

FRYENT COUNTRY PARK AND BEANE HILL BUTTERFLY SUMMARY 2021

Eighteen species of butterflies were recorded on the monitored transects at Fryent Country during 2021. Several species were present only in relatively low numbers. Only one Large Skipper was recorded, which like the two other species of Skippers in Brent, is dependent on rough grassland. The Gatekeeper had lower numbers than during recent years.

The Meadow Brown was numerically the most common species, though on the more wooded Beane Hill transect the Speckled Wood had the highest count. Two species that have established during recent years were the Marbled White on the main transect and the Ringlet which was more frequent on the wooded paths of Beane Hill.

On 14th August an adult Brown Hairstreak was found in a glade at Cowlays, being the first adult Brown Hairstreak to have been recorded at the Country Park. This species has only in recent years started to spread into some parts of London. In addition to being uncommon the adults are elusive; and the species is only previously known from the Park due to winter searches for the pin-head sized eggs found, with difficulty, on Sloe which is the larval foodplant.

The other species recorded on the transects were Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma.

Monitoring is during the months of April to September and involves a walk along two transect routes, along which the butterflies are recorded. Walks are weekly but as part of a rota, so recorders take a turn every few weeks. Briefing is provided for new walkers and that includes of the transect walk method that is used nationally. In July the Big City Butterflies team from Butterfly Conservation led a guided walk.

The results have been entered into the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme where those are shared as part of a national database while also being shared with the London Natural History Society, Greenspace Information for Greater London, and Hertfordshire and Middlesex Butterfly Conservation.

The butterfly transect team