

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Wood White Species Champion Report 2023

Nick Board



Thank you to everyone who sent me details of sightings throughout the summer and whilst the recorded sightings of first brood butterflies was two weeks later than the previous year, numbers remained good throughout the summer.

The first reported sighting was on the 20th May at Wicken Wood followed a day later on the 21st May at Leckhampstead Wood with numbers peaking in these woods during the first two weeks of June, followed by egg laying during the third week of June. To the north of the county, Kilwick Wood also reported good numbers with fourteen sightings on the 5th June and at Wetleys Wood, near Silverstone reporting forty sightings on the 11th June

Locally, in Leckhampstead Wood, second brood adults started to appear on the 21st July and into the third week in August which hopefully will provide a good start to next season

On another positive note, a reported sighting from a reliable source, was recorded at Crooks Firs between Croughton and Fritwell although this may have been a stray from Bucknell Wood or a local release. Further visits to take place during 2024.

Wood White Habitat

When visiting woodland rides in our region, look for open sunny rides, with grass or scrub margins that are lightly shaded by surrounding trees and have abundant vetches

Wood White will breed in grassy vegetation at the edges of open sunny rides and glades

Look for food plants in the legumes family eg Meadow Vetchling, Tufted Vetch, Bitter Vetch, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil and Bird's-foot Trefoil



Sightings

Numbers of reported sightings have been encouraging during 2023, but please keep looking for this delicate and vulnerable butterfly and I would urge you to keep searching along the North Bucks/ South Northants border for those undiscovered colonies

Please let me know of any sightings at **woodw@talktalk.net** and remember to record on "IRecord"

Thank you and let's look forward to a great summer ahead!