

## Re: Hoggers

by Hoggers, 13-Apr-19 01:58 PM GMT

Hello again !

My 2019 Small Copper season began today with three at Dungeness.

I hadn't expected to see any because it was rather cold and dull when I set out this morning, so I didn't take my camera, but by the time I'd got there it was sunny enough to get the Coppers going despite a chilly breeze.

I managed to take a quick snap of one using my mobile phone



I bumped into one of the reserve wardens a fortnight ago and he said the odd one or two Coppers had been seen mid-March.

Great to see them again and a good start to the season!



Best wishes

Hoggers

## Re: Hoggers

by Allan.W., 13-Apr-19 05:16 PM GMT

Well done Hoggers (and welcome back !) we were at Dungeness as well ,late morning ,but must admit ,didn,t even attempt to look for any Coppers .....too blooming cold !!

there for the plants this time . I spoke to Dave Walker ,and he never mentioned any Coppers yet . see you there sometime . !

Regards Allan.W.

## Re: Hoggers

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-19 06:14 PM GMT

Welcome back Hoggers 😊 A great start to the season that 😊 I don't think I've seen one that is so orange looking 😊😊🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Hoggers

by millerd, 13-Apr-19 11:49 PM GMT

Glad to see the Copper season has begun at Dungeness, as is fitting of course... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

### Re: Hoggers

by David M, 14-Apr-19 04:25 PM GMT

Good to see you back, Hoggers, along with the first of what I'm sure will be many Small Coppers at Dungeness.

### Re: Hoggers

by Hoggers, 19-Apr-19 04:37 PM GMT

The first brood of Small Coppers is well and truly out at Dungeness



I had the distinct feeling they were emerging around me



Certainly, they were getting straight down to business



(And I was lucky enough to later find a second mating pair out on the shingle.)

It is so good to see them again



And good to see AllanW down there too after the long Winter hibernation



I counted 42 Coppers



My Odd Copper of the Day was this chap



I've never seen one like him before



Gorgeous weather, butterflying in T-shirt and Sun Hat and fresh Small Coppers everywhere -



It doesn't get any better!

Best wishes

Hoggers

### Re: Hoggers

by Allan.W., 19-Apr-19 05:42 PM GMT

Hello again Hoggers ,

Good to catch up again at Dungeness, I have done a short report ,but somehow managed to put it on David M's Diary ! trying to get it moved.

As I said we managed 43 Small Coppers ,some absolute beauties including one blue spot . Must say I,ve not seen a Copper marked quite like that one either .....nice find !

Later on the RSPB Reserve ,we found 8 which included a stunning female "Radiata" ,was hoping it was going to be a male (with a chance that it may have a territory ) but no such luck ! and we lost it ,and no pics !! Regards Allan.W.

### Re: Hoggers

by Hoggers, 19-Apr-19 06:37 PM GMT

AllanW wrote[quote]I have done a short report but somehow managed to put it on DavidM's diary!

Allan, you didn't stop off at "The Pilot" to celebrate your radiata by any chance, did you?

Hoggers

### Re: Hoggers

by ernie f, 20-Apr-19 07:24 AM GMT

Hoggers

I have only see one Small Copper so far this year and considered myself lucky when I did! And there you are with 43, a mating pair and a Radiata. Wow!

But of course thats a typical Coppering day for you I suppose.

### Re: Hoggers

by Wurzel, 20-Apr-19 06:38 PM GMT

Like Ernie I've only had one Small Copper so 42 😊😊 Your odd one for the day is really odd 😊 diagonally asymmetric isn't something that I've seen before - I've seen butterflies with a smaller or larger fore wing but generally only one wing is affected but that is really unusual 😊😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Hoggers

by David M, 21-Apr-19 08:09 AM GMT

43 Small Coppers! What a joy. I can't imagine seeing that many. I dread to think how high numbers will get by midweek with this balmy weather.

Could you hit three figures before April is out, Hoggers?

### Re: Hoggers

by Hoggers, 02-May-19 07:30 PM GMT

There was a real mix of weather at Dungeness today : One minute it was dull and chilly, then the next it was very warm and sunny.

I had left Pip, my irrepressible Springer Spaniel, at home with his mum and so I could concentrate on Small Coppers rather than trying to keep track of him!

And Coppers there were a-plenty



I counted 211 in all





I also saw my first Brown Argus



And came across a handsome beetle that I think maybe another *Hister quadrimaculata*



It's great to see such a healthy and thriving first brood of Coppers







### Re: Hoggers

by Wurzel, 03-May-19 09:18 AM GMT

Lovely set of Coppers Hoggers – especially the Blue Badgers and a mighty impressive count! 🤩👁️🌍 Brilliant action shot of the beetle 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Hoggers

by David M, 03-May-19 03:12 PM GMT

#### Hoggers wrote:

There was a real mix of weather at Dungeness today...I counted 211 in all

Mightily impressive, Hoggers, and as ever there are some beautiful individuals in your gallery.

What is your record count for the first brood?

### Re: Hoggers

by essexbuzzard, 03-May-19 10:05 PM GMT

211? That's amazing, Hoggers!

### Re: Hoggers

by Goldie M, 04-May-19 09:02 AM GMT

Always happy to see your Copper's Hogger's 🌍🌍 Goldie 😊

### Re: Hoggers

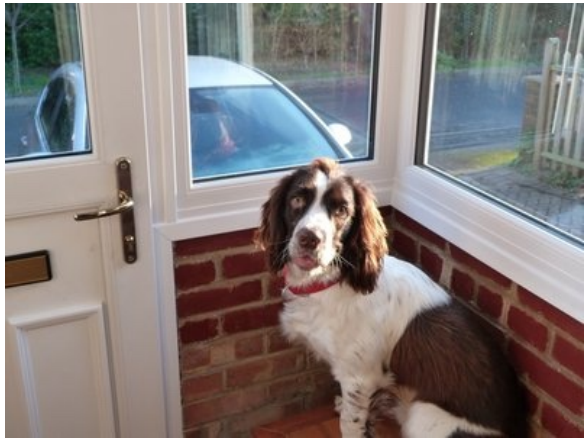
by Hoggers, 04-May-19 04:16 PM GMT

Hello and many thanks for your kind comments.

211 is very high day count for the first brood – I had to cover a lot of ground to reach it!

I've looked back at my notebooks and I've certainly never seen more first brood Coppers in a day since 2012. I've a sneaking suspicion that 2010 was better but since I moved home 18 months ago I haven't been able to find my 2010 notebook : I will let you know when ( if ! ) I find it!

Something told me that Pip wasn't going to be left behind today



Dungeness is a sea of Sorrel



The tasty fresh leaves poking up through a cake of lichen.

But my goodness it was cold there today! Bright sunshine (mostly) but a strong chilly wind blowing. It felt like a bright winter's day.

And the Coppers were understandably less conspicuous than on thursday last



I put Pip to work sniffing them out



And we managed to count 63 during our walk



My favourite was this handsomely marked fellow



No rare beetles today but when you've got Small Coppers it's always a superb day





### Re: Hoggers

by ernie f, 04-May-19 09:48 PM GMT

Hoggers – Of course we don't get nearly as many Small Coppers where I live but even here there is a noticeable improvement in first brood numbers over recent years.

### Re: Hoggers

by David M, 05-May-19 01:03 PM GMT

[quote]...And we managed to count 63 during our walk

That's still a formidable total, Hoggers, and yes, looking at her face, I can see there was no way you could have left Pip home that morning! 😊