

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Wood White Species Champion Report 2017

Nick Board



(photo by Nick Board)

The good news is that the number of reported sightings came from 11 different individuals and thus it would appear that the early season publicity relating to the Wood White helped a great deal in that respect.

It is hoped to engage these “reporters” early again next year and to further expand the network.

7 sights were visited of which 4 recorded sightings (*), with the stronghold areas being Wicken and the adjoining Leckhampstead Woods. Good news from the very north of the county where Stoke Park Wood also recorded sightings as late as 6th August (see attached schedule).

Sights visited:

- Wicken Wood *
- Leckhampstead Wood *
- Tingewick Wood
- College Wood
- Stoke Park Wood *
- Whitfield Wood
- Hazelborough Wood *

Concerns:

Wicken Wood – whilst this is a stronghold, it is reported that there has been a decline in the management of the wood.

We know who the current owners are and we need to explore what contact BC has/has not had with them.

Leckhampstead Wood – this privately owned wood is also used as a pheasant shoot and although the owner is sympathetic to our cause, it may be its management is not synchronised to suit both pheasant and butterfly.

County Boundaries

Our butterflies do not restrict themselves to county boundaries so why should the future management of their habitat seem to do so?

It is now the time to pool resources and work together across BC area teams to try to secure the future of the Wood White before it is too late.

Immediate future

“**Back from the Brink**” initiative – whilst funds have been made available to support the future of the Wood White, including in the South Northants area, the UTB stronghold areas of Wicken and Leckhampstead may fall outside of the remit.

A meeting was held with Sharon Hearle (BC Reg Co ordinator) on the 6th October to explore the current plans for this initiative, how I can be involved and whether the habitats which fall within the UTB can also benefit.

Date	Where	Who	Grid ref	Conditions	Male	Female	N/K	Total	
11-May	Wicken Wood	Campbell	SP728410	Warm/sunny	0	0	3	3	
13-May	Leck Wood	Board	SP725400	Warm/blustery/overcast	0	1	2	3	
21-May	Tingewick Wood	Board	SP653317	Warm/sunny	0	0	0	0	
22-May	Leck Wood	Board	SP725400	Warm/sunny	1	0	2	3	
22-May	College Wood	Dell	SP790331	Warm/sunny	0	0	0	0	
24-May	Stoke Park Wood	Norris	SP825490	Warm/sunny	0	0	2	2	
24-May	Wicken Wood	Lloyd	SP730411	Hot/sunny	0	0	7	7	
26-May	Wicken Wood	Ashford	SP729410	Hot/sunny	1	1	1	3	
26-May	Wicken Wood	Hoskins	SP729410	Hot/sunny	0	0	3	3	
26-May	Wicken Wood	Campbell	SP728410	Hot/sunny	1	1	13	15	
03-Jun	Wicken Wood	Kincaid	SP729410	Warm/sunny	0	0	32	32	
11-Jun	Wicken Wood	Lloyd	SP729410	Warm/sunny	0	0	10	10	
12-Jun	Leck Wood	Tunicliffe	SP725400	Warm/sunny	0	0	2	2	
13-Jun	Wicken Wood	Board	SP732402	Warm/sunny	0	0	12	12	Hot spot left off Bridleway (10)
13-Jun	Leck Wood	Board	SP725400	Warm/sunny	0	0	10	10	Turning Circle (2)
14-Jun	Whitfield Wood	Board	SP642393	Warm/sunny	0	0	0	0	Throughout wood
13-Jun	Hazelborough Wood	Amos	SP732402	Warm/sunny	0	0	30	30	Overgrown, unkempt
24-Jun	Leck Wood	Board	SP725400	Warm/sunny	0	0	4	4	Regular sightings
31-Jul	Stoke Park Wood	Spencer	SP825490	Cloudy/Overcast	0	0	1	1	Main rides in middle of wood
05-Aug	Wicken Wood	Lloyd	SP730411	Warm/Sunny	0	0	10	10	
06-Aug	Stoke Park Wood	Spencer	SP825490	Warm/Sunny	0	0	2	2	

Sightings reported by: 11 individuals

Number of sites visited: 7

Number of sites with sightings: 4

