

FRYENT COUNTRY PARK AND BEANE HILL BUTTERFLY SUMMARY 2019

Twenty-four species of butterflies were recorded at Fryent Country Park during 2019 assuming that the similar looking Essex Skipper and Small Skipper were both present. Away from the transects the Brown Hairstreak, a new species to the Park, was discovered by Butterfly Conservation as two eggs on New Year's Day 2019. That find was a considerable distance into London from the previously known sites of this uncommon and elusive species. Eggs are laid on Blackthorn with a preference for young growth, for example the one-to-three year growth that follows scalloping. More eggs were found during the autumn of 2019.

A Purple Hairstreak was observed in July. In September a Clouded Yellow was seen flying across Pages field. The Ringlet was recorded along the transect sections on the east ('Kingsbury') side of the Park, particularly along the wide paths of the Great Cowlays woodland. In contrast the Marbled White, which has also established a population at the Park during recent years, prefers meadows and hedgerow edges. Numbers were higher in Pages, Goldringe and Homefield, possibly benefitting from the scallops created in hedgerows.

The butterfly transect team