

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 29-Apr-16 09:44 PM GMT

Thanks everyone, it's amazing to find what strays into the garden. I'm right on the edge of Brighton with the South Downs beginning very nearby and with some great sites like Hollingbury Park.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 29-Apr-16 10:55 PM GMT

[White-letter Hairstreak 2016 \(Site 1\)](#)

Huntingdon Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica* 'Vegeta')
Host to White-letter Hairstreak ?

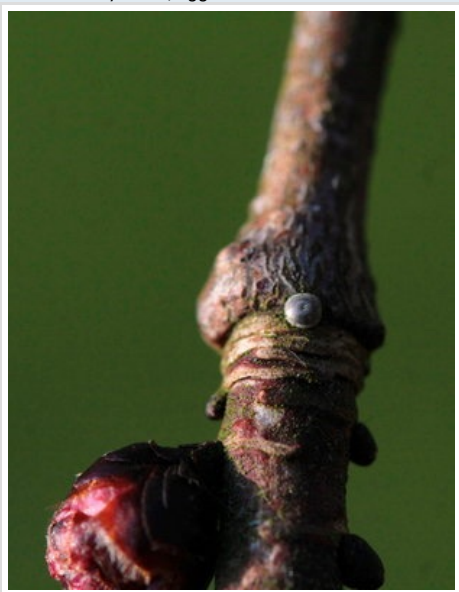


After repeated attempts during summer 2015, searching for an active White-letter Hairstreak colony using this species of elm failed.

February 2016: I began searching for other evidence that a colony was present, now looking for the egg stage. Locating them would be a problem for me, as various online sources and images suggested a variety of egg laying positions. I would have to find some myself and learn along the way, that's what I was hoping, did I ? The photos below ruin the answer!

25th February 2016: "On Thursday I continued my search for White-letter Hairstreak eggs, after repeated failure I was amazed to find a single egg within 5 minutes of searching. Located on a roadside Huntingdon elm (*Ulmus x hollandica* 'Vegeta'). The egg was laid at a height of 5'3½" from the ground, positioned on the south facing portion of the tree. What a way to start the season!"

25th February 2016, Egg 1:

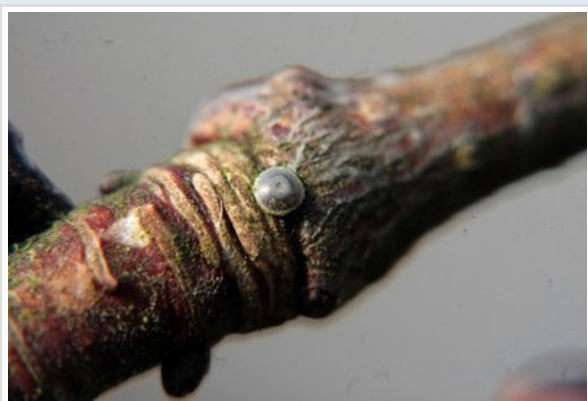


I returned the following day to take more photos.

26th February 2016, Egg 1:
Location of egg highlighted within white circle -



Various angles and magnifications of the same egg:



More to follow soon.....

Re: Jamie Burston

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-16 10:17 AM GMT

I've yet to see a White LH Jamie, so I hope you get to see the egg's when they finally turn into Cat's etc,
I keep looking for them every year with no luck, hope fully this year I'll be lucky. I'll be following your posts with interest 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Apr-16 05:13 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

I've yet to see a White LH Jamie, so I hope you get to see the egg's when they finally turn into Cat's etc,
I keep looking for them every year with no luck, hope fully this year I'll be lucky. I'll be following your posts with interest 😊
Goldie 😊

Hi Goldie, Thank you for your warm wishes, I have to admit that I have now seen a White-letter Hairstreak caterpillar.
Is it an adult White-letter Hairstreak you haven't seen? Some distance but as White-letter Hairstreak species champion for the Sussex branch of Butterfly Conservation I'm doing a guided walk this year in Brighton. Just wanted to let you know just in case you want to consider it.

Here are the details of my White-letter Hairstreak walk - <http://butterfly-conservation.org/244-11436/sussex-hello-to-the-hairstreak.html>

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Apr-16 06:31 PM GMT

Continued.....

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 1)

3rd March 2016:

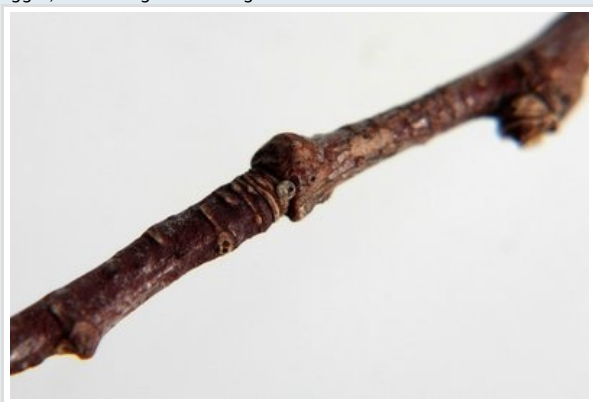
I returned to the same site, at the time I was inspired by Pauline to look for and save any possible eggs on fallen twigs.

I noted the following for that day:

Huntington elm (*Ulmus x hollandica 'Vegeta'*) - part of a twig was found on the ground as caused by yesterdays strong winds/storm (2nd March). Note how the egg (below) has been laid on the scar between this and last years growth. Old growth is of a brown colouration, meeting this years growth, a dark red colour in comparison. The Scar and egg sits 7.5 cm back from the very tip of the twig (perhaps an average for this species of elm, based on yearly growth). The egg measures 1mm in diameter. I can only hope the caterpillar hatched and moved onto a different branch with opening flower buds. The egg case looks more like it's been cracked open by impact when it fell rather than the actual caterpillar emerging, however the latter might of been the case beforehand, hopefully!

Photos of this egg found on the fallen twig are picture below, now named "Egg 2".

Egg 2, illustrating various angles:





To be continued

Re: Jamie Burston

by Pete Eeles, 30-Apr-16 09:00 PM GMT

Excellent field observations, Jamie, as ever. Keep up the good work and I look forward to hearing more! Most of us live in a White-letter Hairstreak-free zone, so your postings are of particular interest.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Apr-16 10:38 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

Excellent field observations, Jamie, as ever. Keep up the good work and I look forward to hearing more! Most of us live in a

White-letter Hairstreak-free zone, so your postings are of particular interest.

Cheers,

- Pete

Thank you very much Pete, most appreciated! As long as I can find them I'll keep posting about them 😊
All the best,
Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-16 11:04 PM GMT

Hi! Jamie, I find your posts very interesting, it's the Butterfly it's self I've not seen 😞 we do have WLH's here in the North and I look each year on the Lanc's Conservation sighting's and travel to where they've been seen but they've still eluded me 😊 Next time I go to Gait Barrow I'm hoping the ranger will be there so I can ask him where to locate them, may be I'll be lucky this time 😊
I'd love to join your tour to look for them Jamie unfortunately I'm down near Brighton in early June and hoping to return in August for a couple of days to find the Brown HS, another BF I've not seen yet, in fact the only HS I've seen is the Green HS so you can understand my interest in them. Goldie 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 02-May-16 04:19 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Jamie, I find your posts very interesting, it's the Butterfly it's self I've not seen 😞 we do have WLH's here in the North and I look each year on the Lanc's Conservation sighting's and travel to where they've been seen but they've still eluded me 😊 Next time I go to Gait Barrow I'm hoping the ranger will be there so I can ask him where to locate them, may be I'll be lucky this time 😊
I'd love to join your tour to look for them Jamie unfortunately I'm down near Brighton in early June and hoping to return in August for a couple of days to find the Brown HS, another BF I've not seen yet, in fact the only HS I've seen is the Green HS so you can understand my interest in them. Goldie 😊

Hi Goldie, Thank you very much 😊 I wish you all the best, I really hope you see some White-letter Hairstreaks this year. If you send me a PM when your visiting Brighton or come this way during June and August, I'll let you know if White-letter Hairstreak and Purple Hairstreak are about, if some have emerged early or still hanging on at the end of their flight period I would be happy to help you see them.
All the best, Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 02-May-16 05:04 PM GMT

Continued.....

[White-letter Hairstreak 2016 \(Site 1\)](#)

6th March 2016: "Egg 1" Revisited.

10 day after first discovering the egg.





The flowers remained largely dormant until the 11th March 2016, upon which they began the process of opening:
Both female and male reproductive parts visible -



Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 09-May-16 03:32 PM GMT

Continued.....

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 1)

22th March 2016: "Egg 1" Revisited.

What I began to realise is that whilst you observe the egg, your also taking in information about the development and reproductive order of the Elm tree (Huntingdon Elm) at the same time.

Elm flowers:

The stamens continued to develop, the anthers began to darken from a rich pink colour to a dark pinkish-brown, from what I can tell the connectives began to open and peel apart revealing the white/light cream coloured pollen grains (male). I became all to aware of the pollen as I brushed past some flowers and the pollen exploded everywhere (well not everywhere, just onto me).

Huntingdon Elm flowers, open showing pollen:



The female part of the flower is the style, elm has great style. In the picture above their development is behind that of the male, with the stigmas only just visible, the style is a rich pink coloured structure covered in light pink "hairs". Female parts include the stigma, style and ovary.

In the photo above, pollen (male) can be seen covering the stigma and outer surface of the style ("stigmatic surface"), having connecting "hairs" allows a greater chance for the female to collect pollen and fall pregnant, later producing seeds. The pollen is taken in and diverted to the ovary, where the ovary produces fruit and the attaching ovules produce the seeds.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 09-May-16 03:56 PM GMT

Continued.....

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 1)

25th March 2016: "Egg 1" Revisited.

The completely blurred elm flowers make for a soft and beautiful background:



Styles (female) were showing well, when I studied the flowers.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 09-May-16 04:25 PM GMT

Continued.....

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 1)

26th March 2016: "Egg 1" Revisited.

Had enough of the egg? Well so did the caterpillar inside



Success? It hatched!

However..... the weather!

That same day (26 March) I found the hatched egg, I witnessed bad weather, very strong winds and rain was produced as part of another storm system! I thought, "It's not sensible for the caterpillar to have emerged in this awful weather, being so small it has no chance" Hopefully it hatched after my previous visit (25 March) when calm and pleasant weather was noted. I can't be sure if it hatched evening of 25 March or morning of 26 March!

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 11-May-16 06:03 PM GMT

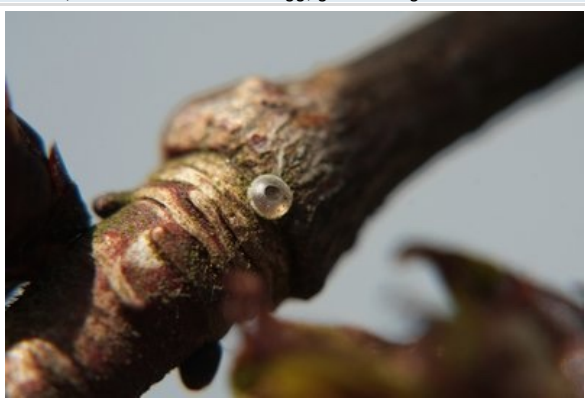
"Egg 1" Conclusion

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 1)

30th March 2016: "Egg 1" Revisited.

On a visit four day after it's apparent emergence I search for the caterpillar and any signs that it had burrowed into the flower buds. I sadly failed to find any signs of it's presence. Whilst at the tree I did take another photo of the egg, upon emergence the area surrounding the micropyle, visibly a clouded white area, also breaks away when the caterpillar hatches.

Hatched, White-letter Hairstreak egg, greater magnification:



Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 11-May-16 06:49 PM GMT

Finding "Egg 2"

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 2)

8th March 2016: "Egg 2"

Searching at a second site I came across another egg, this was the result of searching multiple Elm trees.

Egg 2:



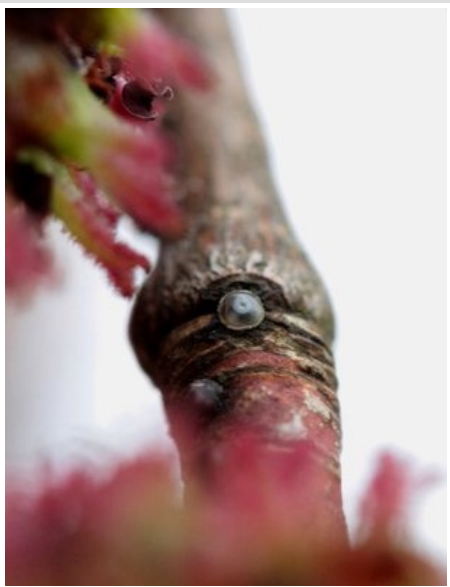
Like the first egg, this was laid on the scar, between growth.

15th March 2016: "Egg 2" Revisited -



A week later the development of the flowers became obvious.

26th March 2016: "Egg 2" Revisited -



Looking closer you can make out the cell like structure that lines the bottom surface of the egg.

28/29th March 2016: "Egg 2" Revisited -



Looking closer you can make out the structures (cloudy white tufts) that speckle the outer surface of the egg.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-May-16 08:46 PM GMT

These really are fantastic wild observations Jamie! Your dedication is really paying off. Hopefully it will be another great year for the White-letter Hairstreaks.

Best regards

James

Re: Jamie Burston

by David M, 11-May-16 10:41 PM GMT

Agreed. Your devotion to all things 'Hairstreak' is admirable, Jamie. I look forward to further instalments.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-May-16 05:35 PM GMT

Butterflysaurus rex wrote:

These really are fantastic wild observations Jamie! Your dedication is really paying off. Hopefully it will be another great year for the White-letter Hairstreaks.

Best regards

James

Thank you very much James! Just for clarification for anyone visiting my personal diary, these White-letter Hairstreak observations are taken completely in the wild, although it feels odd saying that as the trees are located in residential areas. Much appreciated, thank you James for the very kind comments. I really hope so, it would be great if at some point during their flight period we could meet up. I'll email you very soon 😊
All the best, Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-May-16 05:41 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Agreed. Your devotion to all things 'Hairstreak' is admirable, Jamie. I look forward to further instalments.

Thank you David, much appreciated! It seems the Hairstreaks are very much in control of what I do these days! I wouldn't have it any other way, I'm learning so much. I promise that future posts regarding the White-letter Hairstreak should be very exciting/interesting! Sadly the next installment won't be of good news.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-May-16 05:56 PM GMT

["Egg 2" Follow-up](#)

White-letter Hairstreak 2016 (Site 2)

"Egg 2": The following days after 28/29 March 2016 I saw a difference in the appearance of "Egg 2". Noting one evening that the egg appeared dark in colouration, the following morning I returned and the egg appeared OK, but slightly different. However after repeated visits and looking today (12 May 2016) it has been concluded that the egg failed, the cause is most likely down to disease based on the poor weather it was put up against. Although I didn't have my camera today I will return to capture what it looks like, just to cover every eventuality. Far from healthy it appears a clouded grey colour, losing most of it's sheen, presenting an overall dull appearance.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Goldie M, 13-May-16 09:06 AM GMT

Hi! Jamie, hope the egg's okay 😊 I'll be down there from the 10th of June to the 17th which I think may be too soon for WLH's, I could be back there in August though looking for Brown HS's so I'll certainly send you a post, I'm hoping to pin WLH down here so I can track them each year with out having to travel miles to Photograph them, Goldie 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-Jun-16 12:59 PM GMT

Some of my more interesting observations from May/June:

Male Wood White and Egg photographed the day I met up with Pauline:



Female Speckled Wood, playing dead:



Amazing to watch her tip onto her side and remain motionless for a minute or so.

A special kind of Blue:



I did my research, using this wonderful site to conclude that this Small Blue was *ab. latecaerulea*.

Contacting Mark Colvin for a second and better opinion he replied:

"That's a beautiful Small Blue. I think you are correct with *ab. latecaerulea* (Verity, 1943). The only other named possibility that I know of, and I can't find any images to confirm one way or the other, is *ab. caerulescens* (Tutt, 1908); the description for this *ab.* purely reads "pale blue scaling on the upperside", but not to what extent. I would personally describe yours as: referable to *ab. latecaerulea* (Verity, 1943)."

The lovely thing about this sighting is that the site is clearly visible from my front door.

All the best,
Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Maximus, 12-Jun-16 08:17 PM GMT

Nice Small Blue ab, Jamie 😊 but it's your reports and images of White-letter Hairstreak eggs that are outstanding 😊

Mike

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 15-Jun-16 09:23 PM GMT

Maximus wrote:

Nice Small Blue ab, Jamie 😊 but it's your reports and images of White-letter Hairstreak eggs that are outstanding 😊

Mike

Thank you very much Mike, I appreciated the really kind comments you've made! 😊😊😊
All the best, Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 17-Jun-16 11:19 AM GMT

White-letter Hairstreak, Eggs resumed:

1 May 2016, Site 3 (new):

"I couldn't resist searching for eggs, these remain on the tree long after the caterpillar emerges. Indeed I did find one hatched White-letter Hairstreak egg, located approximately on the NWbW facing portion of the tree, a very different location on the tree compared to Sites 1 and 2. All elm varieties vary and this tree was behind others, still producing flowers."

Hatched Egg:



Not only was the egg facing NWbW but the position of where it was laid was different. Rather than being on the scar of growth it was positioned on the actual bud (scales). Perhaps due to it being NWbW facing, it was positioned like so on the bud, to benefit the caterpillar, away from flowers allowing as much warmth and sun to reach it – (that's if the caterpillars need warmth and sun to kick start the process of emergence).

Tree (unidentified species of elm) still in flower:



My next post on White-letter Hairstreak Eggs will be the last in this series.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 10-Jul-16 04:57 PM GMT

2016: Adult White-letter Hairstreaks, sightings

On the 4th July I was contacted by my friend, saying they had a White-letter Hairstreak in their front garden, taking around 6 minutes to get to my friends house I thought I was in with a good chance of seeing it, on my arrival I was shown the individual. Finding a male settled on Ox-eye daisy (photo), no doubt low down to shelter from the strong wind.



On the 5th and 6th July I began surveying for new White-letter Hairstreak colonies, looking around the canopy of various Elms around Hollingbury, Brighton. Across these two days I saw a minimum of 27 White-letter Hairstreaks, across 18 different elm trees, this including Huntingdon, Wheatley and Golden Elm. Of the 18 elm trees I searched 11 of them are new colonies/ tree being used, adding to those I found last year. Reassuringly I saw 3 White-letter Hairstreaks at Hollingbury park, taking position on a smaller Walnut tree (photo) within one of the scalloped bays, their typical hotspot. Observing them was a challenge and they would only reveal their presences when there was a brief letup in the strong breeze.



The strong breeze continued yesterday on the 9th July at Hollingbury Park, proving challenging for seeing White-letter Hairstreaks on my joint lead Sussex BC walk, with Carole Mortimer (former species champion). We saw brief glimpses in the canopy but it was really only when I saw 2 males seemingly irritating each other into flight, as they moved around an Ash tree that I could be certain that we had seen them. Using the most sheltered side of the wood at the edge of a glade, clearly trying to make the most of this horrendous weather, and there is more of it to come.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 10-Jul-16 05:12 PM GMT

Purple Hairstreak in Brighton not good, I just hope the weather is masking a descent emergence, none seen yet!

Re: Jamie Burston

by Paul Harfield, 11-Jul-16 12:01 AM GMT

Jamie Burston wrote:

The strong breeze continued yesterday on the 9th July at Hollingbury Park, proving challenging for seeing White-letter Hairstreaks on my joint lead Sussex BC walk, with Carole Mortimer (former species champion). We saw brief glimpses in the canopy but it was really only when I saw 2 males seemingly irritating each other into flight, as they moved around an Ash tree that I could be certain that we had seen them. Using the most sheltered side of the wood at the edge of a glade, clearly trying to make the most of this horrendous weather, and there is more of it to come.

Hi Jamie

Like you say this windy, dull weather is highly frustrating when it comes to looking for Hairstreaks in new locations. Even in known locations they are proving to difficult to find. Hopefully things will change soon.

Great news on finding new colonies, well done 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-Jul-16 10:10 PM GMT

jackz432r wrote:

Hi Jamie

Like you say this windy, dull weather is highly frustrating when it comes to looking for Hairstreaks in new locations. Even in known locations they are proving to difficult to find. Hopefully things will change soon.

Great news on finding new colonies, well done 😊

Hi Paul,

There is meant to be some reasonably good weather mixed into the next seven days, hopefully it remains true. I hope you get to see White-letter Hairstreaks at your locations soon 😊 Thank you very much! 😊 It was hard but perseverance payed off, or should I say when the wind died off!

All the best,
Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-Jul-16 10:38 PM GMT

12 July 2016:

Copied directly from my report sent into Sussex BC sightings page:

"I thought it would be hard to beat my observations of White-letter Hairstreak this year, especially due to the weather. I was most certainly wrong!!! Around midday I was up by my favourite residential elm tree, here in Hollingbury, a return visit with the aim of seeing males dog fighting in the canopy, in the morning I counted four together in flight. On this visit during a lull in activity I saw a dead leaf floating slowly down from the canopy, only by the time it reached half way did I realise it was something remarkable! This "dead leaf" drifted into the middle of the road where it settled. Right before me I was looking at a mating pair of White-letter Hairstreaks, in the middle of the road! Male left, female right, look at the size of her abdomen! After taking a few very risky photos, myself sat in the road, I gently moved the couple to a far better place, the shelter of a low growing branch, here they stayed until separation. I will include further information and photos in an article/ piece I'll write for the website after their flight period. I'm one very happy chap, my poor parents having to put up with the madness of my excitement once I got home."



Re: Jamie Burston

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-16 11:00 PM GMT

That's a fantastic photo Jamie, I wish I could see some around here, Goldie 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-Jul-16 11:15 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

That's a fantastic photo Jamie, I wish I could see some around here, Goldie 😊

Thank you very much Goldie! 😊 I hope you get to see them soon. Depending on how prolonged their flight period is here in Brighton, I would be happy to help you see them when you visit again in August.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-16 11:28 PM GMT

Fantastic Jamie, I'll take you up on that if we get to Brighton, hope fully we will Goldie 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 15-Jul-16 11:21 PM GMT

14 July 2016: On a 6-8pm visit to the dew pond of Wild Park, Brighton I was finally treated to my first views of Purple Hairstreak, the most I saw at once was three individuals, often seen dog fighting and basking with the vast majority of activity on the surrounding Ash trees. My photos show one of the male Purple Hairstreaks basking in the Oak canopy, whilst the other shows the beautiful master Oak which they call home. This colony is performing well below that of other Sussex sites.





Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 17-Jul-16 11:07 AM GMT

16 July 2016: Hollingbury Park

I watched a will I, won't I female White-letter Hairstreak, appearing to lay eggs, though I couldn't located any afterwards.



Egg laying attempt by female White-letter Hairstreak.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Paul Harfield, 21-Jul-16 11:25 PM GMT

Hi Jamie

Really interesting posts on the White Letter Hairstreak. I love the 'dead leaf falling' story 😊 Keep up the good work.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 24-Jul-16 10:30 PM GMT

jackz432r wrote:

Hi Jamie

Really interesting posts on the White Letter Hairstreak. I love the 'dead leaf falling' story 😊 Keep up the good work.

Thank you very much Paul! 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 24-Jul-16 10:46 PM GMT

22 July 2016:

Copied directly from my report sent into Sussex BC sightings page:

"On a later visit to Hollingbury Park between 5 and 6pm I saw at least 8 different individual White-letter Hairstreaks down feeding on Creeping Thistle and Bramble, seen between the playing area at the bottom of the park up to the reservoir near the top of the park. All at various stages of wear, the males are worn out, quite understandably, I saw one female which looked in good condition aswell. It really seems later is better, something I've only just learnt for myself after my friends had similar success. This weekend looks like a good time to see them before the season passes by. If you visit please post your photos of White-letter Hairstreak to the sightings page or email me at: jamieburstonart@outlook.com
I'm comparing all White-letter Hairstreaks photographed at Hollingbury Park to build an idea of their population, my findings will be shared in my upcoming Species Champion report."

Below picture four different individuals from my visit:





Goldie, my offer still stands! When you know your down to Brighton and free to meet up I'll help you to the best of my ability to see White-letter Hairstreak. Feel free to contact me on the email address included above, that way we can exchange numbers if needed nearer the time.

All the best,
Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Pete Eeles, 20-Aug-16 10:31 PM GMT

Hi Jamie – I just wanted to congratulate you on some amazing footage that you've posted, and have discovered your YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY5RDLIXQ2vbsV8ILKT0pEw>

The Brown Argus and Brown Hairstreak footage is, really, quite enlightening! Great job!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 20-Aug-16 10:51 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

Hi Jamie – I just wanted to congratulate you on some amazing footage that you've posted, and have discovered your YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY5RDLIXQ2vbsV8ILKT0pEw>

The Brown Argus and Brown Hairstreak footage is, really, quite enlightening! Great job!

Cheers,

– Pete

Hi Pete, Thank you very much! That's great. Thank you for the amazing compliment, sometimes I find film really is the only adequate approach to capture and understand behaviour! Luckily with Youtube you can even slow down the action to see what's really going on (very helpful in fast action e.g. Hairstreaks flying in canopy).

Re: Jamie Burston

by Pete Eeles, 20-Aug-16 11:00 PM GMT

Jamie Burton wrote:

... sometimes I find film really is the only adequate approach to capture and understand behaviour!

I couldn't agree more!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Jamie Burston

by David M, 21-Aug-16 09:38 PM GMT

Yes. Highly illuminating stuff, Jamie. You are to be commended for this.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Pauline, 27-Aug-16 07:08 PM GMT

Great stuff Jamie – sorry it has taken me so long to get round to saying so.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Aug-16 10:42 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Yes. Highly illuminating stuff, Jamie. You are to be commended for this.

Thank you very much David, much appreciated!

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Aug-16 10:45 PM GMT

Pauline wrote:

Great stuff Jamie – sorry it has taken me so long to get round to saying so.

Thank you Pauline! Not to worry, I haven't even had time to post on here recently, let alone comment on anyone else's diary.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Aug-16 11:10 PM GMT

Now to post something.....

Following on from my video showing the courtship dance of Brown Argus: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_TGd9K7Lfg
On the 29th August I got one step closer by seeing an attempted (failed) pairing of Brown Argus, again on Roedale Valley Allotments, Brighton. However this time on the Butterfly Conservation –Sussex Branch "Butterfly Plot" which I created with the help of other Sussex BC members and that I manage, naturally it was a very special moment to see these butterflies on the plot.

Brown Argus pair, however unsuccessful (photo mostly out of focus 😞):



A few seconds beforehand I witnessed another unsuccessful pairing, this time of Common Blue on the plot.

I filmed the encounter, view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX6dSNB75k4>

The female is seen to repeatedly hit the males legs with her own, perhaps as an extension of her rejection behaviour, what are peoples thoughts on this?

To continue with my sightings from the Butterfly Plot that day I also saw one highly active Small Copper darting across the plot, landing occasionally on the bare chalk. I observed this individual briefly feeding on Small Scabious, later found going to roost on dried grass, clearly it had nodded off with it's drooped and tightly positioned antenna. See below.

Small Copper ZZZZZZZZZZ:



Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 30-Aug-16 11:14 PM GMT

Whilst talking about Roedale Valley Allotments –

Did I actually see any White-letter Hairstreak caterpillars this year?

This video might give you the answer 😊 :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qcpgeWfhi4>

Re: Jamie Burston

by Paul Harfield, 01-Sep-16 06:38 PM GMT

Hi Jamie

Some great stuff in your videos 😊

Seeing your Brown Argus piece, I thought you might be interested in these shots I posted in my diary from last year <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=6085&start=460> you will need to scroll down the page a bit 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 19-Dec-16 05:41 PM GMT

Paul Harfield wrote:

Hi Jamie

Some great stuff in your videos 😊

Seeing your Brown Argus piece, I thought you might be interested in these shots I posted in my diary from last year

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=6085&start=460> you will need to scroll down the page a bit 😊

Thank you very much! Thank you for sharing the link, fantastic sequence of photos of the Brown Argus! 😊

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 19-Dec-16 05:42 PM GMT



Merry Christmas

*All the best for
the New Year!*

*White-letter Hairstreak egg,
on Huntingdon elm, Brighton.*

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 19-Dec-16 05:47 PM GMT

This sighting (14 December) is particularly special, thanks to the support of Brighton & Hove City Council Rangers Neil Doyle and Chantelle Hoppe, along with volunteers at the beginning of the year, habitat management was applied for Brown Hairstreak in Brighton, old Blackthorn/Bullace was cut down to produce favoured young shoots for egg laying females. Today whilst sunny I thought I would head over to the site to survey all the new growth for Brown Hairstreak eggs, if any were found on the new growth it would prove that our work had successfully benefited the species, unfortunately I didn't find any eggs, that was until the very last clump of growth I needed to check, just under 3 feet from the ground I clearly saw two Brown Hairstreak eggs laid together, see photo. Fingers crossed the slight discolouration around the micropyle of these two eggs isn't that of bad news. To have some confirmation that the work you've instigated has had a positive effect, definitely brings a feeling of pride. I'm hoping to plant Blackthorn at the site, which came as part of a Woodland Trust pack.

