

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Wood White Species Champion Report 2019

Nick Board



Although a few days later than last year, the first sighting received for this year was particularly pleasing because it came from Wicken Wood on the 19th May. Under new private ownership, a major deforestation plan commenced at the end of last year and it was a relief to hear that the butterfly had survived. Indeed, sightings at Wicken continued throughout the season, not in great numbers but it had survived

The neighbouring Leckhampstead Wood, also in private ownership continued to provide regular sightings with a report of ten on the 6th June

At Little Linford Wood, near Milton Keynes reports of sightings were received throughout May and June and although not in great numbers, the sightings are significant and a just reward bearing in mind the effort that has been put into the management of the site

Further afield in North Bucks, south of Salcey Forest, a new colony was reported at Killick Wood on the 21st May with further sightings there on the 17th June

Nearby Ravenscroft Wood and Stoke Park Wood also had a good year with a consistent number of sightings

What was a worry this year was the lack of a report of any second brood Wood White in our area. Although a second brood does not always appear, they could be more difficult to identify as the first and second brood's flight periods continue to merge. There may also be a lack of understanding among our reporters when it comes to the distinction between the first and second brood marking characteristics

With our neighbours in Northants reporting good numbers throughout the season and in particular at Bucknell and Hazelborough, I continued to search old and new haunts around the area to try and find more colonies but to no avail. Having said that, I received information about sightings from two locations close to Wicken which will be revisited next year

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to report sightings to me, including those who visited woods where the Wood White was once seen and may have disappeared for ever BUT may hopefully re emerge one day

There are still other woods to visit along the North Bucks / South Northants border where I feel sure there remain hidden colonies. Please keep searching as your help is vital in helping to secure the future of this fragile yet graceful little butterfly

Wood White Sightings 2019

Date	Location	Grid Ref	Who	Numbers
19-May	Wicken Wood	SP729401	Sally Japp	1
19-May	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	2
19-May	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Nick Board	1
21-May	Little Linford Wood	SP823453	Colin Williams	1
21-May	Killick Wood	SP86095304	Caz Temple	6
21-May	Wicken Wood	SP729401	Dai Lewis	1
22-May	Wicken Wood	SP728407	Andrew Hoskins	1
25-May	Whitfield Wood	SP642392	Phil Tizzard	0
25-May	Ravenscroft Wood	SP843530	Keith Mitchell	8
27-May	Wicken Wood	SP729409	Judith Barnard	5
27-May	Little Linford Wood	SP832454	Sally Japp	2
01-Jun	Stoke Wood	SP827491	Sally Japp	2
02-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP728409	Nick Board	4
03-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP728409	Brain Lloyd	3
06-Jun	Leckhampstead Wood	SP726403	Peter Masters	10
06-Jun	Yardley Chase(Bucks)		Tom Dunbar	3
09-Jun	Little Linford Wood	SP823453	Sally Japp	4
17-Jun	Killick Wood	SP85905314	Caz Temple	4
18-Jun	Stowe Woods		Stuart Hodges	0
18-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP729403	Nick Board	4
27-Jun	Wicken Wood	SP728402	Nick Board	3

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