

## Long Meadow Butterflies 2014

Small skipper	2/7(4), 9/7(2), 16/7, 24/7(2)
Essex skipper	9/7(3), 16/7(2), 24/7(5), 30/7(3)
Small/Essex skip	9/7(6), 16/7(16), 24/7(3)
Large skipper	10/6(3), 17/6(6), 2/7(11), 9/7(10)
Brimstone	23/4
Large white	3/9
Small white	23/4(3), 14/5, 21/5, 2/7(5), 5/8
Green-veined	23/4(4), 30/4(2), 21/5, 16/7, 24/7(2), 30/7(2), 5/8(2), 13/8(4), 10/9
Whites	23/4(9),30/4(6) 7/5,14/5(5),21/5,17/6,9/7(4),16/7(9),24/7(9),30/7(2),5/8(2),13/8(4),20/8(3),27/8,3/9(2),10/9
Orange tip	23/4(12), 30/4(9), 14/5(4), 21/5(4)
Small copper	24/7, 30/7, 3/9, 10/9, 25/9
Brown argus	30/7
Common blue	24/7(4), 30/7(6), 5/8(4), 10/9
Holly blue	5/8(2)
Red admiral	5/6, 17/6(2), 10/9
Painted lady	5/8
Small tortoiseshell	10/6, 2/7
Peacock	23/4(6), 30/4(2), 14/5
Comma	23/4, 30/4, 17/6(2), 2/7, 9/7, 24/7(4), 5/8, 13/8
Speckled wood	23/4(8),30/4(5),7/5,14/5(2),21/5(13),5/6(6),10/6(6),17/6(2),2/7(2),9/7(5),16/7(11),24/7(5),30/7(9),5/8(18),13/8(16),20/8(22),27/8(8),3/9(7),10/9(4),17/9(10)
Gatekeeper	9/7(9), 16/7(29), 24/7(23), 30/7(12), 5/8(8), 13/8(3), 20/8(3)
Meadow brown	17/6(10), 2/7(28), 9/7(29), 16/7(10), 24/7(8), 30/7(8), 5/8, 13/8
Ringlet	17/6, 2/7(9), 9/7(7), 16/7(13), 24/7

*If no number then only one seen*

<b>Species (20)</b>	<b>First date</b>	<b>Peak count</b>	<b>Peak date</b>	<b>Last date</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status and Habitat</b>	<b>Larval food plant</b>
Small skipper	2/7	4	2/7	24/7	9	Resident in grassland	grasses
Essex skipper	9/7	5	24/7	30/7	13	Resident in grassland	grasses
Small/essex skipper	9/7	16	16/7	24/7	25	Resident in grassland	grasses
Large skipper	10/6	11	2/7	9/7	30	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Brimstone	23/4	1	23/4	23/4	1	Mobile in woodland & grassland	buckthorn
Large white	3/9	1	3/9	3/9	1	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Small white	23/4	5	2/7	5/8	11	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Green-veined white	23/4	4	13/8	10/9	21	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Whites	23/4	9	--	10/9	61	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Orange tip	23/4	12	23/4	21/5	29	Mobile & widespread	crucifers
Small copper	24/7	1	--	25/9	5	Resident in grassland	sorrel/dock
Brown argus	30/7	1	30/7	30/7	1	Resident in grassland	rockrose
Common blue	24/7	6	30/7	10/9	15	Resident in grassland	birdsfoot trefoil
Holly blue	5/8	2	5/8	5/8	2	Mobile & widespread	holly/ivy
Red admiral	5/6	2	17/6	10/9	4	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Small tortoiseshell	10/6	1	----	2/7	2	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Peacock	23/4	6	23/4	14/5	9	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Comma	23/4	4	24/7	13/8	12	Mobile & widespread	nettles
Speckled wood	23/4	22	20/8	17/9	160	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Gatekeeper	9/7	23	24/7	20/8	87	Resident of woodland edge	grasses
Meadow brown	17/6	29	9/7	13/8	98	Resident in grassland	grasses
Ringlet	17/6	13	16/7	24/7	31	Resident in damper grassland	grasses

<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	x	<b>6</b>
Large skipper			x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x		<b>8</b>
Brimstone														x		<b>1</b>
Large white							x									<b>1</b>
Small white	x				x			x			x	x				<b>5</b>
Green-veined white		x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	<b>10</b>
Whites	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>15</b>
Orange tip		x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		<b>10</b>
Small copper												x	x	x		<b>3</b>
Brown argus												x				<b>1</b>
Common blue												x	x	x	x	<b>4</b>
Holly blue					x		x									<b>2</b>
Red admiral					x		x		x							<b>3</b>
Painted lady															x	<b>1</b>
Small tortoiseshell		x			x											<b>2</b>
Peacock		x			x			x	x		x		x			<b>6</b>
Comma					x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	<b>8</b>
Speckled wood	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>14</b>
Gatekeeper		x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>12</b>
Meadow brown		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<b>14</b>
Ringlet			x	x			x	x			x	x	x	x	x	<b>9</b>
Species per section	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	

## **Long Meadow Butterflies 2014**

### **Summary and Management Plans**

The 2013/14 winter was milder and wetter than the 2012/13 winter and spring this year was a more normal variable one. 2014 gave us a hot July, a cooler and wetter August and a warmer September than in 2013. These weather variables would have affected emergence dates, numbers of butterflies and their distributions within the meadow.

This year many species were seen in lower numbers, some emerged slightly earlier such as the skippers and for others such as the holly blue we did not see any from the spring generation while for brimstone we did not see any from the summer generation.

Whites were plentiful even if not always possible to identify to species level as they flew quickly by. Very few perched so we recorded 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.

The distribution of most species within the meadow was much as in 2013 although holly blue was less widespread but ringlet more widespread.

The most butterfly rich areas were sections 5, 7, 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.

Some 5-10 years of data will be required to be confident of any meaningful changes in numbers, flight periods and distributions.

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.