

## Long Meadow Butterflies 2013

Small skipper	10/7(5),17/7,24/7,1/8(3),7/8
Essex skipper	10/7,1/8,7/8
Small/Essex skip	17/7(4),24/7
Large skipper	3/7,10/7(3),17/7(9),24/7(3),1/8(3)
Brimstone	25/4,1/5,1/8(2)
Large white	19/6,1/8(4),7/8,14/8,21/8,28/8
Small white	1/5,24/7(12),1/8(8),7/8,,21/8,28/8,4/9(4),11/9,18/9(6)
Green-veined	8/5,16/5(3),10/7,17/7(5),24/7,1/8(4),7/8(8),14/8,21/8,11/9
Orange tip	25/4,1/5,8/5(12),16/5(11),5/6
Small copper	1/8(2),7/8(5),14/8(5),21/8(2),28/8(2),18/9,25/9(2)
Brown argus	14/8
Common blue	13/6,7/8,14/8(8),21/8(2),28/8
Holly blue	25/4,1/5,16/5(3),5/6,17/7,1/8(4),7/8,14/8
Small tortoiseshell	17/4,3/7
Peacock	24/4,25/4,16/5,1/8,14/8
Comma	10/4,17/4,24/4(4),25/4,17/7(5),24/7,1/8(11),7/8,14/8,21/8
Speckled wood	8/5(9),16/5(8),5/6,13/6,19/6(12),26/6,3/7(11),10/7,17/7,24/7(13),1/8(8),7/8(20),14/8(11),21/8(10),28/8(24), 4/9(13),11/9(38),18/9(22),25/9
Gatekeeper	17/7,24/7(20),1/8(17),7/8(13),14/8
Meadow brown	19/6,26/6,3/7(7),10/7(13),17/7(29),24/7(19),1/8(22),7/8(9),14/8(11),28/8
Ringlet	10/7(2),24/7(5)

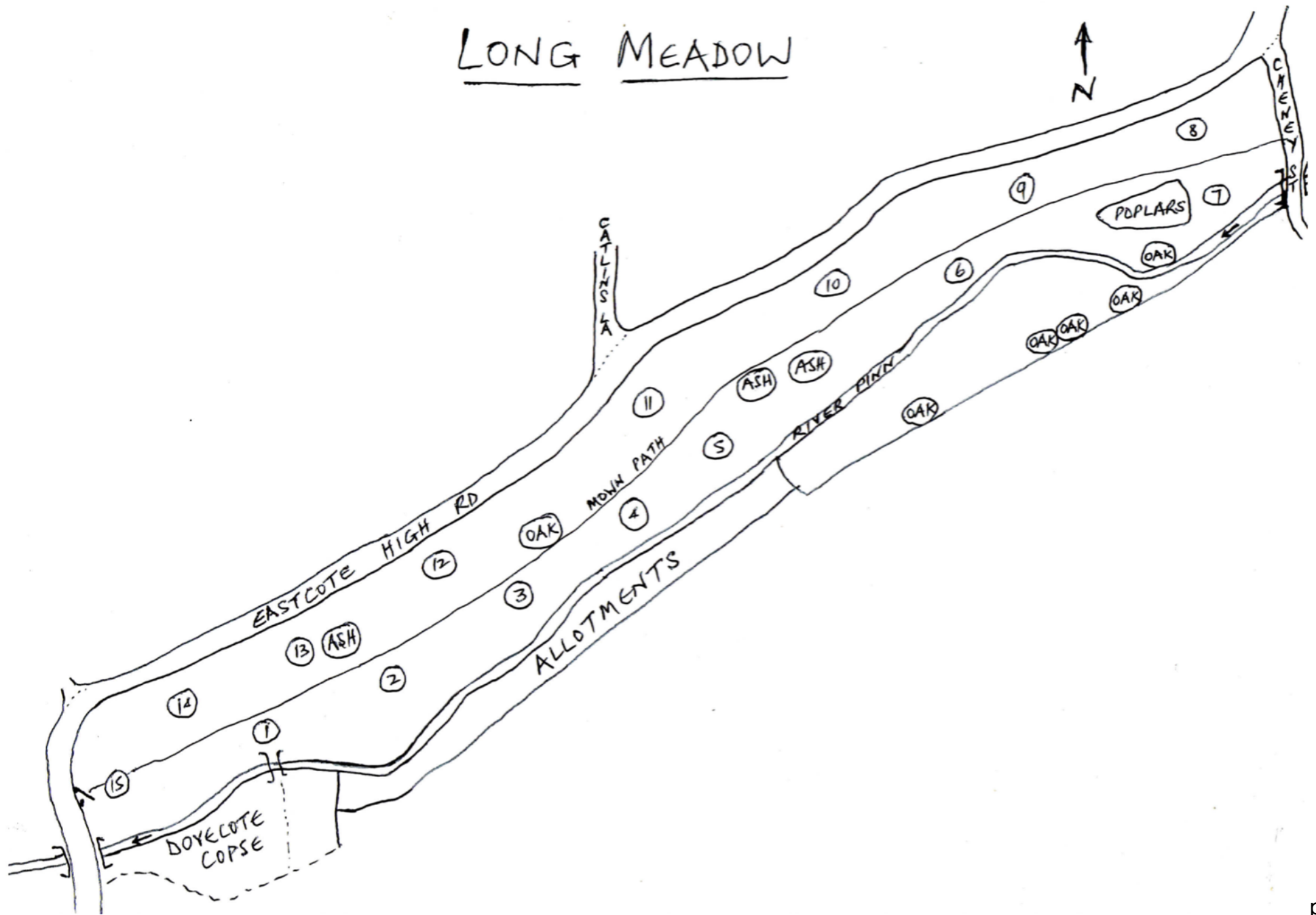
### Long Meadow Butterflies 2013

Species (19)	First date	Peak count	Peak date	Last date	Total	Status and Habitat	Larval food plant
Small skipper	10/7	5	10/7	7/8	12	Resident in grassland	grasses
Essex skipper	10/7	2	1/8	7/8	4	Resident in grassland	grasses
Small/essex skipper	17/7	4	17/7	24/7	7	Resident in grassland	grasses
Large skipper	3/7	9	17/7	1/8	19	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Brimstone	1/5	2	1/8	1/8	3	Mobile in woodland & grassland	buckthorn
Large white	19/6	4	1/8	28/8	11	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Small white	1/5	12	24/7	18/9	37	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Green-veined white	8/5	8	7/8	11/9	29	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Orange tip	1/5	12	8/5	5/6	35	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Small copper	1/8	5	7/8, 14/8	25/9	19	Resident in grassland	sorrel/dock
Brown argus	14/8	1	14/8	14/8	1	Resident in grassland	rockrose
Common blue	7/8	8	14/8	28/8	12	Resident in grassland	birdsfoot trefoil
Holly blue	1/5	4	1/8	14/8	15	Mobile & widespread	holly/ivy
Small tortoiseshell	17/4	2	17/4	3/7	3	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Peacock	24/4	1	-----	14/8	4	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Comma	17/4	11	1/8	21/8	26	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Speckled wood	8/5	38	11/9	25/9	205	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Gatekeeper	17/7	20	24/7	14/8	56	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Meadow brown	19/6	29	17/7	28/8	114	Resident in grassland	grasses
Ringlet	10/7	5	24/7	1/8	11	Resident in damper grassland	grasses

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<b>Section</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>
Small skipper		x										x	x	x	x	<b>5</b>
Essex skipper	x	x											x	x		<b>4</b>
Small/essex skipper	x		x						x			x		x		<b>5</b>
Large skipper	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x			x		x	<b>10</b>
Brimstone					x							x				<b>2</b>
Large white	x	x			x	x		x	x			x				<b>8</b>
Small white			x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	<b>9</b>
Green-veined white					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	<b>9</b>
Orange tip					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>11</b>
Small copper	x											x	x	x	x	<b>5</b>
Brown argus											x					<b>1</b>
Common blue											x	x		x		<b>3</b>
Holly blue						x		x	x	x		x			x	<b>6</b>
Small tortoiseshell	x					x							x			<b>3</b>
Peacock						x			x					x	x	<b>4</b>
Comma	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	<b>12</b>
Speckled wood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>15</b>
Gatekeeper	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>14</b>
Meadow brown	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>15</b>
Ringlet					x	x	x	x			x					<b>5</b>
<b>Species per section</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	

# LONG MEADOW



## **Long Meadow Butterflies 2013**

### **Summary and Management Plans**

A cold wet spring and early summer suppressed early butterfly activity this year but orange tips were flying. Fortunately this was followed by a hot dry summer in July and August which produced lots of butterflies – a good variety of species and some impressive numbers.

The grassland species such as skippers and browns did very well. Common blue and small copper showed well during the summer warmth indicating reasonable populations. A brown argus was an unexpected find as its larval food plant is not known to grow in the meadow.

Whites were plentiful even if not always possible to identify to species level as they flew quickly by. Very few perched so next year we will record those unidentified as 'whites' to give a truer idea of the numbers using the meadow.

Of the nymphalids only comma was seen in reasonable numbers.

Very few brimstones were observed probably due to lack of their larval food plant, buckthorn, introduction of which should boost the population.

For the common blue some birdsfoot trefoil larval food plant has been introduced to try to increase its population.

The most butterfly rich areas were sections 5, 6, 9, 11-15 mainly on the warmer sunnier side of the meadow where the grasses are finer and shorter and there are more flowering plants to provide nectar.

Next year we plan to record which nectar sources are being used by which species to assess the seasonal succession and see if there are any gaps that could usefully be filled with additional sources of nectar.

Management work to prevent scrub encroachment into the grassland will be carried out during the autumn and winter. Additionally some tree thinning to reduce shading and allow more sunlight and warmth to reach the grassland will be undertaken.

This work maintains a balance between grassland and woodland edge both of which are key habitats for the butterfly species that live in and visit this site.