

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## White Admiral Report 2012

Julia Huggins



*Photo © Wendy Wilson*



*Photo © Andy Hoskins*

**Many thanks for all reported sightings sent in throughout the year - the information received is invaluable.**

In summary, White Admiral sightings for 2012 were fairly consistent throughout the expected flight period (late June and July) despite the unseasonably cool and damp conditions. However the number of reports and the numbers seen within each reported sighting are reduced on the previous years of activity. There were no double figure sightings in 2012 and the trend this year was for having only one or two sightings per report. This is a worrying statistic as double sightings have previously been reported regularly. It is possible that this is accounted for by the poor weather in May and June (being the key time for caterpillar activity and pupae development), so it will be interesting to see what impact these apparently reduced numbers have on sightings for 2013.

The flight season started later than in recent years, with the first sighting reported on 25 June, and also ended later with the last reported sighting being on 22 August. Indeed 2012 seems to have been an exceptional year in having a total of eleven sightings reported for August.

In total throughout the flight season, 72 individual reports were received covering 33 sites across our region with Black Park, Bernwood Forest and Finemere Wood again being the areas with most activity reported.

Reports were received from 31 contributors and thanks again to everyone for their time and energy in completing their activities. Please keep the reports coming in this year!

**Julia Huggins**

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