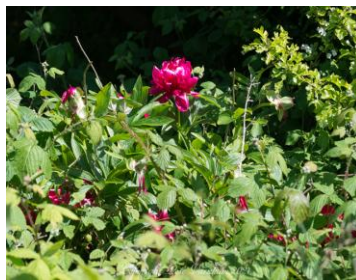
STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT
The Plants of Beacon Hill 2024
by David Harris and Jay Butler

Following the depths of winter the spring flowering of plants on the Hill is always both welcome and impressive. At the seaward end in April allotment escapes such as Daffodil, Tulip and Starflower wink from the margins. Heading north Cherry Plum; Garden Pear, Apple and Blackthorn jostle for dominance in the woods. As the season really gets going great swathes of Cow Parsley and Alexanders erupt along the path edges and patches of Cowslip, Common Vetch, Dandelion, Plantain and Germander Speedwell start to show.

By Mid-May things are in full flow and dozens of species such as Thrift; Comfrey, Forget – me – not, Buttercups, Strawberry, Spotted Medick, Elder, Japanese Spindle, Holly, Mouse-ears, Chickweed, Sorrel, Hawksbeards and Hawkweeds, Kidney Vetch, Cranesbills, Dock and various sedges and grasses suddenly become abundant.



Greater Pond Sedge



Paeony



Black Nightshade

June sees the bulk of the chalk grassland species flowering. A visit to the old dewpond at this time of year is well worth the effort as Squinancywort, Fairy Flax, Bastard Toadflax, Round – headed Rampion, Red Bartsia, Tufted Vetch, Bedstraw, Dropwort and Horseshoe Vetch begins a riot of colour that will only last a few weeks. On the rest of the hill Greater Knapweed, Bramble, Creeping Thistle and Wild Carrot come to prominence. Salsify, Agrimony, Meadow Vetchling, Teasel, Spearmint, Bladder Campion, Hedge Mustard and Harebell helps fill the gaps.

In July Hoary Willowherb, Lady's Bedstraw, Field Bindweed, Common Restharrow, Common Mallow, Bristly Oxtongue, Bird's – foot Trefoil, Red Clover, Sea Beet, White Stonecrop, Tree Mallows, Meadow Cranesbill, Common Poppy, Lesser Trefoil, Pyramidal Orchid and Ragwort get a firm toehold.

Sometime during August everything begins to die back leaving just bindweeds, ragworts, common toadflax, late bristly oxtongue, wild parsnip, spearmint and straggling creeping thistle and red valerian as the main remaining nectar sources.

Unusual plants noted during the annual visits have been the Gooseberry & Bread Wheat at the main entrance cattle grid, Shasta Daisy in the woodland edge, large quantities of Hop and **Greater Pond Sedge** in the scrub just north of the allotments, a solitary **Giant Hogweed** plant, **Paeony**, Asparagus, Silver Ragwort, Sunshine Brachyglottis and **Black Nightshade**. The four highlighted in bold are new species for the reserve for 2024, as are **White Stonecrop**, **Guelder Rose**, **Field Maple** and escaped **Tulip**.

The cool and wet spring, summer and autumn was a great help to the plants on the Hill this year as the underlying porous chalk can become very dry over the course of the season. It will be interesting to see what effect the now saturated soil has on overwintering vegetation.

Photographs courtesy of Heather Ball and Pete Varnham.

**Beacon Hill LNR Plant List
2024**

Agrimony*
Alexanders
Annual Wall Rocket
Apple
Autumn Gentian*
Babington's Poppy
Barren Brome
Bastard Toadflax*
Bird's foot Trefoil*
Bittersweet
Black Horehound
Black Medick*
Black Mustard
Black Nightshade
Blackthorn
Bladder Campion
Borage
Bramble
Bread Wheat
Bristly Ox-tongue
Buckshorn Plantain
Bulbous Buttercup*
Burnet Saxifrage*
Cat's-ear*
Charlock
Cleavers
Cocksfoot*
Coltsfoot*
Common Bent*
Common Broomrape
Common Chickweed
Common Corn Salad
Common Field Speedwell
Common Fumitory
Common Knapweed*
Common Knotgrass
Common Mallow
Common Milkwort*
Common Mouse-ear*
Common Nettle*
Common Poppy
Common Ragwort*
Common Rockrose*
Common Sorrel*
Common Spotted Orchid*
Common Toadflax
Common Twayblade
Common Vetch
Corn Gromwell
Corncockle (introduced)

Cow Parsley
Cowslip*
Creeping Bent*
Creeping Buttercup
Creeping Cinquefoil
Creeping Thistle*
Crested Dogstail*
Crested Hair Grass*
Crosswort
Crow Garlic
Cuckoo Pint
Curled Dock
Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Daffodil (introduced)
Daisy*
Dandelion*
Danish Scurvy Grass
Deadly Nightshade
Devilsbit Scabious*
Dog Rose*
Dog Violet
Dogwood
Dove's-foot Cranesbill
Dropwort*
Dwarf Thistle*
Elder
Equal-leaved Knotgrass
Eyebright*
Fairy Flax*
False Oat Grass*
False Oxlip
Fat Hen
Fennel
Field Bindweed
Field Forget-me-not
Field Scabious
Field Woodrush *
Garden Asparagus
Garden Columbine (introduced)
Garlic Mustard
Germander Speedwell
Giant Hogweed
Glaucous Red Fescue
Glaucous Sedge*
Goat's-beard*
Gooseberry
Grape Hyacinth
Grass Vetchling
Great Mullein
Great Willowherb
Greater Knapweed*
Greater Plantain

Greater Pond Sedge

Green Alkanet
Ground Ivy
Groundsel
Guelder Rose
Hairy Bittercress
Hairy Oat Grass*
Hairy Sedge
Hairy Violet*
Harebell*
Hawthorn*
Hawkweed Ox-tongue*
Hedge Bedstraw*
Hedge Bindweed
Hedge Mustard
Hemlock
Herb Bennet
Herb Robert
Hoary Cress
Hoary Plantain*
Hoary Ragwort
Hogweed
Honesty
Hop
Horseshoe Vetch*
Hounds-tongue
Hybrid Bluebell
Italian Cuckoo Pint
Ivy
Kidney Vetch*
Knapweed Broomrape
Knotted Hedge-parsley
Lady's Bedstraw*
Least Soft Brome
Lesser Burdock
Lesser Celandine
Lesser Swinecress
Lucerne
Marjoram
Meadow Cranesbill (introduced)
Meadow Vetchling*
Michaelmas Daisy
Mouse-ear Hawkweed*
Mugwort
Nettle
Nipplewort
Opium Poppy
Ox-eye*
Paeony (introduced)
Pear
Pendulous Sedge
Perennial Ryegrass

Pineapple-weed
 Pink Garlic
 Ploughman's Spikenard
 Pot Marigold
 Privet
 Purging Buckthorn
 Pyramidal Orchid*
 Quaking Grass*
 Red Bartsia
 Red Clover*
 Red Dead-nettle
 Red Fescue*
 Red Valerian
 Rest-harrow*
 Ribbed Melilot
 Ribwort Plantain*
 Rock Sea-Lavender
 Rosy Garlic
 Rough Hawkbit*
 Rough Hawks-beard
 Rough Meadow Grass
 Rough Poppy
 Round-headed Rampion*
 Sainfoin*
 Salad Burnet*
 Salsify
 Salsify hybrid
 Sea Beet
 Sea Hard Grass
 Sea Mouse-ear
 Seaside Daisy
 Self-Heal*
 Shasta Daisy (introduced)
 Sheep's Sorrel
 Shepherd's-purse
 Silver Ragwort
 Silverweed



Sea Mouse-ear



Cut-leaved Cranesbill

Small Scabious*
 Smaller Catstail
 Smooth Hawk's-beard*
 Smooth Meadow Grass*
 Smooth Sow-thistle
 Snowdrop (introduced)
 Snow-in-summer (introduced)
 Soft Brome
 Spanish Bluebell
 Spear leaved Orache
 Spear Mint
 Spear Thistle*
 Spotted Medick
 Spring Sedge*
 Spring Starflower
 Squinancywort*
 Star of Bethlehem (introduced)
 Stinging Nettle*
 Stinking Iris
 Strawberry Clover
 Sun Spurge
 Sweet Violet
 Swinecress
 Sycamore
 Tall Sea-lavender
 Tansy
 Three cornered Garlic
 Timothy*
 Tree Cotoneaster
 Tree Mallow
 Tufted Vetch*
Tulip (introduced)
 Upright Brome*
 Viper's Bugloss (introduced)
 Wall Barley
 White Clover*
 White Dead-nettle

White Stonecrop

Wild Basil
 Wild Carrot*
 Wild Mignonette
 Wild Oat
 Wild Parsnip
 Wild Strawberry*
 Wild Teasel
 Wild Thyme*
 Yarrow*
 Yellow Oat Grass*
 Yellow Rattle*
 Yorkshire Fog*
 Plants marked with asterisk* are
 CG2A specialists

New plants 2024 in Bold

Photos by Pete Varnham



Quaking Grass



Mouse-ear Hawkweed

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT
The Butterfly Monitoring Report for 2024
by Dave Harris, Jay Butler, Ian Porter and Monty the dog

David Harris, Jay Butler, Ian Porter and Monty have been monitoring the butterflies on Beacon Hill this year. Between them they have managed to cover transect walks for most of the 26 weeks from April through to September. Having two or more people providing holiday cover for each other has meant that good coverage has again occurred at peak times of the year which has not always been historically possible.

The year started in almost identical fashion to 2023 with large butterflies such as **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacock** featuring prominently. By the end of April **Small** and **Green – veined Whites** and the odd **Holly Blue** and **Speckled Wood** began to put in appearances. A surprise was a **Common Blue** on the 7th May which turned out to be the earliest in Sussex! More species started to show from mid May with 4 **Wall Browns** on the 13th May heralding the start of the best ever season for this butterfly on the hill, defying its endangered species status in the UK. **Red Admirals** again continued their good form from the previous year with fresh ones in May almost certainly having overwintered successfully as caterpillars.



Red Admiral by Pete Varnham

June and July are the peak flight periods here and there were some particularly healthy numbers of **Small Heath**, **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**. By contrast it was becoming increasingly evident by now that **Common Blue**, **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, **Large Skipper** and **Small Tortoiseshell** were having what can best be described as a `stinker` of a year as evidenced by the peak counts noted in the Annual Report.

Of the more interesting species it was excellent to record sightings of **Dark Green Fritillary**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Small Blue** and **Orange – tip** which have always tended to be scarce on the hill. With the notable exception of **Red Admiral**, migrants were in very short supply until the beginning of

September when suddenly **Large** and **Small Whites** arrived en masse together with a small influx of **Painted Ladies**. **Clouded Yellow** maintained its poor showing from last year with none at all being seen all year!



Grizzled Skipper by Pete Varnham

The 17 July proved to be the best day's count at Beacon Hill with a total of 378 individual butterflies, about 100 less than last year's peak on 10 July.

Here are the details of the butterflies counted on our transect walks in 2024, with the average number over the last eight years in brackets. The italic shows the normal flight periods:

SMALL SKIPPER 255 (117) *Mid June/July*

A well above average tally but down slightly on the best ever total of 300 in 2023. The peaks were 111 on the 17 July and 89 on 27 July, each peak exactly a week later than in 2023.

ESSEX SKIPPER 37 (43) *Mid June/July*

As with the Small Skipper, numbers of this very similar species were down slightly on the count of 50 last year.

LARGE SKIPPER 2 (4) *June/July*

A poor year for this species even for one never generally seen on Beacon Hill in large numbers.

DINGY SKIPPER 0 (<1) *Mid May/June*

Sadly there was to be no recurrence of the single sighting of last spring.

GRIZZLED SKIPPER 1 (1) *May/June*

A reduction from the three noted in 2023. Back to normal singletons again!

CLOUDED YELLOW 0 (2) *Aug/Sep*

It would have been nice to have seen at least one on the reserve in 2024 but alas it was not to be!

BRIMSTONE 2 (2) *End Mar-May, Aug/Sep*

A bulk standard average for this species this year..

LARGE WHITE 77 (42) End May/Jun, Aug/Sep

Were it not for an exceptional immigration of this species at the beginning of September it would have been a poor year for the Large White. In the event they fared better than last year with the highest count being 28 on the 14 September.

SMALL WHITE 189 (119) May/Jul, Aug/Sep

This butterfly was also struggling until September when it began to appear with Large Whites in one of the largest immigrations of both these species in recent years. Their peak was also on the 14 September when an astonishing 68 were noted on the transect route.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE 36 (8) May/Jun, Aug-early Sep

A well above average year. It is possible that at least some of these butterflies came over in the flock of 'whites' that arrived from France in September as 9 were seen on the 14 September.

ORANGE -TIP 1 (1)

Just the one on the 7 May. This is a species of the woods and rarely seen on the hill itself despite one of its larval foodplants, Hoary Cress, being present.

GREEN HAIRSTREAK 1 (<1) End Apr-June

Until 2023 no Green Hairstreaks had been recorded before on Beacon Hill. It is possible they may now be breeding on the Reserve as one appeared again this year on 23 May.

SMALL COPPER 3 (4) May, Aug-end Sep

Following an exceptional 15 in 2023 numbers collapsed to below average this year.

BROWN ARGUS 1 (5) May/Jun, Aug/Sep

As with the Small Copper, after last year's record count of 32.....Hmmm!

SMALL BLUE 1 (1)

Despite keeping a discerning eye open for this diminutive beauty just one second brood individual turned up in mid July compared with 6 last year.

COMMON BLUE 104 (142) Mid May-end Jun, Aug/Sep

This species fluctuates considerably from year to year but this proved to be one of their poor years. The spring flight was especially bad but numbers recovered somewhat in the second brood in August.

HOLLY BLUE 17 (10) Apr/May, Aug-mid Sep

Above average numbers, but down on 2023. Mostly seen along the woodland edges.

RED ADMIRAL 81 (28) Jun-Oct

Another excellent year for this butterfly with signs of obvious overwintering of the caterpillar judging by good numbers in very early May. A peak on the 14 September coincided with British born adults accumulating on the coast prior to emigration over the Channel a day or two later. Less well known was the immigration from France a few days earlier. Both movements boosted numbers on the Hill.

PAINTED LADY 7 (7) Jun, Aug/Sep

An average year by the Reserve's standards with 1 in May and mainly singletons thereafter until September.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL 4 (5) Mar/Apr, Jul-end Sep

This is a butterfly almost going extinct in this part of Sussex. The recent arrival of the parasitic *Sturmia bella* parasitoid fly has been bad for the insect but this was combined with shocking weather in spring. No larval webs were seen on the nettles and just one adult was seen in July. This does not augur well for 2025.

PEACOCK 8 (8) *Mar/Apr, Aug/Sep*

An unremarkable season for this beautiful beast.

COMMA 6 (4) *Apr-early May, Jul-Oct*

Above average and mostly seen as singles on visits.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY 4 (5) *Jul/Aug*

Below average for this beautiful chalk grassland speciality, all being seen during July.

SPECKLED WOOD 18 (7) *Apr-Oct*

Another good year for this butterfly which seems to be benefitting from the slightly longer grass on the Reserve.

WALL BROWN 36 (12) *May/Jun, Aug-mid Sep*

A spectacular year for this now endangered butterfly. This seems to mirror the trend in other geographically close parts of Sussex. Six were seen in the third brood in late September. Hopefully this signals a species on the 'up'!

MARBLED WHITE 142 (165) *End Jun-mid Aug*

Last year was a zenith for this pretty summer insect with 242 on the wing. 2024 proved tougher going with a full 100 less. The peak count was 63 on 17 July, much later than the 2023 peak. The weather may have played a significant part in this.

GATEKEEPER 354 (238) *Jul/Aug*

The counts were well above average but, as with the Marbled White, well over 100 less insects than last year overall. The peak count was on the 1 August, almost two weeks later than the similar peak in 2023.

MEADOW BROWN 534 (465) *Mid Jun-early Sep*

Numbers were almost halved compared with last year but it remains by far the most numerous butterfly on the Reserve and had well above average numbers this season. Peaks were 83 on 17 July, ten days later than the similar peak last year. Recorded right through from late May to the end of Sept.

SMALL HEATH 347 (305) *May/Jun, Aug/Sep*

Similar above average numbers to last year and noted on every single walk from the end of May through to the end of September. The highest count was of 66 individuals on 25 June. The peak date and number are remarkably similar to 2023. In addition the second flight period which can often bring high counts in sunshine did not happen again this year, another repeat of 2023.

RINGLET 5 (3) *End Jun/July*

Seen from the 2 to 27 July. Above average numbers perhaps unsurprising for a butterfly that relishes damper conditions - which we certainly had in abundance!

Footnote:

CHALKHILL BLUE and **ADONIS BLUE**, which are occasionally seen on Beacon Hill, were both notable by their absence this year. The larval foodplant of both species is Horseshoe Vetch, but apart from a small quantity of this plant in the Dew Pond area it is entirely absent elsewhere. Adding plug plants of the vetch to suitable short grassland and path edges may be one way of encouraging both species to become residents.



Dark Green Fritillary by Pete Varnham



Wall Brown by Heather Ball

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT

Moths at Beacon Hill 2024 by Dave Harris and Jay Butler

The very first transects of the year in April produced signs of moths in the form of leaf mines. New Holm Oak Pigmy and Holm Oak Pygmy tracks were found in the two Evergreen Oaks adjoining the allotments. They are nationally scarce and local species respectively. Golden Pygmy, a common moth on bramble, was ubiquitous in its mining activity across all areas of Beacon Hill. From the 15th to the 28th of April the weather failed to rise above 12 degrees and the transect was temporarily abandoned but in the last couple of days of the month the attractive Sulphur Bark, **Mullein** and Emperor Moth both appeared as temperatures soared. The first migrant of the year, a Silver Y, put in an appearance on the 7th of May and after a week of temperatures above 20 degrees. 29 were noted on the 13th which must be some sort of record! Other species seen this month included adults of Cocksfoot, **Diamondback** and **Swanfeather Dwarf** plus caterpillars of Brown – tail and **Yellow – tail**.

By June Cinnabar, White Ermine and the local **Little Grass Moth** and **Lead – coloured Drill** were on the wing. It is particularly nice to see Cinnabar, now a Biodiversity Action Plan Species due to suffering badly over the years from the practice of Ragwort pulling. **Rosy Tabby** became a new species to the reserve at month end and the charismatic and local **Scarlet Tiger** briefly fluttered. Common Carpet, Garden Grass Veneer and Common White Plume were also present in places over the course of the month.

July ushered in Six – spot Burnet, which went on to perform well following a poor year in 2023. Garden Grass Veneer, **Garden Straw**, Satin Grass, **Twin – spot Knot – horn**, Yellow Shell, **Yellow – spot Yarrow** and Parsnip Moth were also about. Larvae of the last one were busy nibbling from the hogweed flowers and seeds come August. By this stage male Oak Eggars, Hummingbird Hawks and Mother of Pearl were in full flight.

Species that Pete Varnham and Heather Ball came across during their photography were quite notable. In February **Tree Mallow Tortrix** and **Carnation Tortrix** were both snapped overwintering on the Tree Mallow alongside The Hub. This were the first time either had been recorded in Sussex as feeding on this plant. It turns out that Lesser Yellow Underwing also uses this plant species to overwinter on, although it was a long wait until April before the emerging adult moth could be confirmed. Another first! Then in June and July Crescent Plume and **Wavy – barred Sable**, both local species, were filmed. It seems the former may be quite common on the copious restharrow on the hill.

All in all an interesting year for the moths. Photos below courtesy of Heather Ball.



Wavy-barred Sable



Diamondback



Little Grass -moth

Moths recorded at Beacon Hill LNR, Rottingdean

English Names

Angle Shades	Meadow Neb
Antler Moth	Mother of Pearl
Apple Leaf Miner	Mother Shipton
Apple Leaf Skeletonizer	Mullein*
Bank Conch (Bartsia Straw)	New Holm Oak Pigmy moth
Bordered Straw	Oak Eggar
Bright Line Brown eye (and larva)	Orange Conch
Brimstone	Pale Straw Pearl
Brown-tail Moth (larva)	Parsnip Moth
Burnet Companion	Plain Holm Oak Dot (Holm-oak Pigmy) Leaf mines
Carnation Tortrix*	Purple Bar
Cinerous Pearl	Purple shaded Piercer moth
Cinnabar	Raspberry Clearwing
Cocksfoot	Reddish Light Arches
Common Carpet	Red twin-spot Carpet
Common Grass Veneer	Rosy Tabby*
Common Nettle Tap	Ruby Tiger
Common Swift	Rufous or Marbled Minor
Common Wainscot	Rush Veneer
Convolvulus Hawkmoth	Rustic
Crescent Plume (Restharrow Plume)	Rusty - dot Pearl
Currant Clearwing	Satin Grass Veneer
Dark Arches	Scarce Forester
Deep-brown Dart	Scarlet Tiger*
Diamond back*	Shaded Broad – bar
Double-striped Pug	Shuttle-shaped Dart
Dusky Sallow	Silver Y
Elderberry Pearl	Single-dotted Wave
Emperor Moth	Six-spot Burnet
Feathered Brindle	Small Dusty Wave
Flounced Rustic	Small Elephant Hawk
Garden Grass-veneer	Small Fan-foot
Garden Straw* (Hook-marked Straw)	Speckled Holm-oak Dot (New Holm-oak Pigmy)
Garden Tiger	Square-spot Rustic
Ghost Moth	Straw-barred Pearl
Golden Pigmy	Straw Conch
Grass Rivulet	Sulphur Bark*
Green Longhorn	Sulphur Pearl
Heart and Dart	Swan-feather Dwarf* (Silver Grass - miner)
Holm Oak Pigmy moth	Sycamore moth (larva)
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	Twin – barred Knot - horn*
Inlaid Grass Veneer	Tree Mallow Tortrix*
Kent Black Arches	Vapourer
Knapweed Conch (Bright Straw)	Vestal
Large Yellow Underwing (and larva)	Violet Cosmet
Latticed Heath	Wavy-barred Sable*
Lead coloured Drill*	White Ermine (and larva)
Lesser Yellow Underwing (and larva)	White Plume
Light Emerald	Willow Beauty
Lime-speck Pug	Wood Carpet
Little Grass - moth*	Yarrow Conch
Lunar Underwing	Yellow Belle
Meadow Grey	

Yellow Shell
 Yellow – tail (larvae)*
 Yellow – spot Yarrow*
Scientific Name
 Acronicta aceris **LOCAL**
 Adella reaumurella
 Aethes smeathmanniana
Agapeta hamana
 Agapeta zoegana
 Agriphila geniculea
 Agriphila tristella
 Agrius convolvuli – Migrant
 Agrotis exclamationis
 Agrotis puta
 Anania coronata
 Anania fuscalis **LOCAL**
 Anchoscelis lunosa
 Anthophila fabriciana
 Apamea monoglypha – Resident and Migrant
 Apamea sublustris **LOCAL**
 Aporophyla australis - **Nationally Scarce**
 Aporophyla lutulenta **LOCAL**
 Arctia caja **BAP Species**
 Aspitates ochrearia **LOCAL**
 Autographa gamma
 Blastobasis adustella
 Bryotropha terella
Cacoecimorpha pronubana
Callimorpha dominula LOCAL
 Callistege mi
 Campaea margaritaria
 Camptogramma bilineata
 Cerapteryx graminis
 Chiasmia clathrata - Resident and Migrant
 Choreutis pariana **LOCAL**
 Chrysoteuchia culmella
 Cochylimorpha straminae
 Commophila aeneana- **Nationally Scarce**
 Cosmorhoe ocellata
 Crambus pascuella
 Crambus perlella
Crociosema plebejna LOCAL
Cucallia verbasci
 Depressaria radiella
 Deilephila porcellus **LOCAL**
Dichrorampha plumbana LOCAL
Dichrorampha petiverella
 Ectoedemia heringella - **Nationally Scarce**
Elachista argentella
 Elachista atricomella
Endotricha flammealis
 Epirrhoe alternata
 Epirrhoe rivata **LOCAL**
 Eremobia ochroleuca
 Esperia sulphurella
 Euclidia glyphica
 Eucosma hohenwartiana
 Eudonia angustea
 Eupithecia centaureata
 Euopoeecilia angustana
 Euproctis chrysorrhoea **LOCAL**
Euproctis similis
 Glyphipterix simplicella
 Grapholita janthiana
 Gymnoscelis rufifasciata
 Gynnidomorpha luridana - **Nationally Scarce**
 Heleothis peltigera – Resident and Migrant
 Hepialis humuli **LOCAL**
 Herminia grisealis
Homoeosoma sinuella
 Hoplodrina blanda
 Idaea dimidiata
 Ideae seriata
 Incurvaria masculella
 Jordanita globulariae - **Nationally Scarce**
 Korscheltellus lupulina
 Lacanobia oleracea
 Lasiocampa quercus
 Luperina testacea
 Lyonetia clerkella
 Macroglossum stellatarum – Migrant or **LOCAL**
 Marasmarcha lunaedactyla **LOCAL**
 Meganola albula - **Nationally Scarce**
 Metzneria metzneriella **pRDB2**
 Metzneria neuroptella
 Mythimna pallens
 Noctua comes – Resident and Migrant
 Noctua pronuba – Resident and Migrant
 Nomophila noctuella – Migrant
 Opisthograptis luteolata
 Oligia strigilis / versicolor **LOCAL**
 Orgyia antiqua
 Pammene gallicana - **Nationally Scarce**
 Pancalia leuwenhoekella **LOCAL**
 Patania ruralis
 Pennisetia hylaeiformis – **LOCAL** recent colonist

Peribatodes rhomboidaria
Perizoma albulata **LOCAL**
Phlogophora meticulosa – Resident and Migrant
Phragmatobia fuliginosa
Platytes cerussella LOCAL
Plutella xylostella - Migrant
Pseudargyrotoza consugana
Pterophorus pentadactyla
Pyrausta aurata
Pyraustra despicata
Pyrausta nigrata - LOCAL
Rhodometra sacraria – Migrant
Saturnia pavonia
Scoparia pyralella
Scotopteryx chenopodiata
Sitochroa palealis **LOCAL**
Spilosoma lubricipeda – Resident and Migrant

Stigmella aurella
Stigmella suberivora **LOCAL**
Synanthedon tipuliformis - **Nationally Scarce**
Tyrea jacobaeae **BAP Species**
Udea ferrugalis
Udea lutealis
Xanthorhoea spadicearia
Xestia xanthographa
Zyganea filipendulae
Compiled by Peter Whitcomb based on earlier records from Jack Kellett, Steven Munday and Tim Wilton as well as day-flying moths noted on butterfly transect walks and more recently by D. Harris, H. Ball and P. Varnham.

Total at end September 2024 - 116
Species with asterisk or in bold are new for 2024

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT

Bees and Wasps at Beacon Hill 2024

by Dave Harris, Heather Ball, Pete Varnham and Jay Butler

Last year there was a slight change with respect to monitoring. With the help of two excellent photographers (Pete and Heather) who made a number of visits throughout the year, some of Beacon Hill's mini beasts are getting a welcome discovery.

In April a number of bees were captured on camera including Grey – patched, Tawny and Orange – tailed Mining Bees, Common Wasp and Buff – tailed Bumblebee queens on the 2nd April. A **German Wasp** and Yellow – legged, Chocolate, Buffish and Short – fringed Mining Bees, together with Western Honey Bee and Common Mini – Miner were seen on the 22nd.

In June Common Carder Bumblebees were shot, followed in July by the almost identical looking Brown – banded Carder Bumblebee, the latter being a local Biodiversity Action species that went on to have an excellent season. Ichneumon buccator, Tiger and Toothed Tiger Ichneumons also began to get active this month and a **Blue Mason Bee** was found nesting in the cavity of the wall at The Hub. Smeathman's Furrow Bee and **Orange – legged Furrow Bee**, the Pimpline Ichneumon **Tromatobia lineatoria** and nationally scarce Sandpit Mining Bee completed July filming.

A new species for the reserve emerged in August. **Heteropelma amictum** is more commonly known as the Hedgerow Darwin Wasp and is at least an inch long as its legs dangle behind during hunting expeditions for prey to parasitize in the undergrowth. Charles Darwin famously questioned whether God could exist with insects like this in the world. It makes up for a revolting natural history by looking spectacular although beauty is probably in the eye of the beholder!

By September and October much of the insect activity begins to subside. It is at this stage that some of the specialists such as the **Ivy Bee**, which feeds almost entirely on flowering ivy, begin to emerge. There is a nice colony nesting in the main footpath at the beginning of section 2 of the butterfly transect. Always good to see.



German Wasp photo by Heather Ball



Blue Mason Bee photo by Pete Varnham

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT

Beetles and Bugs at Beacon Hill 2024

by Dave Harris, Heather Ball and Pete Varnham

A winter search of the car park area in early February winkled out the first beetle of the year, an overwintering Seven – spot Ladybird. By the time of the first transect in April it became obvious that this ladybird was going to go on and have a very good season. The Early Soldier Beetle, **Cantharis decipiens** also appeared to be doing well as were two leaf weevils, *Phyllobius pyri* and *Phyllobius viridiaris* and the Dock Bug. In places the Dock Bugs were swarming over every bit of available vegetation to bask in the sun. Several overwintered Elongate Grass Bugs were found on the 11th.

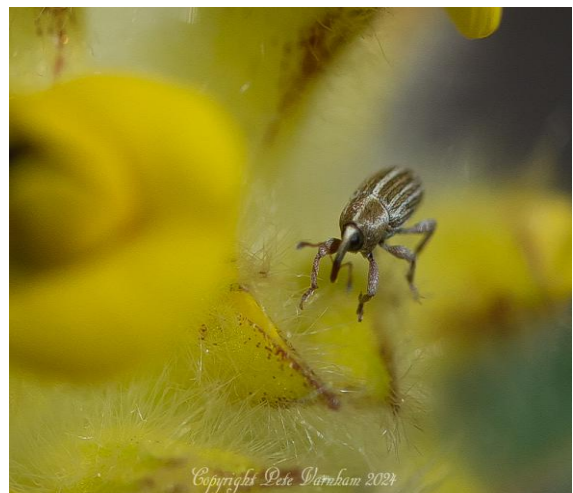
By May the Hairy Shieldbug was putting in an appearance and the Grass Bug, *Stenodema laevigata*, was numerous. On thistles and grasses the Tortoise Beetle, *Cassida vibex*, and 24 Spot Ladybird were going about their business. Green Shieldbug were lurking in the more shrubby parts of the hill. Returning to The Hub car park the local Thrift Flower Beetle, *Psilothrix viridicoerulea* seemed to be doing well and Black Clock Beetles scuttled over the tarmac. Patches of Kidney Vetch poking through the bitumen yielded the nationally scarce weevil **Tychius schneideri**.

Come June and Meadow Plant Bugs, Orchid Beetles, Malachite and False Malachite Beetles, Harlequin Ladybirds, Potato Capsid Bugs, Four – lined Blind Bugs and many others were seen to photograph. Heading into July a local Narrow – edged Snail Beetle, **Silpha tristis**, feeding on the corpse of a rook was a surprise find as was a Summer Chafer hanging perilously on a grass stem by The Hub. Also in this area was the nationally scarce Carrot Seed Beetle, **Ophonus ardosiacus**, Lucerne Bug and Restharrow Capsid, *Macrotylus paykullii*. 16- spot Ladybird, Common Froghopper, Thick – thighed Flower Beetle, Timothy Grassbug and local **Rose Chafer** completed the month`s haul.

August heralded Common Nettle Bug and Common Red Soldier Beetle. There are just over 40 different types of Soldier Beetle in the UK but this one is the most numerous. Colloquially it is also called the Hogweed Bonking Beetle for reasons that soon become apparent when you look on the hogweed flowers! In September many of the bugs and beetles listed above will linger on or else overwinter as eggs, larvae or adults ready for the season to spring back into life again in 2025.



Ophonus ardosiacus by Heather Ball



Tychius schneideri by Pete Varnham

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT
Hoverflies and Miscellaneous at Beacon Hill 2024
by David Harris, Pete Varnham, Heather Ball and Jay Butler

We kicked off the searches in February this year and were rewarded with Common Springtail, a fully grown Garden Spider complete with web and the local **Umbrella Aphid** on Tree Mallow near The Hub.

April marked the beginning of the proper transect season and Dolerus Sawfly, Black Compost Fly, Yellow Dung Fly, Velder Mites, Celery Leaf Fly, Root Maggot Fly, Orange Bibio and St. Mark's Flies were all evident over the profuse Alexanders at the wood edge. Of the hoverflies Tapered Dronefly, Spotted Meliscaeva, Early Epistrophe, Hairy – eyed Syrphus, Common Spotted Field Syrph, Grey – spotted Boxer, Variable Duskyface, Migrant Field Syrph and Batman Hoverfly were all enjoying the feast. A local **Gorse Orbweaver Spider** was taking advantage of all this 'flying meat' bounty. Badger activity became increasingly more noticeable as the month progressed as did the presence of Striped, Pointed and Garden Snail which were by now becoming ubiquitous.

Come May and Common Dance Fly, Large Red Damselfly, the Scorpionfly (*Panorpa germanica*), Nurseryweb, Common Crab and Black – palped Wolf Spiders, Bramble and Green Sawfly were all out. The local **Barred Dayglower hoverfly** was a nice find. Humming Syrphus and an extremely early Bumblebee Plumehorn turned up on the last walk of the month.

Into June and Tiger Cranefly, Black Bean Aphid, Kite – tailed Robberfly, Turnip Sawfly, Banded Burdock Fly, various Thrips, Semaphore Fly and nationally scarce **Jet Black Parasite Fly** were snapped as was a Broad Centurion Soldierfly. Long Hoverfly, and Hook – barred Spearhorn completed this month's photography.

Dark – winged Black, Black Fungus Gnat, local **Banded General Soldierfly**, Dark Winged Flesh Fly, Shielded Sawfly, *Helina evecta* Housefly, Rain Fly, Common Darter, Waisted Beegrabber, nationally scarce Lauxinid **Sapromyza quadricincta**, Yellow – legged Knapweed Aphid, Common Harvestman, *Meromyza* Grass Fly, Meadow Grasshopper and local **Roesel's Bushcricket** all posed generously in July. The local **Large Hornet Hoverfly** seemed to enjoy sunbathing on the large log at the entrance to the reserve. *Platycheirus* Hoverfly are notoriously difficult to identify but we think that several Marsh Boxers, *P. clypeatus*, were around this month even though they normally occur in damper areas.



Jet Black Parasite Fly by Heather Ball



Banded General by Pete Varnham

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORT

The Birds of Beacon Hill 2024

by Dave Harris and Jay Butler

Our transect walks always start in early April by which time Rooks are raucous in their tree top nests, especially when the Buzzard comes over to inspect! Skylarks are also by then sitting on eggs with the males hovering above in full throttle. Magpies keep an eye open on vantage points for unattended ones. Hedge Sparrow, Wren, Greenfinch, Great Tit, Blackbird, Jackdaw, Chaffinch, Song Thrush, Robin, Kestrel, Starling and Wood Pigeon join the chorus. Chiffchaff and Blackcap were seen and heard but migrant numbers were lower this year due to the cold and poor weather. At the very end of April the weather was uncharacteristically cold and the report for that week read: “Two Common Whitethroats, one Blackcap, 2 pairs of Skylark. Otherwise very quiet indeed. No sign of recent Wheatear”. A **Cuckoo** called from the north wood on Friday the 26th. And in a first sighting of this species on the reserve an **Indian Ring – necked Parakeet** flew over the northern section of the hill.



Ravens by Pete Varnham



Willow Warbler by Pete Varnham



Blackcap by Peter Whitcomb

In early May Lesser Whitethroat joined the cacophony. Sadly this year a number of out of control dogs were seen harassing the rooks and skylarks busy foraging for their young at this time of year. The first nesting **Swallow** was seen on the very late date of the 13th of May, although an incoming one moving elsewhere had been seen back on the 21st of April. An escaped **Pheasant** was also about! By the end of May one Swallow had become three and there were frequent fly – bys from a local nesting Raven and pair of Kestrels. 40 plus fledged Starlings had flocked up on the 29th.

On the 5th of June a pair of Peregrines flew over the old dew pond at 7.30 a.m.. By mid June a pair of **Garden Warbler** with young were active. It is probable they nested here `under the radar` as their song is similar to a Blackcap. 40 or more Rooks with young were active on the hill. By July singles of Chiffchaff and Common Whitethroat were the only show in town. House Martin, Swallow and Swifts became more obvious in the skies as they and / or their young began to think about heading south! On the 2nd at 7.30 a.m. “exactly 40 swifts pass over the reserve east to west - heading for blue sky”!

August brought young of Common Whitethroat, charms of Goldfinches, murmurations of Starlings and plenty of Kestrel hovering. Willow Warblers were also by now beginning to drift south.

A 4th September walk in glorious sunshine by Jay led to the following in the notebook:

“Birds notable by absence. Swallow x 1. Wheatear spotted section 4. Fledgling Kestrel and Wood pigeon sitting side by side on windmill. Pair of Peregrine (not Buzzards!) riding thermal over section 2. Three Whitethroats section 3”.

On the last walk in October a pair of **Ravens** crowed from the blades of the windmill while small family flocks of Swallows and House Martins headed south east into the wind. Chiffchaffs were building up strength for their long journey by foraging on the numerous insects on the Sycamores.

Please note the above summary is based on the butterfly walks mainly in the middle of the day, not always ideal for spotting birds.

Birds recorded at Beacon Hill LNR, Rottingdean

Birds	Status on the Reserve	National Status
Buzzard	Seen quite frequently, has bred	
Hen Harrier	Scarce passage migrant	R Sch1 BAP
Honey Buzzard	Rare autumn passage migrant	A
Red Kite	Occasional wandering individuals	Sch 1
Sparrowhawk	Breeds locally	A
Hobby	Passage migrant	Sch 1
Kestrel	Resident & probably breeds locally	A
Merlin	Scarce winter visitor – two records	R Sch 1
Peregrine	Resident locally	Sch 1
Little Owl	Former resident; has bred	
Long eared Owl	Rare, one recent record only	
Short eared Owl	Scarce winter visitor	A
Tawny Owl	Status uncertain, heard only	A
Barn Owl	Seen in hard winters	Sch 1
Brent Goose	Very occasional fly-over	A
Swift	Breeds in Rottingdean in summer	R
Sand Martin	Passage migrant	A
Swallow	Breeds locally; passage migrant	
House Martin	Breeds locally; passage migrant	R
Lapwing	Seen during winter movements	R BAP
Ringed Plover	One record in 2017, injured by wind	R
Golden Plover	Rare; flies over and in winter	
Black-headed Gull	Winters	A
Common Gull	Winters	R
Great Black-backed Gull	Rooftop nester in Rottingdean since 2019.	R
Herring Gull	Breeds nearby; non-breeders summer	R BAP
Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Winters	A
Mediterranean Gull	Passage migrant	A Sch 1
Sandwich Tern	Wanders off the coast	A
Whimbrel	Scarce passage migrant	R Sch 1

Woodcock	Rare winter visitor – one old record	R
Collared Dove	Resident locally	
Feral Pigeon	Resident locally	
Stock Dove	Resident and breeds (2-3 pairs) in the woods	A
Wood Pigeon	Resident in woods; autumn passage migrant	A
Cuckoo	Never seen, heard end Apr 2024	R BAP
Pheasant	Resident and probably breeds in the area	
Red-legged Partridge	An occasional wanderer	
Reed Warbler	Passage migrant	
Sedge Warbler	Passage migrant	A
Long-Tailed Tit	Resident; breeds (1 pair)	
Skylark	Resident; breeds (2-10 pairs); erratic in autumn and winter	R BAP
Tree Creeper	Recorded for the first time in 2019	
Carrion Crow	Resident; breeds	
Jackdaw	Resident and breeds locally; passage migrant	
Jay	Resident; breeds	
Magpie	Resident; breeds	
Raven	Flies over	
Rook	Resident; breeds (20-35 nests in North Wood)	A
Reed Bunting	Occasional visitor outside breeding season	A BAP
Yellowhammer	Surprisingly one record only	R BAP
Brambling	Very occasional winter visitor	Sch 1
Bullfinch	Now very rare; one seen woods October 2024	A BAP
Chaffinch	Resident; probably breeds; winter visitor	
Common Crossbill	Rare wanderer	Sch 1
Goldfinch	Resident; breeds; passage migrant	
Greenfinch	Resident locally	
Linnet	Resident, possibly breeds	R BAP
Siskin	Passage migrant	

Grasshopper Warbler	One record only April 2023	Sch 1
Meadow Pipit	Breeds (2-3 pairs); winter visitor; migrant	A
Tree Pipit	Occasional passage migrant	R BAP
Grey Wagtail	Occasional autumn passage visitor	A
Pied Wagtail	Passage migrant and resident locally	
Yellow Wagtail	Passage migrant, especially autumn	R BAP
Pied Flycatcher	Scarce passage migrant	R
Spotted Flycatcher	Passage migrant	R BAP
Black Redstart	Scarce passage visitor – two records	A Sch 1
Redstart	Passage migrant	A
Stonechat	Autumn and occasional Winter visitor	
Whinchat	Passage migrant	R
Wheatear	Passage migrant	A
Blue Tit	Resident; breeds (5-6 pairs)	
Coal Tit	Rare here – one old record	
Great Tit	Resident; breeds (4-5 pairs)	
Marsh Tit	Rare in coastal areas	R BAP
House Sparrow	Resident locally	R BAP
Chiffchaff	Breeds (1-2 pairs); may appear in winter	
Willow Warbler	Passage migrant	A
Wood Warbler	Scarce spring migrant	R BAP
Yellow-browed Warbler	Rare autumn passage migrant	A
Dunnock	Resident; breeds	A BAP
Firecrest	Passage migrant, mainly autumn	Sch 1
Goldcrest	Passage migrant; may winter	
Nuthatch	Accidental	
Starling	Breeds locally; pre-roost flocks, winter visitor	R BAP
Blackcap	Breeds (1-2 pairs); may appear in winter	
Garden Warbler	Occasional migrant, bred 2024 for first time	
Lesser Whitethroat	Passage migrant; a pair may breed	
Whitethroat	Breeds (3-4 pairs); passage migrant	A

Wren	Resident; breeds	A
Blackbird	Resident; breeds	
Fieldfare	Seen during winter hard weather movements	R
Mistle Thrush	Status uncertain	R
Ring Ouzel	Scarce passage migrant	R BAP
Redwing	Winter visitor	A Sch 1
Robin	Resident breeder	
Song Thrush	Resident in very small numbers; probably winter visitor	R BAP
Grey Heron	Flies over	
Little Egret	Flies over	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Resident locally	
Green Woodpecker	Resident locally	
Wryneck	Rare passage migrant – one record	Sch 1
Fulmar	Breeds on cliffs; occasionally flies over the Hill	A
Rose-ringed Parakeet	April 2024 fly-over	

National Status Key:

A =Amber listed; R = Red Listed; BAP = Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sch = Schedule 1 Species

List includes all birds seen up to and including September 2024



Goldcrest by Pete Varnham



Chaffinch by Pete Varnham

BEACON HILL LNR

WEEKLY BUTTERFLY COUNTS 2024

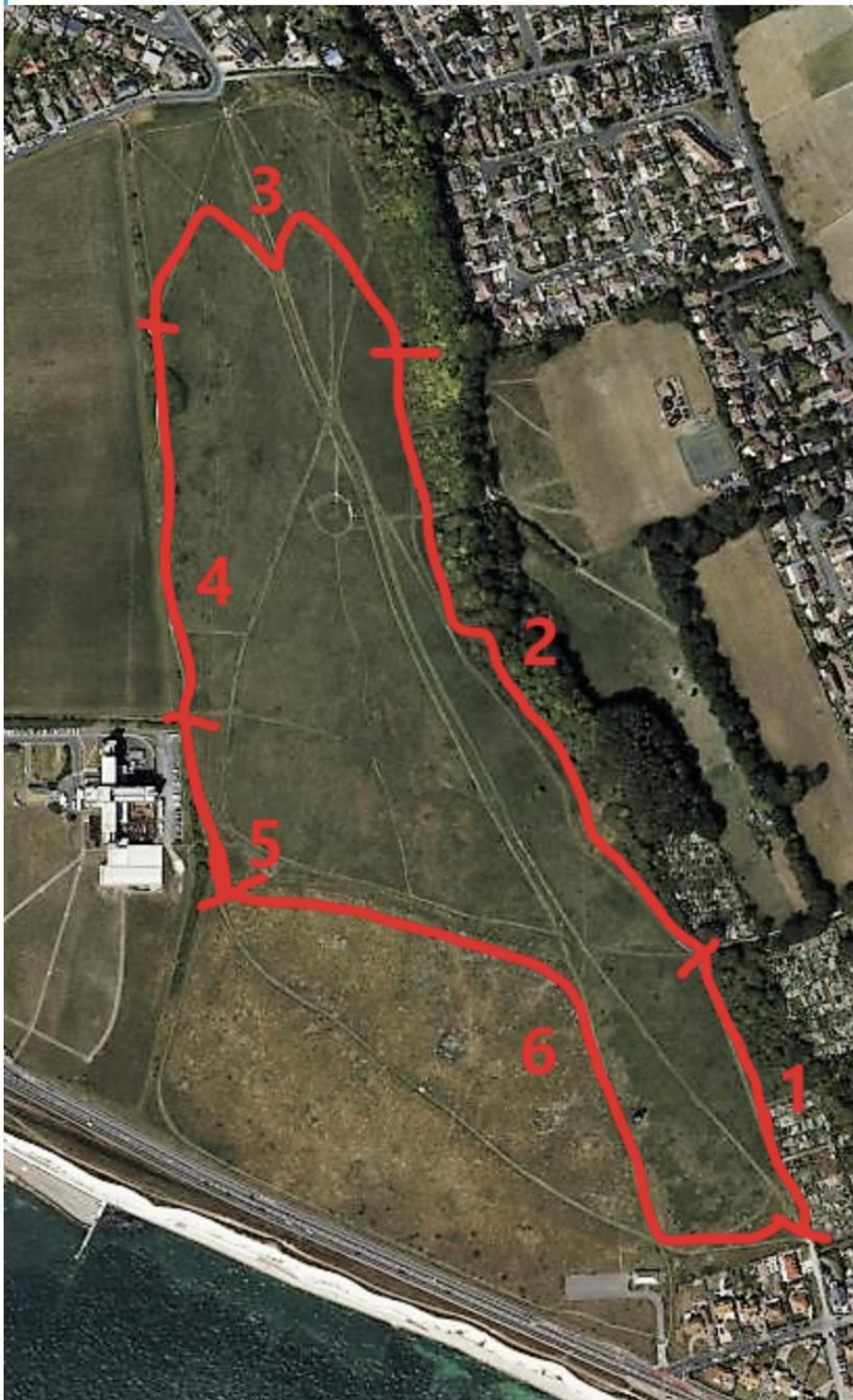
Week	1	2	4	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24
Date	2.4	11.4	29.4	7.5	13.5	23.5	29.5	14.6	17.6	25.6	2.7	10.7	17.7	27.7	1.8	5.8	21.8	27.8	4.9	14.9
Small Skipper										4	21	24	111	89		6				
Essex Skipper												4	19	12		2				
Large Skipper											1	1								
Dingy Skipper																				
Grizzled Skipper						1														
Clouded Yellow																				
Brimstone	1		1																	
Large White						1					1		2	2		1		1	20	28
Small White			2	2	5	6			1				15	12		7	4	7	8	68
Green veined White			3	2	3	3						1	4	3		1		2		9
Orange Tip					1															
Green Hairstreak						1														
Small Copper						1										1				
Small Blue													1							
Brown Argus								1												
Common Blue					1			10	9	12	5			3	7	13	18	8	7	7
Chalk Hill Blue																				
Adonis Blue																				
Holly Blue			3	2	2		2			1	1						1		2	2
Red Admiral				9	9		1			2	1	5	7	9		1		4	1	14
Painted Lady				1	1									1		1			1	1
Small Tortoiseshell	1	1	1									1								
Peacock	2		1										1	2		1				
Comma												1								1
Dark Green Fritillary											1	1	1	1						
Speckled Wood			1			5							1	1			1			
Wall Brown				4	4	1								6		11		1		1
Marbled White									4	49	14	63	10		2					
Gatekeeper								1		1	10	47	113	56	116	9	1			
Meadow Brown									5	47	65	38	83	49	41	66	42	42	31	16
Small Heath						26	17	18	18	66	52	39	22	8	17	5	7	10	10	21
Ringlet											1	1	1	2						
WEEKLY TOTALS	4	1	12	20	24	45	20	29	33	137	199	140	378	323	121	234	82	76	80	168

BEACON HILL LNR

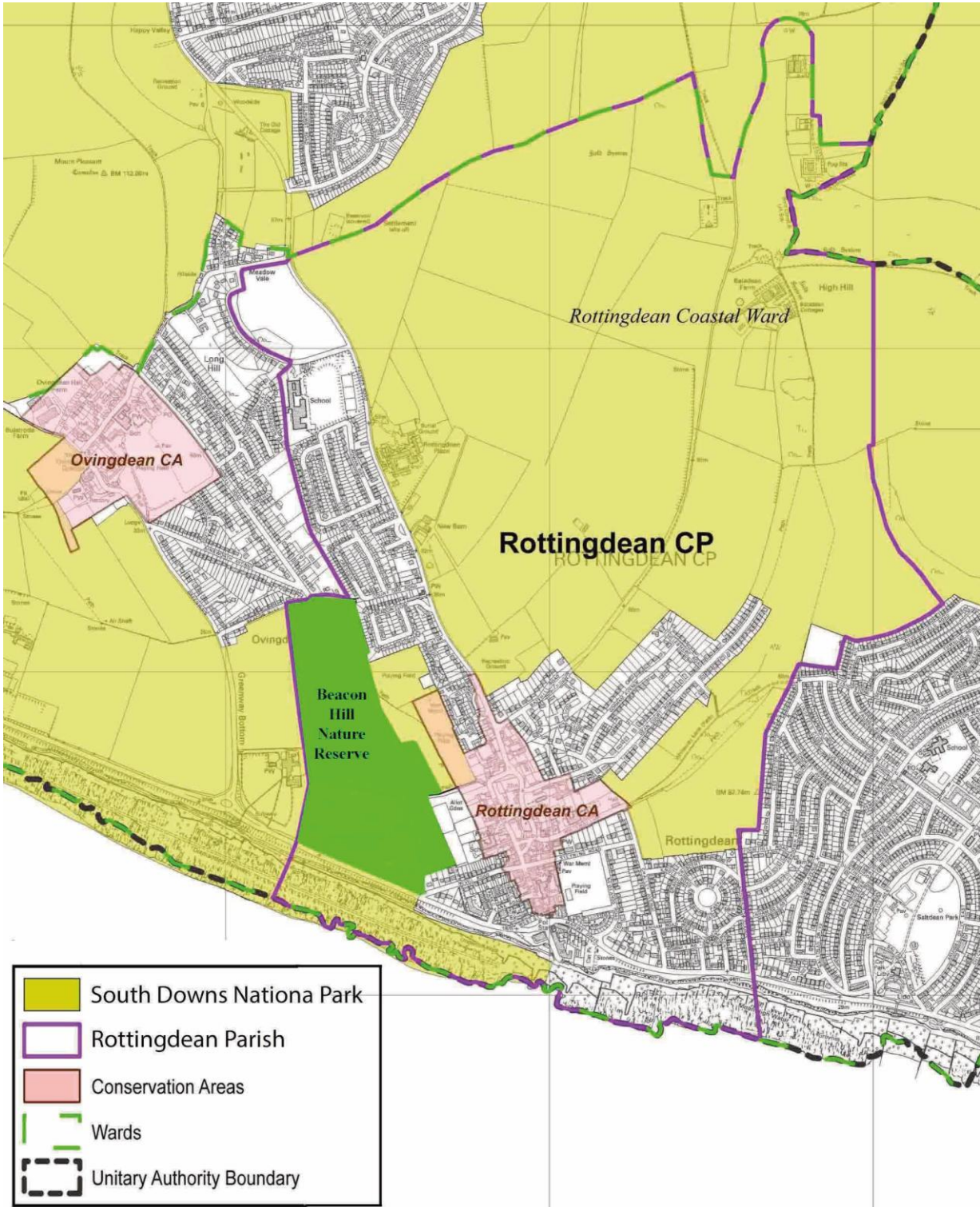
WEEKLY BUTTERFLY COUNTS 2024

Week	26	27	TOTAL							
Date	28.9	4.10	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Small Skipper			255	300	88	67	59	53	57	58
Essex Skipper			37	50						
Large Skipper			2	8	1	3	6	3	1	6
Dingy Skipper				1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grizzled Skipper			1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Clouded Yellow				1	4	1	1	0	1	2
Brimstone			2	2	0	0	0	7	2	0
Large White	7	5	77	76	21	18	40	19	81	10
Small White	5	11	189	124	45	223	61	139	94	80
Green veined White	1	1	36	14	1	1	1	3	5	1
Orange Tip			1	1	0	2	0	2	4	0
Green Hairstreak			1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Copper			3	15	1	3	3	2	1	4
Small Blue			1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Argus			1	32	0	1	2	1	3	0
Common Blue	3		104	175	111	105	201	53	198	189
Chalk Hill Blue				1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Adonis Blue					0	0	0	0	3	0
Holly Blue	1		17	26	5	1	1	4	16	7
Red Admiral	3	9	81	94	5	10	7	13	3	11
Painted Lady	1		7	7	4	8	0	27	0	0
Small Tortoiseshell			4	18	3	2	1	0	1	8
Peacock		1	8	23	4	9	2	12	1	6
Comma		2	6	8	3	3	1	1	6	2
Dark Green Fritillary			4	3	3	7	7	6	7	6
Speckled Wood	3	2	18	15	4	2	0	4	9	6
Wall Brown	6	2	36	14	10	3	19	11	1	0
Marbled White			142	242	162	193	178	169	126	111
Gatekeeper			354	495	157	233	239	222	125	81
Meadow Brown	2		534	957	298	363	402	370	349	444
Small Heath	4		347	353	238	144	321	249	477	314
Ringlet			5	3	0	2	0	11	0	0
WEEKLY TOTALS	36	33	2272	3057	1171	1406	1493	1382	1571	1346

MAPS OF BEACON HILL
Beacon Hill Transect Route



Beacon Hill Location Map



Map of Beacon Hill

