

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## White Admiral Report 2014

Julia Huggins



*Photo © Michael McNeill*

**After a good summer last year my hopes were high but unfortunately the weather in 2014 proved tricky, particularly in July (peak White Admiral flight period) as warm sunshine was often generously interspersed with cloud and heavy showers.**

Reported sightings were good but down again on last year and I wonder if the weather was a contributory factor; any observation would have been dependent upon the coincidence of the sun and a passing White Admiral.

In my local wood I was fortunate to have far more sightings than ever before, with site consistency and numbers improving, so I had hoped this would be reflected across the region. Unfortunately overall reported sightings were down on last year. The season started with **the first report on 15th June** (average timing) but **finished early on 31st July** and there were no reports of double numbers being seen anywhere across our region.

In all I received 76 reported sightings from 33 sites, and once more **Black Park** near Iver Heath was the most recorded site albeit with reduced numbers. There is some concern at this site that tree clearance undertaken has destroyed some of the honeysuckle stands, so it will be interesting to see if reported numbers from here increase again next year. Reports were also down from our two other usually high performing sites - Bernwood Forest and Whitecross Green Wood areas.

Many thanks to everyone who took time to observe and report White Admiral activity.

**Julia Huggins**  
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