

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Adonis Blue Report 2011

Maureen Cross

Whilst the number of colonies seems to have remained the same as in the last 5 years, with records from 7 tetrads, the numbers of Adonis Blue adults appear to have dropped in both 1st and 2nd broods in the southern part of their range e.g. The Holies and Lardon Chase. This area can be considered the species' stronghold within UTB. In contrast numbers have increased in more northern parts of their range e.g. Aston Rowant and Yoesden Bank. But both these sites are rather isolated and therefore vulnerable.

Single figure sightings further afield suggest either wanderers e.g. Basildon SU5878, or just possibly very small breeding colonies e.g. Well Barn SU5882 and Aston Upthorpe SU5482 as these areas do return sporadic records.

First Brood Adult 2011:

1st sighting 4th May at The Holies
SU5878

Last sighting 7th June Radnage SU7896

Most seen: 30 on 23rd May Yoesden
Bank SU7896

Second Brood Adult 2011:

First sighting 3rd August at Lardon Chase
SU5880

Last sighting 4th September at Oven
Bottom SU5282

Most seen: 10-15 on 14th August
Yoesden Bank SU7896

and 10 on 7th August at Lardon Chase
SU5880



Male Adonis at Radnage in June 2011

The earliest sightings are in the more southerly reserves and the later sightings at the more northerly (which are also at higher altitudes).