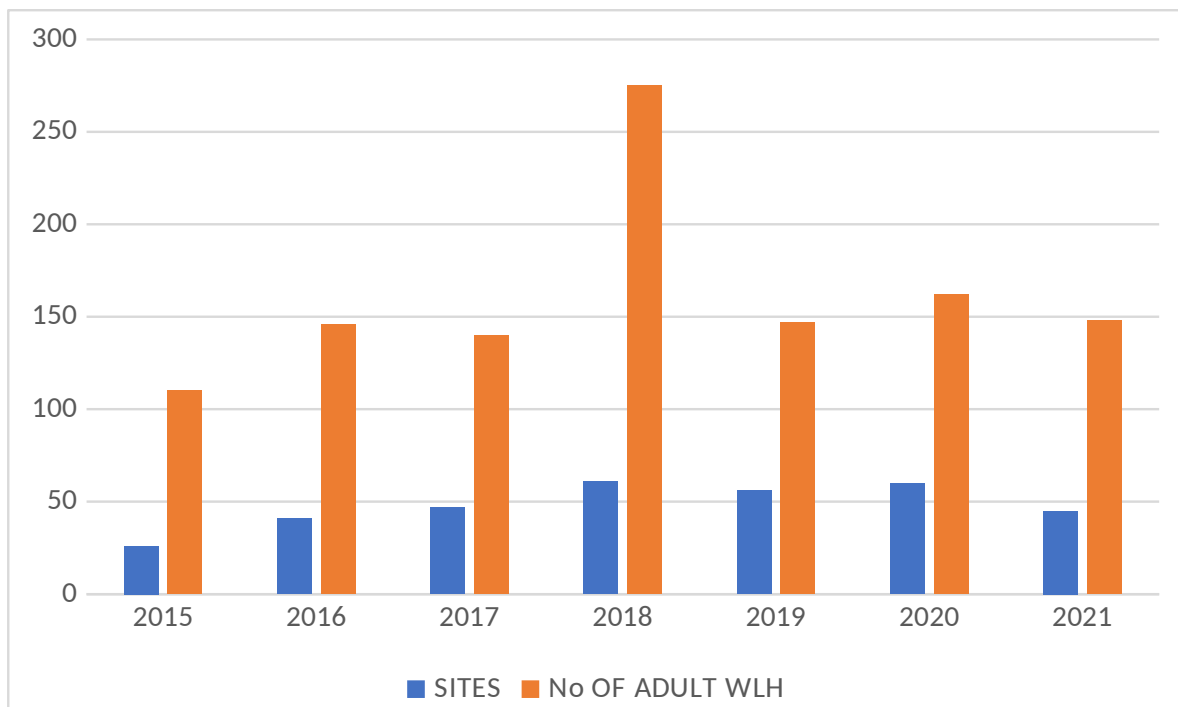


BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

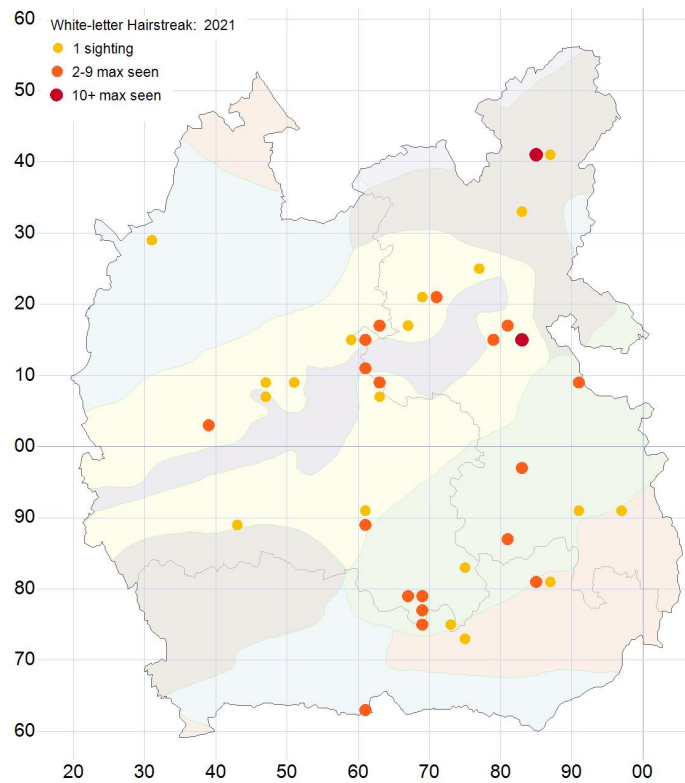
White-letter Hairstreak 2021 report

Peter Cuss

Many thanks to all those sent in their records of White-letter Hairstreak. The first sighting was on the 23rd June and the last was on the 10th August. 148 adult butterflies were recorded in the Upper Thames in 2021 from about 45 sites. The bar chart below compares these figures to previous years. Although the number of sites is slightly down, there was a good number of new sites. The butterfly is doing reasonably well in our area although there is a paucity of records to the west of the region.



The distribution of 2021 sightings is shown below:



Elm planting.

The planting of disease resistant elms across the region has continued, with the total number of trees now planted reaching 338. This should help towards providing a stable food source for WLH colonies in the coming years. For the first time this winter we trialed biodegradable tree protectors. We were also pleased to be able to work with Thames Water last winter, planting on a number of sites, with more planned for next winter.



Elm planting at TW's Dorney Reach site



Elm planting at Watermead NR (CABI)

Finding White-letter Hairstreak colonies

We would really appreciate help with mapping this charming little butterfly's population in the Upper Thames, there are some tips on finding new colonies on the UTB website (under conservation/ Hairstreaks). It would be particularly great to get more data from west Berks and west Oxfordshire. If you require any more information please feel free to email me at pj.cuss@gmail.com

Peter Cuss

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