

LONG MEADOW BUTTERFLY SURVEY REPORT 2023

This year's survey was undertaken on a weekly basis from the beginning of May to the end of September. Only one week was missed and this was because of constant rain on the designated day. April would normally be included but this year the weather was unfavourable for recording purposes.

We recorded 891 butterflies – 41 in May, 240 in June, 432 in July, 160 in August, and 18 in September. The same butterfly could have been recorded on consecutive weeks so these are not necessarily 891 different individuals.

Long Meadow continues to host a good variety of species: Small and Essex Skippers, Brimstone, Large, Small and Green-veined whites, Orange Tip, Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common and Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, and Ringlet.

Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Ringlets had the highest populations.

See details below.

Long Meadow Butterflies 2023 Survey period May – September

Date seen &, in brackets, number seen : if no number then only one seen

Small skipper	21/6(2), 27/6(14), 7/7(5), 12/7(30), 18/7
Essex skipper	27/6(5), 7/7(3), 12/7, 18/7(20), 25/7
Small/Essex skipper	21/6(3), 27/6(7), 7/7(12), 12/7(5)
Large skipper	
Brimstone	7/7, 12/7, 25/7
Large white	16/5(2), 25/7, 7/8, 16/8(3), 30/8(2), 6/9
Small white	27/6, 12/7(3), 18/7(2), 25/7, 7/8(7), 16/8, 23/8, 30/8, 6/9(8)
Green-veined white	12/7(2), 18/7(3), 16/8
Whites	2/5, 7/7(11), 12/7(6), 18/7(16), 25/7(11), 7/8(4), 16/8(19), 23/8(10), 30/8(2), 29/9
Orange tip	2/5, 9/5(7)
Small copper	25/7(2)
Brown argus	25/7(2), 3/8(4), 7/8
Common blue	31/5, 25/7(4), 3/8, 7/8(4), 16/8, 23/8, 30/8(2)
Holly blue	9/5, 16/5(5), 23/5, 13/6(4), 18/7, 25/7(5)
Red admiral	9/5(2), 21/6, 7/7(2), 12/7, 18/7(7), 25/7(2), 30/8(2)
Painted lady	
Small tortoiseshell	
Peacock	18/7(2)
Comma	21/6, 27/6(4), 7/7, 25/7
Speckled wood	2/5(2), 16/5(2), 23/5, 31/5(15), 6/6(4), 13/6(2), 21/6(2), 27/6(4), 7/7(3), 12/7(3), 18/7(8), 25/7(14), 3/8, 7/8(6) 16/8(24), 23/8(10), 30/8(8), 6/9, 22/9, 29/9(6)
Marbled white	21/6(7), 27/6(12), 7/7(9), 12/7(2), 18/7(2)
Gatekeeper	27/6(2), 7/7(13), 12/7(13), 18/7(53), 25/7(52), 3/8(12), 7/8(24), 16/8(5), 23/8
Meadow brown	13/6(18), 21/6(67), 27/6(63), 7/7(28), 12/7(19), 18/7(22), 25/7(9), 3/8
Ringlet	27/6(15), 7/7(29), 12/7(26), 18/7(2), 25/7

Transects where they were seen

Small skipper	1, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Essex skipper	1, 2, 3, 11, 14, 15
Small/Essex skipper	3, 11, 12, 13, 14
Large skipper	
Brimstone	2, 11
Large white	4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15
Small white	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Green-veined white	3, 4, 6, 10
Whites	
Orange tip	1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13
Small copper	12
Brown argus	11, 13
Common blue	4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Holly blue	6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15
Red admiral	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14
Painted lady	
Small tortoiseshell	
Peacock	10
Comma	5, 9, 10, 11
Speckled wood	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Marbled white	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13
Gatekeeper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Meadow brown	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Ringlet	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

	Key Findings				
	First date	Peak count	Peak date	Last date	Total seen
Small skipper	21/6	30	12/7	18/7	52
Essex skipper	27/6	20	18/7	25/7	30
Small/Essex skipper	21/6	12	7/7	12/7	27
Large skipper					
Brimstone	7/7	1	25/7	25/7	3
Large white	16/5	3	16/8	6/9	10
Small white	27/6	8	6/9	6/9	25
Green-veined white	12/7	3	18/7	16/8	6
Whites	2/5	19	16/8	29/9	81
Orange tip	2/5	7	9/5	9/5	8
Small copper	25/7	2	25/7	25/7	2
Brown argus	25/7	4	3/8	7/8	7
Common blue	31/5	4	7/8	30/8	14
Holly blue	9/5	5	16/5	25/7	17
Red admiral	9/5	7	18/7	30/8	17
Painted lady					
Small tortoiseshell					
Peacock	18/7	2	18/7	18/7	2
Comma	21/6	4	27/6	25/7	7
Speckled wood	2/5	24	16/8	29/9	117
Marbled white	21/6	12	27/6	18/7	32
Gatekeeper	27/6	53	18/7	23/8	175
Meadow brown	13/6	67	21/6	3/8	227
Ringlet	27/6	29	7/7	25/7	73