

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 02-Mar-17 07:11 PM GMT

I saw my first "Spring butterfly" on the wing on 21st February in the Lincoln Arboretum.  
A Small Tortoiseshell (possibly disturbed from hibernation).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=765lh6sUB6w&feature=youtu.be>

Above is a link to my re-edited Overwintered Comma Video which I made with my Wife Melissa.  
I think it now looks and flows much better than the older version which I have now removed from youtube.

It really is meant to be fun rather than a scientific study 😊😄😄

Another video clip I have been working on is:

The Holly Blue in Slow Motion from 2016

Apple iPhone 6Splus

Slow Motion Function

240 fps

720p

Edited using iMovie software

Here is the short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORJe7ET7nAI&feature=youtu.be>

I really hope you guys enjoy it !

**Re: PhilBWright**

by Wurzel, 02-Mar-17 08:27 PM GMT

Interesting stuff Phil, it's great what you can get with mobile devices 😊 Congrats on your first butterfly of the year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 02-Mar-17 10:35 PM GMT

Nice footage again, Phil. Won't be too long before Holly Blues are back with us.....as well as Commas of course!

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 04-Mar-17 07:07 PM GMT

**4th March 2017**

Thanks Guys,

So good of you to mention the Commas David. I set out today looking specifically for some early Spring butterflies. My local patch is a South West facing bank called The Lincoln Cliff. There were some sheltered south facing hedgerows where I figured there might be enough microclimatic warmth to trigger early emergence from hibernation. This was approximately the same location where I recorded six different species on 25th March last year. My weather app. predicted 10 degrees Celsius.

I saw two butterflies today around lunchtime. A Small Tortoiseshell and this Comma:



**Re: PhilBWright**

by Wurzel, 05-Mar-17 10:38 PM GMT

Great to see another Comma Phil 😊👍 The weather round here has become much less conducive for butterflies 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 06-Mar-17 08:58 PM GMT

Great to see Commas up and about, Phil, even though it's a long way from where I live. 😊

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-Mar-17 07:43 PM GMT

9th March 2017

I think lots of people saw butterflies today as large areas of the country were bathed in sunshine.

In Lincolnshire there was a predicted high of 11 C, sunny but quite a strong wind.

We didn't see any butterflies on a trip out to a local nature reserve in the morning but I was distracted at one point:



*Red Arrows*

Near Lincoln where I was, it wasn't until approx. 2pm the wind started to die down leaving more pockets of warmer air in sheltered areas. I went back to the Lincoln Cliff mid afternoon.

I saw 6 Small Tortoiseshells and a Peacock at around 3pm on the Lincoln Cliff crossed by the Viking Way.

The pano shows a few daffodils and snow drops near the top of the bank (near to more nectar rich back gardens), a few trees starting to blossom and an ivy clad hedgerow which probably is inviting for some hibernators.



*Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire*



I am looking forward to seeing my first Brimstone of 2017 soon I hope. 😊 😊

### Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-17 10:52 PM GMT

I'll swap you a Brimstone for a Comma - it seems everyone's seen a Comma today 🍷 Nice Small Torts - the ones I've seen are all a bit tired looking...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 15-Mar-17 12:01 AM GMT

#### 14th March 2017 Chambers Farm Wood

Melissa and I visited Chambers Farm Wood in Lincolnshire. Although it was not the best weather for spotting butterflies being cloudy with a breeze when we arrived with the temperature being about 12c. We had a quick look in Butterfly Conservations butterfly garden and noticed it had had a tidy up since we were last there.

Being not too familiar with the wood, I made a decision not to wear wellies and we headed down an unsurfaced path that turned muddier and muddier. Avoiding the worst of the mud, we had a bit of ditch jumping practice going round a blackthorn thicket. A decision was then made to stick to the surfaced tracks which were the white and red routes as marked.

Chambers Farm Wood is one of the larger areas of woodland near Wragby and many UK Butterfly enthusiasts will be familiar with the Little Scrubbs Meadow where the Marsh Fritillary is often found in May (one of the few places in Lincolnshire).

On Tuesday, for the best part of the day, temperatures did reach approx. 15c for a short time.



Male Brimstone under Bramble Leaf



Little Scrubbs Meadow- March 14th

#### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 15-Mar-17 12:14 AM GMT

Take those antennae away and that's as good as natural camouflage gets!

#### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 15-Mar-17 06:42 PM GMT

Thanks David.

This is the short video I really wanted to show you guys from yesterday.

<https://youtu.be/rpck3VnrrIM>

It's the iphone which recorded on the slow motion function at 240 frames per second, then played back at 30 frames a second giving the slow motion appearance (8 X slower than real time). I "set my stall out" to record a Brimstone in slow motion this Spring and I managed to get some good footage with the first one I spotted! It really was special for Melissa & I.

I think butterflies are even more beautiful in flight, particularly a Brimstone which rests with its wings tight shut.

Regarding today- (15th March).

Beautiful, almost perfect butterfly weather in Lincolnshire but you will probably need to be a "Usane Bolt" to catch up with that Brimstone "bombing along" the hedgerow! 😊

kind regards.

#### Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-17 10:40 PM GMT

Cracking example of their brill camoflage Phil 😊 Mind you constantly flying around and never stopping is also another of the Brimstones adaptations for predator evasion which makes any photo special 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: PhilBWright

by millerd, 16-Mar-17 10:49 PM GMT

Yes, an excellent example of amazing camouflage. Brimstones do stop their incessant wanderings when the sun goes in, but you try finding them if they've dived under foliage as they usually do. Great photo.

Dave

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 18-Mar-17 10:18 AM GMT

Thanks Wursel & Dave,

From 2015 at Bookham Common, Surrey, I have just put together this video showing a bit more about the Red Admirals aggressive? 😡, inquisitive? 😏 territorial behaviour. 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1VPfUT5qwl>

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 21-Mar-17 11:07 PM GMT

21st March 2017 8c

Melissa and I visited Southrey Wood in Lincolnshire. A beautiful sunny day, loads of Wood Anemone in flower. A part of the wood is managed by Butterfly Conservation. Here is a link to my video diary:

<https://youtu.be/7bTyppxWn1s>



*Southrey Wood, Lincolnshire*

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Mar-17 10:04 PM GMT

23rd March 2017 – Cool Breeze, 11c but Sunny in Lincolnshire.

Today Melissa and I visited a local orchard in Lincoln. I have been wanting to photo some Spring butterflies nectaring on blossom. Four different species of overwintering butterfly were seen in a sheltered location (no Red Admiral, I've not seen one since end of October 2016).

Please enjoy this video link from today presented by Melissa 😊

<https://youtu.be/jVKbTW3ZbbA>



*Small Tortoiseshell on Fruit Tree Blossom*

**Re: PhilBWright**

by Wurzel, 23-Mar-17 11:37 PM GMT

A great Small Tort shot there Phil 😊 Frequenting an Orchard sounds like a great idea, I suppose though it depends on how tall the trees are...either that or take a step-ladder with you 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 25-Mar-17 12:05 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel,

We made the most of the sunny weather today. Bees were buzzing around full blossom, no butterflies on many trees, then 3 appeared at once on one small sprig sticking out from a boundary hedge. Two Commas went spiralling upwards into the sky, only one returning back to the blossom landing near to "scruffy" (a solitary damaged wings Peacock that I had seen yesterday possibly beaten up by storm Doris earlier this year !



*24th March*



<https://youtu.be/BLYBcQ--b7s> -Here is a link of a brimstone in slow motion and stills with wings open during takeoff taken on March 23rd & 24th 2017.

Kind Regards

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 26-Mar-17 11:11 PM GMT

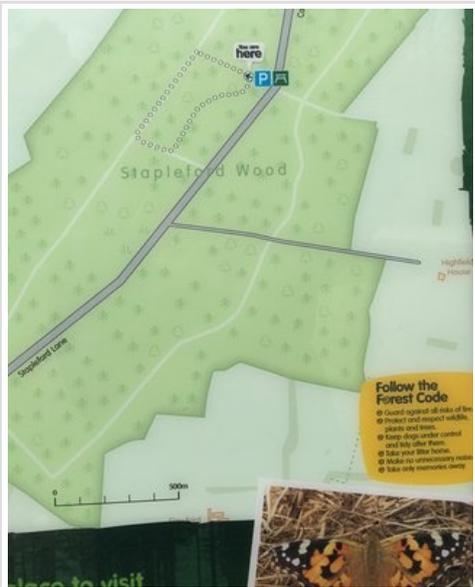
😊 We visited Stapleford Wood near Newark recently. It has a car park and many wide surfaced tracks. For Lincolnshire woodland which I have visited, that is quite unusual!

However, much of it is a 1950s Pine plantation after many broadleaf trees were felled previously and native woodland species suffered as a result. In many Lincolnshire woods there is a long term plan to remove the Pine as they are harvested and make way for broadleaf native trees as were previously there. I must return in 300 years time to see the results 😊😊

On the Forestry Commission map board we have a Painted Lady Butterfly which most of us know are migratory and can turn up almost anywhere and they do depending on wind direction etc. Perhaps a few get blown into the Wood!



Painted Lady



Painted Lady

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 26-Mar-17 11:15 PM GMT

It's a bit of a con to advertise Painted Ladies as a species to be found on a site in the UK.

As you say, this butterfly can turn up almost anywhere in any given year.

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 28-Mar-17 01:33 AM GMT

This is my most recent butterfly video recorded on 24th & 25th March. I hope that the quality and content has improved. It might have done a little bit, because my wife is presenting it 😊 😊

<https://youtu.be/xvDR1rHoJqg>

Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 30-Mar-17 10:08 PM GMT

**30th March 2017**

"A good (mid) day in the Orchard"

The notice board states that the Orchard glades are a magnet for butterflies in the Spring and has become one for me too!





Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 30-Mar-17 10:40 PM GMT

Some lovely specimens in those images, Phil. Interesting to see the Tortoiseshells on the blossom. That's the only one of the vanessid adult overwinterers I've never seen doing that...Commas, Peacocks and Red Admirals are all regulars but, certainly near me, Small Tortoiseshells generally nectar near the ground.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by bugboy, 30-Mar-17 11:16 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Some lovely specimens in those images, Phil. Interesting to see the Tortoiseshells on the blossom. That's the only one of the vanessid adult overwinterers I've never seen doing that...Commas, Peacocks and Red Admirals are all regulars but, certainly near me, Small Tortoiseshells generally nectar near the ground.

I regularly see Small Torts on Blackthorn blossom.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 30-Mar-17 11:43 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

I regularly see Small Torts on Blackthorn blossom.

Don't have much of that round here, Bugboy, sadly. 😞

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 31-Mar-17 08:36 AM GMT

Thanks guys for your contributions.

There is a very strong scent radiating out from the Orchard at the moment attracting the overwintering butterflies in (even I can smell it 😊) When I first saw a Peacock, I only saw one and it was the same single Peacock I saw the next day. A week later, all change, many more Peacocks have arrived from a wider area having flown a longer distance in the warmth.

In August I think the nectaring habits of these butterflies are slightly different as they need to build up reserves for the winter (often on buddleia). I have

noticed most activity from Small Tortoiseshells nectaring on blossom when they first arrive for the day or when the sun starts to warm, then after that, in the afternoon they appear more interested in courtship & sparring, landing on or near nettles. But because of the close proximity of the nettles and fruit trees in this Orchard, nectaring can happen almost anytime between sparring sessions. As Peacocks, Commas & Small Tortoiseshells are generally a bit scruffy after sparring near nettles, I think some of these blossom shots make up for some lost beauty even if the photos are taken slightly further away:



*31st March*

At the moment, I would like to inspire others to pursue the challenge of recording the beautiful flight actions of butterflies in slow motion. Here is the flap, flap, glide actions of the Comma and Peacock recorded on my mobile phone (240 frames a second, played back eight X slower):

<https://youtu.be/D7FLuypEjJs>

The right guys with the right kit could really make an amazing video of our UK species as never seen before. At the moment we have snippets. The Orange Tip Butterfly is shown superbly here in slow motion:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b062vth0/natural-world-20152016-8-irelands-wild-river-the-mighty-shannon>

Available on BBC iplayer if you have a TV licence

Several species always land with their wings closed so I guess showing the beauty of butterflies like this in flight will be another nail in the coffin for collectors who pin them,

Kind Regards

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Apr-17 10:29 AM GMT

### bugboy wrote:

#### David M wrote:

Some lovely specimens in those images, Phil. Interesting to see the Tortoiseshells on the blossom. That's the only one of the vanessid adult overwinterers I've never seen doing that...Commas, Peacocks and Red Admirals are all regulars but, certainly near me, Small Tortoiseshells generally nectar near the ground.

I regularly see Small Torts on Blackthorn blossom.



*March Small Tortoiseshells*

I am not a fruit tree expert but I guess this is Apple Blossom.

On this occasion, one butterfly was nectaring (guessing again, it's the female) and the other open wings butterfly was following her closely (guessing again, it's the male).

This next picture might shed more light on the sexes, judging by the shape of the abdomen:



*Nectaring & Courting?*

I was really fortunate on this occasion to get close enough with my mobile phone without climbing trees and that the butterflies were in good condition considering they had overwintered.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 02-Apr-17 12:04 AM GMT

**PhilBWright wrote:**

I was really fortunate on this occasion to get close enough with my mobile phone without climbing trees and that the butterflies were in good condition considering they had overwintered.

If you've managed to take those images with a mobile then you have done very well indeed, Phil.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 07-Apr-17 09:23 PM GMT

Hi David,

I often use my mobile phone but also go armed with my Canon Camera with optical zoom lens if my legs are not fast enough catching up with butterflies & for other reasons including tree top pictures (well practiced with the Purple Emperors at Bookham previously):D.

6th April

Melissa & I are still enjoying the Fruit Tree blossoms in the Orchard which can make a really nice picture composition at this special time of year. I am looking forward to seeing Holly Blues, Speckled Woods & Orange Tip butterflies soon. These 3 species are quite numerous in Lincolnshire but we run behind the warmer south of the UK. 20c forecast and almost full sun for the weekend ! 😊

Video diary link to "Lincoln's Secret Orchard: 6th April:

<https://youtu.be/NzfhSO54F4I>





Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-Apr-17 11:20 PM GMT

#### 8th April-Recently made Peacock video clip.

I found a new Peacock Lekking Territory on the Lincoln Cliff where given the right conditions I should be able to obtain some improved video footage. I was absolutely delighted by the butterfly landing on me and using my arm as a perch which I have never experienced before with this species.

They are hard to film in action as it all happens so quickly and at distance. I saw several Brimstone encounters and duels of up to 4 Peacocks at a time, conflicts with Comma and a bumble bee! A fun afternoon watching butterfly behaviour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIKd1VuWJCs>



*Peacock in Flight*

Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Apr-17 09:51 AM GMT

#### 11th April - Cross O Cliff Orchard

A few nettle stings in the Orchard yesterday. I started off a little upset as I failed to pair my new monopod successfully with bluetooth connection to my mobile phone.

Melissa and I sat in a glade full of those plants I can never remember the name of. -Oh yes "forget-me-nots" 😊

We waited for some butterflies to fly past and then at about 2:30pm the sky started to clear and Speckled Wood butterflies that were absent a few days ago before the weekend, emerged and started duelling over a period of approx. 45 minutes.

The new monopod (or selfie stick) for my mobile phone just means that I don't always have to get quite as close to a butterfly to take a close picture.

This is helpful when considering my big scary shadow 😊

It also means I can bring the mobile phone camera a bit closer when the butterfly is out of reach or stinging nettles are too close for comfort. I have also considered a homemade extension to standard monopod. - You can just imagine 😊😊

I think my best work with my phone & camera is done when I know I am not being watched by others. It just helps me concentrate on what I am trying to achieve.

The Orchard being overlooked just means I won't visit as often as I would like.

This little guy was very interesting though:



I will expand when I have some more time,  
Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-17 06:18 PM GMT

Looking forward to the 'expansion' Phil, as David said a great set of shots with a mobile, my iPod ones don't even come close to those 📺 The video stills are great too – happiness when the Peacock lands and then sad face when it leaves 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 17-Apr-17 10:24 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I have several slow motion clips of that butterfly duelling with another.

#### Sunday April 16th

Two more Speckled Woods Duelling.

From my understanding, the male Speckled Wood perches waiting for a female to pass by or patrols. When another male is encountered, fights over territory take place, when a female is encountered, she is pursued and when two females encounter each other, I am not quitesure what normally happens? From these video still images (screen shots), I wonder if an expert can tell by looking if these two are definitely two male butterflies (as I suspect) or other? Are some of these images clear enough to tell?

If someone could let me know, it might help my understanding and presentation, thanks:







*iPhone 6s plus*

,  
Kind Regards

### **Re: PhilBWright**

by Padfield, 17-Apr-17 12:05 PM GMT

In my opinion (and I don't claim to be an expert), all the sexable butterflies shown here are male – but I can't confirm both butterflies in any single picture.

I'm very interested in the fact these were taken with an iPhone 6 plus. That is what I have (a gift from a grateful student) and though I use it occasionally for butterflies it never occurred to me it might actually be better than my Canon bridge/compact for some purposes. But those video stills are better than I can achieve with the Canon (for video stills). I will have to try the iPhone for roding brimstones and territorial Camberwell beauties ...

Guy

### **Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 18-Apr-17 09:07 AM GMT

Thanks Guy, that's helpful.

iPhone 6splus

Just to try and clarify, these video stills were taken at 60 frames a second (1080p –my normal video setting). My chosen slow motion setting was 240 frames a second, played back eight times slower. This is 720p so I think it might be slightly less clear to use as video stills. By practicing, trial & error, I have found it best to take several different shorter clips, rather than risk one long clip, only to find out later that the butterflies did not stay within the automatically chosen focal length set at the beginning of the clip. If the butterflies are too far away to start with, the phones understanding of the chosen subject matter is limited.

Regarding the technology used in the phone for focusing etc, I am naive and have not researched any helpful apps etc.

Also White butterflies need to be close enough so that the phone understands the subject matter, not bleaching out the intended subject:



17/4/17 cropped a little bit

Kind Regards & best wishes with your iPhone.

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 21-Apr-17 08:34 AM GMT

Good Morning,

I am just trying to sort out some butterfly behaviour above a nettle bed. This is:

Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock

Looking at this activity, I am assuming this is a male Small Tortoiseshell & female Peacock but I might well be wrong. The Tortoiseshell looks as if it might be mobbing the Peacock, harassing it a little or looking for a partner? Comments welcome as I am still learning. Here are a couple of screenshots taken from the video:



*The Tortoiseshell remains above the Peacock*

Not quite as clear as I know I can achieve with my phone, shaky and cropped but the video footage is interesting in trying to understand the butterfly interactions in such locations that take place at high speed and are usually not recorded properly.

The iPhone video clip (slow motion, 120 frames per second, played back 4 X slower 1080p) is also cropped:

I have set the youtube video clip as "unlisted" rather than "public" so you will need to view it from this link:

<https://youtu.be/avpYtt0qe80>

At this stage, it is worth viewing for the interesting butterfly behaviour rarely recorded in slow motion rather than my recording techniques which I know I can improve on. The Small Tortoiseshell returned to a similar position near the nettles. I think the Peacock moved on.

Thanks for watching. All comments welcome apart from my typos 😊 .

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 21-Apr-17 08:25 PM GMT

More great footage, Phil. I have seen Tortoiseshells interact frequently with Peacocks and have come to the conclusion that the pheromones between the two species are rather similar, hence the persistence!

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Apr-17 04:23 AM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Looking forward to the 'expansion' Phil, as David said a great set of shots with a mobile, my iPod ones don't even come close to those 🍷 The video stills are great too – happiness when the Peacock lands and then sad face when it leaves 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks David & Wurzel.

I have removed a Speckled Wood Duelling video from UK Butterflies which received 120 youtube views. I also removed it from youtube.

I have the raw data now to produce a much better quality video which might take some time as I have so much footage that wont make the cut and it all needs careful analyzing to pick out the best bits. 😊

An Orange Tip video has now also been removed. My plan is to update with better quality material and better edited video clips. If you find one of my broken links in my diary which I have missed, please let me know so that I can change or remove it with an explanation (edit that post). Other videos such as "The Ringlet Chase" & Green-veined White, I have kept the links in my personal diary but deleted them from the Species Specific Page.

As people produce more short video clips, I think there could be a site or habitat specific category for videos which can tell a bigger story than just one picture. I don't know if this has been discussed in another forum?



22nd April, Roadside Verge, Lincolnshire. iPhone 6S plus. Naturalised Honesty Plant

Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 12-May-17 05:17 AM GMT

Hi Guys,

My latest Speckled Wood Duelling, dueling, sparring, dog fighting (or butterfly fighting video) 😊 has been uploaded to the Species specific video category (and currently sits on the UK Butterflies homepage). My previous Speckled Wood duelling video has been removed from youtube. If you like this kind of "progressive butterflying", one can subscribe to my youtube channel, like or leave a comment.

iPhone 6S plus (mobile phone footage) 1080p at 120 frames a second (slow motion)

If I could constructively criticise the super Apple Inc. technology on this phone, I would like my phone to re-analyse the subject matter every second or so whilst filming to keep the subject matter in sharper focus without me having to:

"stop, start, stop and start the recording. More frames per second (to make a slower motion clearer) would be very helpful for me but I think the high resolution very slow motion used up more storage space"

Warm Regards,

Philip

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 24-May-17 08:14 PM GMT

"Watching The Sun Go Down"



**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 26-May-17 06:29 AM GMT

Hi Guys,

If you like looking at my picture properties, I apologize, I noticed that I still needed to turn on "Daylight Saving Time" 😊

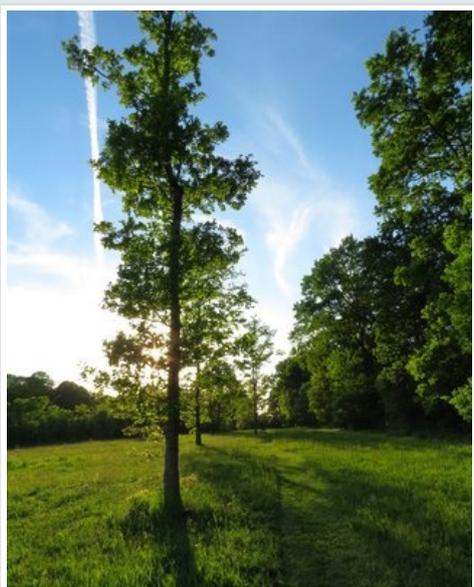
My Wife and I worked for Butterfly Conservation on 24th May.

Chambers Farm Wood is owned by the Forestry Commission.

Here are three pictures taken on 23rd May at Chambers Farm Wood. The Marsh Fritillary was roosting on "Ragged-Robin".



Canon PowerShot SX60 HS



Thanks for waiting for my update,

Philip

**Re: PhilBWright**





Honeysuckle flowering 1st June, Old Wood, Skellingthorpe.

I think it's really good to see Wild Honeysuckle flowering now in Lincolnshire on the woodland edge.

The White Admiral butterfly prefers laying its eggs on that plant in partial shade (dappled sunlight).

From what I have seen, the leaves are lighter green or yellowish on plants in full sun and yellow (less nutritious) on plants in full shade. I think that, that simplicity in thinking can help manage those woodland plants grow to full maturity on the trees they climb.

Bramble blossoms in partial shade, is "nectar rich" during that Butterflies flight period.

Looking back at my diary history, regarding butterfly flight times, I know Rob Hill (a friend of mine) on several occasions might have taken credit for first emergence at a Bookham Common, but instead that data was used to calculate the appearance of that other special butterfly.

Kind Regards,

Philip

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 02-Jun-17 01:11 PM GMT

Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire



*Overwintered Female Small Tortoiseshell 2nd June 2017*

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 02-Jun-17 02:52 PM GMT

That's exceptionally late, Phil. The summer brood should be emerging any time now! Maybe she'll meet one of her offspring perhaps?

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 02-Jun-17 04:17 PM GMT



*New Summer brood Small Tortoiseshell. This picture was taken with my iphone just before it started raining.... I did not get any closer to the butterfly seen centrally when zoomed into the picture but a good habitat record shot on the 2nd June date. As far as I am aware, the file info. date can be changed after a picture is taken with an iphone, with software updates before this date.*

The old Washingborough Railway Station, Washingborough, Lincolnshire. 2nd Brood

(It's raining now) 😊

My theory is, that large (or larger UK butterflies) are more likely to be 'annually single brooded', just based upon their 'evolutionary general size', alone. The Small Tortoiseshell, being slightly smaller than the Peacock (but hibernates in a relatively similar way), is first out of it's pupa, having fully developed, as brooded from an over-wintered adult, raised on nettles.

The Peacock (also raised on nettles, at about the same time of year is a nice comparison species).

It was thought that the Peacock had an approximate one month break (as seen on the wing as an adult in Lincolnshire recently) from a very approximate:

mid June to mid July.

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 18-Jun-17 05:17 AM GMT

### The White Admiral in Lincolnshire

The Lincolnshire White Admiral species has been important in recent history (up to 2017) as being in The northern most limit of it's range in the UK. My colleague Peter Cawdell saw his first White Admiral Butterfly in Lincolnshire on 13th June in Southrey Woods, Bardney (near to where I have worked with him).

"The season was very early this year as also shown by Rob Hill's first sighting of a Purple Emperor butterfly at Bookham Common in Surrey on a date "seasonally earliest" in living memory. Rob has the knowledge to find and record those wild butterflies first, as he has photographically proven year on year".

Peter Cawdell's early Lincolnshire sighting prompted me in some planning, to study the early emergence of The White Admiral butterfly in Old Wood, Skellingthorpe owned and managed by The Woodland Trust.

My presence was noted in Old Wood, Skellingthorpe on 15th June.

Here is an early Lincolnshire Lementis camilla filmed for UKB & BC, also eventually I hope, The Woodland Trust who manage this site):

<https://youtu.be/tlZFvQagxyg> (listed youtube video clip viewed only from this link).

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 18-Jun-17 11:23 AM GMT

### On 17th June 2017 (my birthday),-White Admiral

A short video message: <https://youtu.be/KgjMXgkPrZQ>

"Melissa and I studied White Admiral Behaviour in Old Wood, Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire.

Collectively we have approx. 140 photos or media clips to edit using our Apple Inc phones and editing software.

Roosting- Exact positions not recorded by me yet but obvious general locations include Oak at about the height of the top of a Honeysuckle. The butterflies then sun themselves high up in the Oak Canopy in the morning where the wood gets its first sunlight in those microclimatic places - One can look before 8:00am

I have observed duelling (or sparing) and probable in-flight courtship. Quite fresh males observed with wing damage on 17th June

Mating-Not seen by me yet but has mating been "imagery recorded" in the wild yet?

If you can find my Purple Emperor videos and Purple Hairstreak videos on previous links, someone might understand the length of time it takes to produce the gathered data with our own new understanding which I think will be a help to those interested in the science of the White Admiral species".

## Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-17 12:50 PM GMT

Happy belated Birthday Phil 😊 I'm in the garden at the mo but I'll have a look at your video later - Philzoid and I watched duelling and courtship of White Admiral in East Blean- the later seemed similar to Silver Washed 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 19-Jun-17 09:10 AM GMT

17th June 2017 Late Peacock Butterfly



*Arable field boundary edge to Old Wood, Skellingthorpe.*



*20th August. A nice hedge boundary precident near to a Lottery funded Wild Flower Meadow in Navenby, Lincolnshire. #Common Blue*

Thanks Wurzel,

This Butterfly was found on the edge of Old Wood, Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire. It is the latest individual from the 2016–2017 generation I have seen. "It was noted on private land (owned by a good friend's neighbour's family who have allowed access here along the field edge by verbal consent through that good friend)."

#WoodlandParcels

#ArableFieldBoundaries

Kind Regards



**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 25-Jun-17 05:08 AM GMT

<https://youtu.be/0IT8vH18h8k> –Youtube video link (unlisted).

The above video link is from Old Wood, Skellingthorpe and was dedicated to my son and my Wife. It might well be of interest to some people with Comma life cycle expertise. I apologise for the

out of focus footage, but I kept it, for it's unusual content.

Here is an "edited in" clip (filmed on 17th June, edited on 7th August 2017) of the Territorial White Admiral Butterfly. I have found the males to be most aggressive soon after emerging. A sunny location, often on Hazel (at that height) is preferred to perch and intercept males or paasing females. Wing damage from duelling. A listed youtube video can be seen from this link:

<https://youtu.be/yq6dtTkzWU>

"Melissa and I have started reading – THE BUTTERFLIES OF SUSSEX 😊

Please find me on Facebook.

Search:

Philip Byerley Johnson.

Kind Regards,

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 26-Jun-17 06:11 AM GMT

Old Wood Skellingthorpe– Similar UK Woodland Sites

"I think that when Butterfly Conservation are considering purchasing strips of land along woodland edges bordered by arable crops for the benefit of Wildlife within that wood, one also needs to consider maintaining a certain width of land (weeded as fallow) so that there is a reduction in "weeds" being spread back into the remaining arable field after private land purchases"

What might need to be negotiated is:

How broad these widths need to be (or should be) in relation to site specific requirements, not forgetting that a thistle seed on or near the top of a hill can travel "miles on a windy day" 😊

#WildlifeTrust #ForestryCommission

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 10-Jul-17 03:42 AM GMT

#### David M wrote:

More great footage, Phil. I have seen Tortoiseshells interact frequently with Peacocks and have come to the conclusion that the pheromones between the two species are rather similar, hence the persistence!

Thanks David,

I have seen similar interactions in flight with Commas, Red Admirals and White Admirals when they don't seem to be duelling (or duelling). I am hoping to present some White Admirals behaving territorially. As with other UK species, the "lekking territory" is weather dependant and usually takes place in the extreme, towards the end hot day with "wall to wall sunshine" (if you have those walls in your garden) 😊

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Jul-17 06:22 AM GMT

The Purple Emperor has had a very early flight season this year so if you have had one of those holidays pre-booked and are disappointed by not seeing one, then why not do some more research?

i have started re-making a video originally made in 2014–2015, removing some "special effects" and with a voice-over that more fully explains my understanding of this butterfly (which is site specific). Please make sure the volume is on and turned to an appropriate level for you to hear.

Constructive criticism given in feedback to myself is very welcome as it can help my understanding as well as yours.

<https://youtu.be/UJu8BejHorY>

Kind Regards.

"One for all who care and all who care for more who care"

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 13-Jul-17 05:30 AM GMT

#### PhilBWright wrote:

The Purple Emperor has had a very early flight season this year so if you have had one of those holidays pre-booked and are disappointed by not seeing one, then why not do some more research?

i have started re-making a video originally made in 2014–2015, removing some "special effects" and with a voice-over that more fully explains my understanding of this butterfly (which is site specific). Please make sure the volume is on and turned to an appropriate level for you to hear. Constructive criticism given in feedback to myself is very welcome as it can help my understanding as well as yours.

<https://youtu.be/UJu8BejHorY>

Kind Regards.

"One for all who care and all who care for more who care"

"A problem with my scientific understanding occurred when a chap who found "The Hill Farm Territory" and co-author of a Surrey Book was quoted the need for keeping the Turkey Oaks on the Commons (many of which are found near the highest point on the Commons)"

This is what The National Trust have said:

"Turn left before the wood edge and go up Broadway. This leads to the Mark Oak 'master tree' on the left, just before the ride junction at the top. Purple emperors fly around the tall turkey oaks here but can be difficult to spot. Patience is needed...."

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bookham-commons/trails/deep-in-the-purple-empire-butterfly-walk>

Me- "If one studies the O.S. map provided, The Hill Farm Territory (Hill Farm is obscured by No.6) looks to be a local high point approximately 50-55m high at ground level with the highest point on the Commons (observed by No.5 on the map) appearing to be at approximately 71m near the Mark Oak Car Park".

"Master trees" - National Trust & possibly "Butterflies of Surrey, revisited"

"In the 1970s, two purple emperor 'master tree' situations were discovered at Bookham Commons. These are special groves, usually oaks and the tallest trees in a wood where males fight to protect their territory, and females come to mate".

"Spend some time at the Hill Farm territory and at the second 'master tree' (a hornbeam) located on the north side of the path on the summit, just south of the farm"

Me-

"I am not sure how much willow was located very near the Hill Farm Territory in the 1970s, but there was plenty of willow near the top of the hill very, very near "the Mark Oak Territory" in 2015.

I remember the "good old days" when observers stood at the "Hill Farm Territory" having not seen anything for a long time, then Rob Hill would turn up like "Gandalf" (not dressed like him) and a Purple Emperor would then appear in the Canopy almost immediately just before or just after 12:30pm (weather dependent).

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Jul-17 03:11 AM GMT

Melissa & I arrived in the Klarälven Valley, Hagfors district, Värmland, Sweden for the first time on 19th July 2017 knowing very little Swedish but with help from my Swedish friends, Auntie and Cousins.  
20th July 2017



"Looks like a species of 6 Spot Burnet Moth.  
20th July 2017, Hagfors District, Sweden."

"6 Spot Burnet Moth with Marsh Fritillary  
4th June 2017, Little Scrubbs Meadow, Lincolnshire."

"This species of Burnet Moth looked familiar"



"Looked like a female UK Small Peal Bordered Fritillary but with larger darker patches on it's wings."



"A Scarse Copper – (Thanks for the ID, Guy)"



"Looked similar to the UK species of Meadow Brown"



'Looked Similar to a UK Ringlet Species'

Please see link below:

[https://youtu.be/4fWC7\\_TbGU](https://youtu.be/4fWC7_TbGU)

"These Swedish Damselflies look similar and act similar to our United Kingdom species: Calopteryx splendens (Banded demoiselle).

The Nurphar water lily looked similar (or the same as) a Nurphar species found in The River Thames.

#### Swedish Butterfly species and variants that were unknown by me (23rd July).

Recently Colonised, Natives

Adventives, Migrants, Residents (protected by law), unprotected Residents & Vagrants".

Pieridae (Whites & Yellows)

Here was my Swedish Green-veined White compilation taken from on or around **July 24th 2017**:

I was interested in the Swedish Green-veined White's larval food plant preferences, compared with those preferences the female butterfly egg lays on, in the United Kingdom:

<https://youtu.be/cAbzp0DH08c>

The butterflies looked particularly interested in laying eggs, when the grass was wet, early morning.

#### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 25-Jul-17 03:59 PM GMT

Klarälven Valley, Hagfors District Värmland, Sweden

19th July –6th August 2017

Local Habitat photos:



*"Grass Verge including clover beside arable field"*



*"Pine Cones & Fruiting Blueberry Plants"*



*"Grass bank with some Willow"*



*"Wild Flower Meadow (Silver Birch in background)."*



*"Loopins going to seed in Wild Flower Meadow. Aspen (poplar type) in background"*



*"Red currants & Wild Raspberry Surplus"*



*"Four Scarce Coppers and a Ringlet" (thanks Guy).*

Sent from my iPhone

## **Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 26-Jul-17 07:04 AM GMT

### **Sweden**

"According to online research, Sweden boasts 120 species of butterfly (approx. twice as many as in the U.K.). This is my first visit. One week later: 1 hour ahead of BST.

25th July Sunrise 04:37, sunset 21:47 (depending on where ones horizon is). The last week has been generally sunny during the day with micro-climate highs (in the sun) between approx. 18c and 28c. Nippy in the early morning without a morning cloak.

Not found a butterfly guide in a local shop.

Here are some familiar looking species, many were fresh like the English Brown Hairstreak was at the same time of year in the United Kingdom."



*"A species that is a male blue"*



*"Moorland Clouded Yellow (thanks for the id, Guy. Aa species that could look a bit like a UK pale clouded yellow)"*



*"A species that is a Ringlet"*



*"A species that is a Green-veined White"*



*"A species that was common in the last week"*



*"A species that is a Small Tortoiseshell"*



*"A species of grass (that was in focus)"*

"Sent from my iPhone"

(which is possibly expensive uploading pics when not on wifi)"



*"A species that is a blue"*

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 30-Jul-17 03:48 AM GMT

#### Facebook Cover Photo

Aspect Ratio:

2701 X 1000 is quite a good size for me without dragging photo to adjust image too much.

Be careful not to inadvertently hide detail one wants to display, behind automatic text and profile picture for personal computer and mobile phone app.



2701 X 1000 Today, my Aspect Ratio for Facebook Cover Photo

#### Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-17 10:01 PM GMT

Interesting place to visit Phil looks like an interesting range of species as well, looking forward to some more reports (if you can get cheap WiFi) 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

#### Re: PhilBWright

by Padfield, 31-Jul-17 10:10 PM GMT

What a lovely place to be.

Your unnamed butterflies are silver-studded blue, moorland clouded yellow, scarce copper, lesser marbled fritillary (I think – but the grass is definitely grass) and probably a female silver-studded blue.

Guy

#### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 31-Jul-17 11:30 PM GMT

Nice to see an unusual European destination, Phil. More images please!

#### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Aug-17 05:35 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments. I arrived in Sweden on 19th July, I was home from home, neither home sick or sick of home.  
July 31st 2017



*Pine Spacing which looked suitable for ground flora (such as heather, blueberries) & Silver Studded Blue Butterfly.*

"In the past, in the United Kingdom, in some localities, I think that it was fair to say, the Forestry Commission had tended to grow Pine Trees closer together, for ease of harvest and other economic reasons, leaving ground flora in some specific locations, with too little light to grow"

For me, this was an interesting link with related information:

<http://sciencenordic.com/big-trees-threat-popular-berries>

After living in the UK for nearly half a century and not seen wild red squirrels ("apart from too many times on country file"), on 22nd July, my hand was causing some camera shake while zooming.



22nd July, Värmland, Sweden

Red Squirrel video link: <https://youtu.be/eeCc72C8Jbo>



*iPhone 6S Plus with monopod*

"Most Selfie sticks are about 1m long and many when used as a monopod, over-twist with a large heavy protective case plus phone.

The monopod shown here has a detachable Bluetooth release that is said to work up to 10m away.

On a SSSI when one is told to keep to the mown paths, a longer device has been known to be used to assist with observations.

The length of a pole up to 10m long might be restricted by ones ability to see a screen that is not also remote. As surveyors read this from specialised companies who want to push boundaries, I would recommend a remote screen and a wire or wires running down the middle of an adapted 'Fisherman's Roach Pole' with a small camera attachment on the end with a lens approximately the size of what one might see on their "laptop web camera". Please don't go near overhead power lines with a long "carbon fibre type pole" (please see my picture).

Kind Regards.



31st July Klarälven River, Hagfors District

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Aug-17 06:13 PM GMT

Different Size Pictures:

When sending photos by email an Apple Inc. phone offers to send pictures at different sizes when not using mail drop.

Small

Medium

Large or

Actual Size

I think it might be a help to U.K. Butterflies if there was automatic options for picture sizes uploaded.



"WSGW or Scarce Copper (which was scarce at one time for an Englishman)".



"A fresh looking Ground Flora leaf size comparison. 30% Actual Size"

Some larger "broadleaf species" not seen by my Wife & I include "Poplar (Aspen) Admiral" & "Camberwell (Willow) Beauties". Wild Mountain Ash, Alder & "pioneer silver birch" proliferate in valleys near watercourses. It was fun not to have a knowledgeable tour guide to take one straight there"

"I am trying not to "digitally zoom crop" too much and am experimenting to reduce phone case cover reflective glare. (For a novice, as a butterfly sits with its wings open towards the sun, sunlight often directly hits the viewing screens casing and can make viewing a subjects image on screen, very difficult  
With Apple Inc.

Philip

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 02-Aug-17 02:57 AM GMT

### Padfield wrote:

What a lovely place to be.

Your unnamed butterflies are silver-studded blue, moorland clouded yellow, scarce copper, lesser marbled fritillary (I think – but the grass is definitely grass) and probably a female silver-studded blue.

Guy

Much appreciated, Guy



"A smaller blue butterfly - Wild Blueberry size comparison"  
"On spaced Pineland Edge. Heather (full sun- Sandy soil)  
Blueberry (Greener and fruits better in partial shade)."

**Re: PhilBwright**

by PhilBJohnson, 04-Aug-17 06:55 AM GMT

Klarälven Valley, Hagfors district, Värmland, Sweden



Could look a bit like a UK pale, female, Dark Green Fritillary) Klarälven Valley. 3rd August 2017



"Melissa looking at an unidentified caterpillar" Klarälven Valley. 3rd August 2017

Kind regards,  
Philip

**Re: PhilBwright**

by PhilBJohnson, 04-Aug-17 09:24 AM GMT

**Padfield wrote:**

What a lovely place to be.

Your unnamed butterflies are silver-studded blue, moorland clouded yellow, scarce copper, lesser marbled fritillary (I think – but the grass is definitely grass) and probably a female silver-studded blue.

Guy

"The Silver Studded Blue was re-introduced to that habitat rich area of Fairmile Common in Surrey near to where I once lived. But having found the Green Hairstreak on the other side of the A3, I stopped and never positively identified a Silver Studded Blue there. I might have seen them in my childhood distant past in the UK,



'Silver Study'

'I don't know what species of ant the caterpillars depend on locally in Sweden'

Kind Regards,  
Philip"

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 08-Aug-17 11:27 PM GMT

**The Silver Washed Fritillary (SWF)**

Värmland, Sweden sits at the approximate latitude to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland where the SWF is prolific and single brooded (as in the UK). I think that a more detailed study of this butterfly here could reveal much more as to why it does not occur (or could occur) in large parts of Scotland. The UKB 2009 distribution map (as I understand it) shows the SWF not occurring any further North than Northern Ireland (In the UK).

Also, I think many fritillary species flew freely across the Swedish landscape (where I was), much as they once did in the UK before their general decline so studying them in the Swedish environment remains a good opportunity to learn more.

**Slow motion of SWF interactions with local habitat and other butterflies, Värmland, Klarälven Valley, Sweden**

I think this kind of Survey is important for others with an above specific interest.

I have other Swedish slow motion video clips to pass through my editing process before they are in a state where i really want to present them publically (please watch this space) :

After seeing an SWF fly by on several occasions but only being able to possibly identify it from other unknown fritillaries due to it's size, I finally got a distant picture of one that Neil Hulme kindly, positively confirmed it to be an SWF.

**30th July:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-sHy2m1i44>

Here is a video clip of slow motion flight interaction between male and female Silver washed Fritillary taken on 4th August in Värmland, Sweden.

<https://youtu.be/ENTxBt5x4mc>

**5th August 2017**

Just after 4pm - It has suddenly got cloudy. A male Silver Washed Fritillary shakes it's wings to warm up before roosting in a tree Canopy.

<https://youtu.be/fGxgk0KMZCo>

Kind Regards,

Philip

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 15-Aug-17 12:06 PM GMT

**Gardening & The Large Cabbage White 14th August**

This is a nice video from Matthew Oates and The National Trust:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L84gcJlkN34&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L84gcJlkN34&feature=player_embedded)

"Mow a little bit often throughout the year"

"Many special reserves are now fenced with "Stock proof fences" or "Deer Fences (which are higher)" for different grazing management plans to suit different species.

On "open" grassland, some areas can be marked for different seasonal mowing times to benefit a wider variety (or diversity) of species. If grass contains spring bulbs such as daffodils & tulips, it was thought that the mowing was best left until July to let the goodness from the leaves re-enter the bulb in early summer"

**14th August 2017**

<https://youtu.be/5K41I6ca7lw> ( my unlisted video clip)

And then I had more time to produce this one (15th November):

<https://youtu.be/6BQmdSAoBr4>

Regarding the male Brimstone, I have assumed that butter was originally more of a golden yellow colour, rather than paler, more healthy similar spreads found today (please see above video).

#Buttercup #Butterfly  
20th August Lincoln



Meadow Brown "Hanger on"



Gate Keeper (Hedge Brown) "Hanger On"

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 05-Sep-17 08:04 AM GMT

"I have still not found that illusive "Mega Brown" which is able to over-winter in all of it's four metamorphic states within it's complete metamorphosis"  
😄

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Nov-17 03:23 AM GMT

"Happy All saints Day" (particularly to my American friends approximately 6 hours behind).

'I have been introducing some more pictures and videos to my July Swedish Butterfly & Conservation Survey with some appropriate edits'

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Nov-17 08:55 AM GMT

"Really good to be at Butterfly Conservation's members day in Cheltenham, yesterday with Melissa who took this picture.



**'Greenwings'**

We got some Alder Buckthorn which was still in leaf (a caterpillar food plant of the Brimstone).  
 Brimstone Butterflies were present in Sweden, on about the same latitude as the Shetland Islands in Scotland.  
 Brimstone Butterflies were absent on a Brimstone distribution map of Scotland."  
 Hopefully, I will catch up with news of the re-introduction (natural or otherwise), of this butterfly in Scotland, later.  
 😊😊

**Re: PhilBwright**

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Nov-17 07:21 AM GMT

<https://youtu.be/CMv2wk9wth0>

**Re: PhilBwright**

by David M, 24-Nov-17 10:55 PM GMT

I love these 'slo-mo's' you post, Phil. I must experiment with the video recording element of my Panasonic next year to see if I can capture similar footage.

**Re: PhilBwright**

by PhilBJohnson, 28-Nov-17 05:54 AM GMT

Thanks David.

'With my oldish iPhone, we record at 240 frames per second.

I personally have not managed to record a lightning bolt yet with my camera but my reflexes are improving '( 😊 )'.

Lincolnshire Butterfly Conservation have started their winter coppicing work in Southrey Wood.

Steve Green has done a good job organising people.

This video Melissa and I took last year in March before we had met 'the guys' from Butterfly Conservation in Lincolnshire.

I hope it is a reasonably accurate and fair reflection of some of the work done there:

<https://youtu.be/7bTyppxWn1s>

"For some reason, I really could not find much information about which moth species feed on Wood Anemone leaves in the UK Spring. I hope someone else can help me there.

More research is needed. More research was needed.

If hoverflies are thought to pollinate Wood Anemone, but some have said that the plant usually remains sterile, I think that not enough is widely known about it's best management requirements. One person said that it takes 500 years for a carpet of wood anemone to become established in an ancient wood. With management work (particularly in the winter), to specifically encourage that species, that statement simply isn't true.

More research is important for those with Butterfly Conservation in mind, as the Wood Anemone is considered to be an ancient woodland indicator species.

For sure, I think our UK Butterflies have evolved with violets.

Orange Tip and Brimstone are attracted to their very small 'purple' or violet flowers in March and April when there is little else with a substantial, easy to get at, tasty nectar source in our ancient, semi natural woodlands.

Numerous UK Butterfly caterpillars feed on violet leaves which indicates to me, that they once carpeted our very ancient woodland floors.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants-and-fungi/woodland-wildflowers/wood-anemone/>