

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 18-Feb-14 03:51 PM GMT

First butterfly of the year! A speckled wood flying round the side of our house in Portishead, North Somerset. Temperature was 10 degrees.

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 09-Apr-14 05:40 PM GMT

Quick visit to Walton Common this morning. Several Brimstones seen, also two Peacocks and my first Green Hairstreak of the year!

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 11-Apr-14 05:15 PM GMT

For the first time this year there were butterflies out in force in the local hedgerows. On a short walk we saw 5 Brimstones, 5 Peacocks 3 Speckled Woods 2 Orange Tips and one each of Small Tortoiseshell and Green Veined White.

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 15-Apr-14 04:40 PM GMT

Returned to Walton Common today, similar cast of butterflies although Green Haistreak numbers have multiplied with 20+ seen. Other species included Orange Tip, Peacock, Brimstone, Speckled Wood and Green Veined White.



Re: Web4160

by web4160, 16-Apr-14 07:50 PM GMT

Such are the vagaries of looking for butterflies. On a trip to Taunton we called in at the reserve at Thornbear Quarrylands seeing a total of 5 butterflies, 2 Brimstone, 2 Peacock and a single Orange Tip. On returning to Portishead we went for a walk of about 1/4 mile next to the disused railway line to the town. On this walk we saw 30+ butterflies made up of 20 or so Speckled Wood, 5 Peacock, 2 Holly Blue, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma and assorted whites



Peacock, Portishead



Speckled Wood, Portishead



Comma, Portishead



Small Tortoiseshell, Portishead

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 02-May-14 10:44 PM GMT

Visited Gait Barrows in the Morecambe Bay area of Lancashire to look for Duke of Burgundy. 4 different individuals were seen over the course of about an hour. Other butterflies included 20+ Speckled Wood, 5 Brimstone, 2 Peacock, a Green Haistreak and a Green Veined White



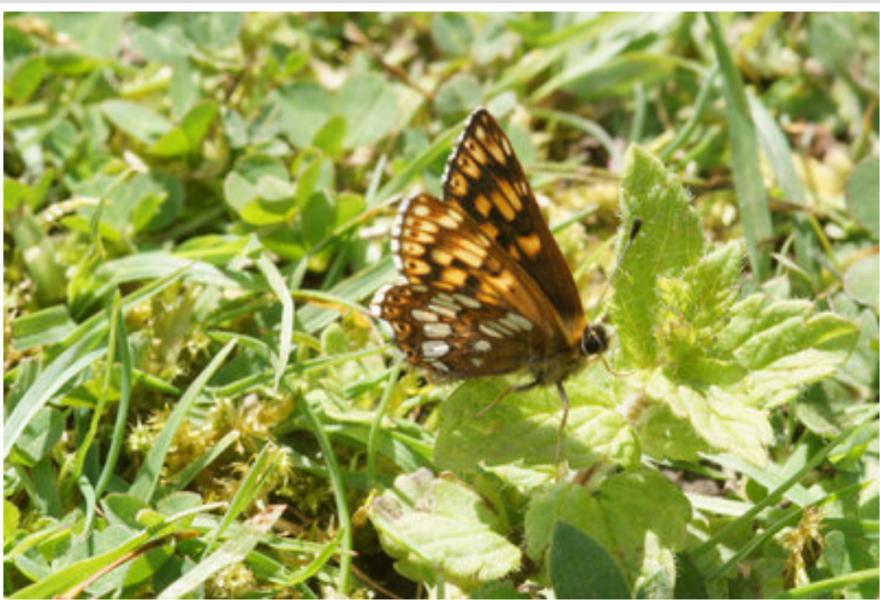
Duke of Burgundy



Male and Female Brimstones. The Male was very keen to mate but the female didn't want to know.



Brimstone



Duke of Burgundy



Duke of Burgundy

Re: Web4160

by maverick, 03-May-14 08:34 PM GMT

Well done on your duke , ive only been to Gait burows once this year mainly to find out where and whats it like there
I will be back soon
well done again

Re: Web4160

by David M, 03-May-14 10:57 PM GMT

Great to see Dukes so far north.

Is this the highest latitude where they can be seen?

Re: Web4160

by Wurzel, 04-May-14 10:00 PM GMT

I agree with David – good to see a Northern Duke 😊 I'm impressed by the number of Specklies as well as they seem to be quite sparse in my neck of the woods at the moment.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 05-May-14 04:40 PM GMT

I've been visiting Gait Barrows for about the last five years and its one of my favourite sites. Always very peaceful and easily linked with a visit to Arnside Knott which is about 5 miles away. Four is the most Duke's I have seen on a single visit. Not sure if its the furthest North in the UK you can find Dukes. There are also some sights in North Yorkshire near the coast which must be at a similar latitude.

I've probably seen more Speckled Wood this year than any other species. We divide our time between Lancashire and Nort Somerset and I actually saw my first one of the year in North Somerset on 18 February.

David

Re: Web4160

by Neil Freeman, 05-May-14 07:37 PM GMT

I have been up to Arnside the past couple of years for Scotch Argus late July/early August but didn't realise Gait Barrows was that close.

I will be up there again this year, earlier this time, second week in June. I am guessing that the Duke of Burgundies will have finished at Gait Barrows by then.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 06-May-14 06:34 PM GMT

Yes normmally the Dukes are finished by the end of May. Should still be Dark Green and High Brown Fritillaries at both sites in late July as well as Northern Brown Argus.

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 14-May-14 09:27 PM GMT

Returned to Walton Common to look for Grizzled Skippers but failed to find any. The number of Brimstones had increased markedly from our last visit and I stopped counting at 70+. What was interesting is that on the northern part of the site all the Brimstones seen were females whilst on the southern side nearly all those seen were males. Other butterflies seen were Green Haistreaks 10, Speckled Wood 5, and singles of Orange Tip, Green Vined White, Small White and Holly Blue.

Hoping to visit Sand Point near Weston Super Mare tomorrow to see if the Glanville's are out yet.



Green Hairstreak



Brimstone



Brimstone

Re: Web4160

by David M, 14-May-14 10:08 PM GMT

"web4160" wrote:

The number of Brimstones had increased markedly from our last visit and I stopped counting at 70+

Amazing tally!! Spring Brimstones are rarely seen in such density – even the summer brood usually only appears in concentrations lower than 30.

Hoping to visit Sand Point near Weston Super Mare tomorrow to see if the Granville's are out yet.

Two things:

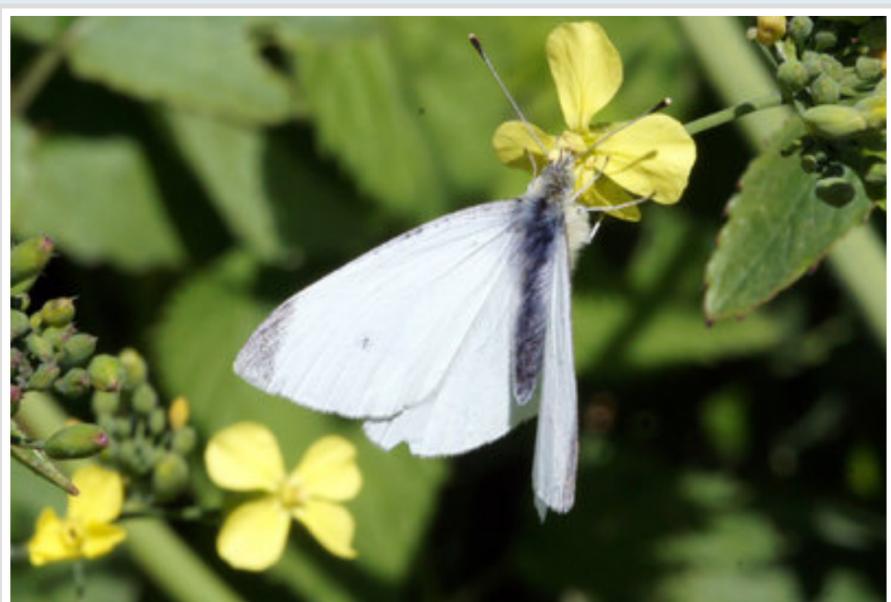
1. I think Glanvilles died a death at Sand Point last year due to the abnormally cold spring. Bill (Willrow) and I visited independently on warm days in peak flight season and failed to find any.
2. The Somerset and Bristol BC Branch has yet to report a Glanville this spring, and given that Sand Point is the only place where this species has been recorded I think it's safe to say you'll almost certainly draw a blank (I hope I'm wrong – good luck if you decide to travel).

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 15-May-14 02:48 PM GMT

We did get to Sand Point today. The weather was glorious 21 degrees. No Glanvilles but did see 2 Wall and 2 Brown Argus as well as 20+ Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Large and Small White.

The area where I have seen Granvilles previously looks in better condition than in previous years. The Somerset and Bristol Butterfly Conservation website lists the first sighting last year as 6 June so probably too early for this year if they are still there.



Small White



Speckled Wood



Brown Argus



Common Blue

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 07-Jun-14 11:29 AM GMT

Visited arnside Knott for the first time this year yesterday. Very different from how it will be in about a month's time when there should be large fritillaries and grayling everywhere. Yesterday despite it being sunny and warm we only saw a total of about 15 butterflies. Small Heath and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries were the most common with 5 of each seen. Other butterflies seen were Large Whites and a solitary and very fresh Speckled Wood.



Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary - Arnside Knott



Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary - Arnside Knott



Re: Web4160

by web4160, 21-Jul-14 09:33 PM GMT

Visited Walton Common for the first time in a month yesterday. The marjoram is now out over a large part of the common.

13 species of butterflies seen in total, Speckled Wood, Small Heath, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Brimstone, Green Veined White, Silver Washed and Dark Green Fritillary, Large and Small Skippers and Marbled White. The most common being Gatekeeper with Silver Washed Fritillary, and newly emerged Peacock and Brimstone providing the next largest numbers to be seen.





Re: Web4160

by web4160, 10-Aug-14 04:15 PM GMT

Made it back to Arnside Knott yesterday before the rain set in. Still a good number of Scotch Argus to be seen although few other butterflies about with small numbers only of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small White as well as a solitary Grayling and a male Brimstone.



Grayling - Arnside Knott



Scotch Argus - Arnside Knott

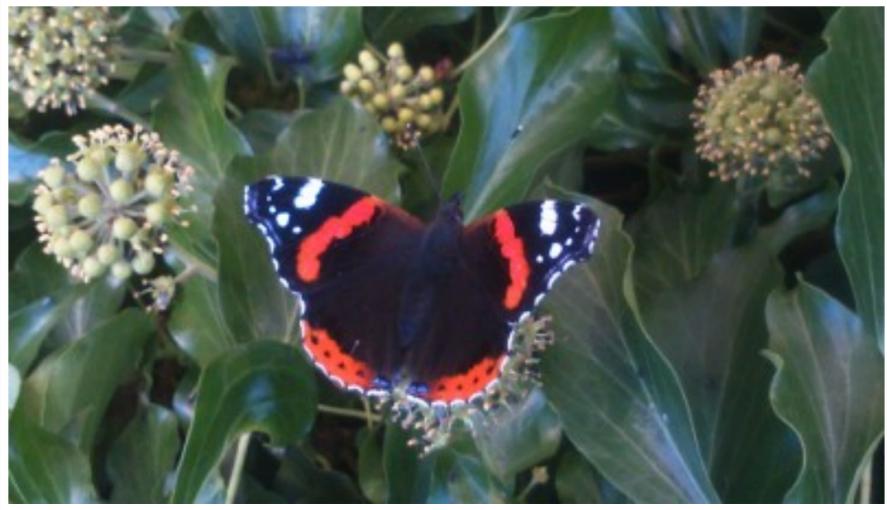


Scotch Argus - Arnside Knott

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 16-Oct-14 07:02 PM GMT

Still some butterflies about even in the North. Parked in Haworth and found a Red Admiral and a Comma on an Ivy Bush. Still there when we returned after an hour. The photos were taken on my camera phone.



Red Admiral, Howarth, West Yorkshire



Comma, Howarth, West Yorkshire

Re: Web4160

by David M, 16-Oct-14 09:57 PM GMT

No surprise that both were seen on ivy.

This plant is a godsend for butterflies during October and early November.

Re: Web4160

by Wurzel, 16-Oct-14 10:53 PM GMT

That's cracking news Web4160 😊 I haven't seen a butterfly for a week down here 🇬🇧 so it's good to now that the season is still limping on elsewhere 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Web4160

by web4160, 17-Oct-14 07:51 PM GMT

Even warmer up here today 17 degrees. Unfortunately I had to go to Liverpool today for work so no chance of looking for butterflies.