

## LONG MEADOW BUTTERFLY SURVEY REPORT 2025

This year's survey took place between May and September although several weeks were missed because of bad weather. The butterflies were very scarce during May. Numbers reached their peak during June and July and then tailed off throughout August and September.

Some species like the Whites and Speckled Woods were more or less present throughout the whole period while others such as the Common Blues, Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns were seen over several consecutive months. In comparison, others like the Skippers, Marbled Whites and Ringlets were in flight for only three to five weeks.

Populations varied between the species. Those with the highest numbers were the Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Whites, and Ringlets. Those with the lowest populations were Commas and Red Admirals. And, unfortunately, Brimstones, Orange Tips, Painted Ladies, and Peacocks were not seen on recording days.

### Records for survey period May – September 2025

Date seen &, in brackets, number seen

Small Skipper	19/6(4) 3/7(2)
Essex Skipper	12/6(1) 3/7(1)
Small/Essex Skipper	12/6(1) 19/6(2) 29/6(6) 3/7(4)
Large White	1/5(1) 29/6(6) 3/7(60) 10/7(4) 25/7(1) 7/8(10)
Small White	29/5(1) 29/6(20) 3/7(12) 10/7(9) 17/7(4) 25/7(5) 7/8(7) 5/9(6) 11/9(4) 18/9(1)
Large/Small White	19/6(3) 3/7(8) 10/7(5) 17/7(5) 25/7(7) 28/8(2)
Green-Veined White	10/7(1) 17/7(1)
Small Copper	10/7(2) 17/7(3) 11/9(2)

Brown Argus	19/6(4) 3/7(1) 25/7(1) 11/9(1)
Holly Blue	9/5(2) 29/5(1) 12/6(1)
Common Blue	29/5(1) 29/6(1) 3/7(2) 10/7(20) 17/7(14) 25/7(15) 7/8(2) 14/8(1) 28/8(4)
Red Admiral	9/5(1) 25/7(4)
Comma	19/6(3) 3/7(1) 7/8(2)
Speckled Wood	9/5(1) 22/5(1) 29/5(6) 12/6(2) 29/6(2) 3/7(1) 10/7(3) 17/7(2) 25/7(1) 7/8(2) 25/8(3) 5/9(9) 11/9(12) 18/9(4)
Marbled White	19/6(11) 29/6(7) 3/7(7)
Gatekeeper	29/6(17) 3/7(27) 10/7(37) 17/7(59) 25/7(34) 7/8(2)
Meadow Brown	12/6(31) 19/6(31) 29/6(24) 3/7(24) 10/7(6) 17/7(10) 25/7(1) 7/8(1)
Ringlet	12/6(2) 19/6(19) 29/6(15) 3/7(3) 10/7(3)

### **BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT**

We contributed to the Big Butterfly Count in June and July. The count is made by spending 15 minutes in a sunny spot and recording what and how many butterflies are seen. The results are then sent to Butterfly Conservation. This year three areas were surveyed: the roped-off area in Long Meadow, the Prairie Bed, and the Walled Garden.

#### **Long Meadow sitings:**

Seen on 25<sup>th</sup> July: Small White(2), Brown Argus(1), Common Blue(10), Red Admiral(1), Gatekeeper(15), Meadow Brown(1), Large/Small White(2)

Seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August: Holly Blue(1), Small White(2), Gatekeeper(2),  
Meadow Brown(2)

**Prairie Bed sitings:**

Seen on 30<sup>th</sup> July: Small White(3), Gatekeeper(1), Large White(1),  
Meadow Brown(1), Common Blue(1)

Seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August Small White(5), Red Admiral(1)

**Walled Garden sitings:**

Seen on 25<sup>th</sup> July: Large White(1), Common Blue(1), Gatekeeper(3),  
Large/Small White(10)

Seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August: Small White(4), Red Admiral(2)