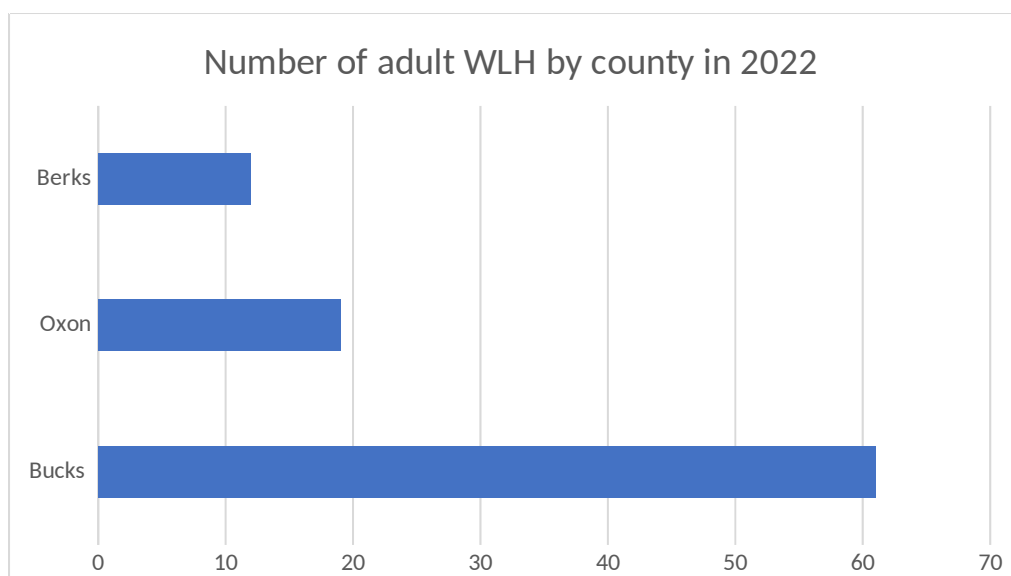
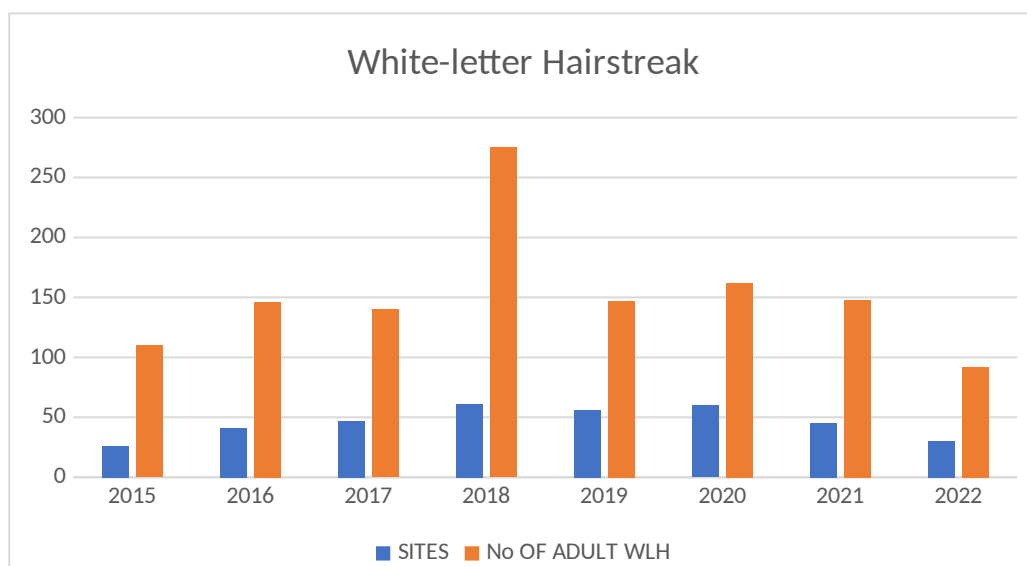


BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

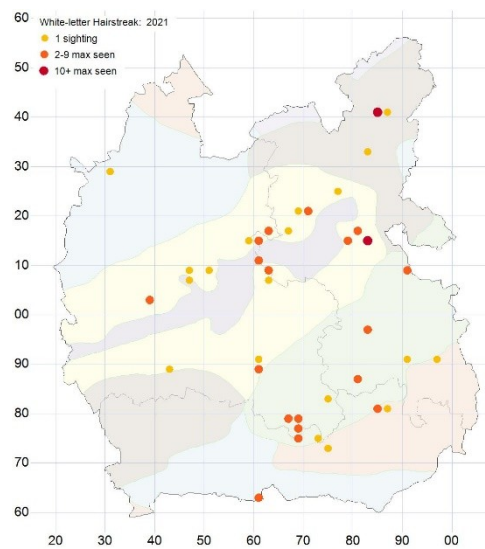
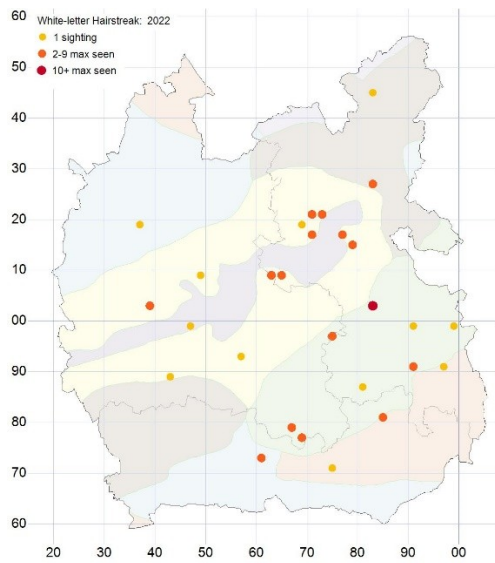
White-letter Hairstreak report 2022

Peter Cuss

Many thanks to all those sent in their records of White-letter Hairstreak. The first sighting was on the 14th June and the last was on the 4th August. Just over 90 adult butterflies were recorded in the Upper Thames in 2022. While this is the lowest figure recorded since I became Species Champion in 2015, it was also a low number of sites. This makes it a little harder to conclude if 2022 was a bad year for the species or if it was just under recorded, or even a combination of the two. I certainly managed to see it reasonably easily at all the known sites for the butterfly that I visited last year, which makes me think it probably wasn't an awful year for the butterfly overall. A comparison of yearly numbers/sites is shown in the chart below.



Below are the distribution maps of records for 2022 and 2021 for comparison



Searching for larvae using UV torch.

As green caterpillars fluoresce under UV light I experimented last year with using a UV torch to look for WLH larvae to see if this might work as a survey method. It certainly seems to work (photo below) and I hope to do some more trials this year.



Elm planting

The planting of elm to support the White-letter Hairstreak (and other elm feeders) continues, with 391 elms planted to date.



Elm planting this winter at Charvil