

## First Pearl of 2017

by Andy Wilson, 23-Apr-17 04:14 PM GMT

If anyone read my Personal Diary last year, they will know that I tried to see all the native Fritillary species. Well, I have to confess very belatedly that I totally failed. I never got to the south-west to see High Browns, and I didn't even get a decent photo of a Dark Green, although I saw a few in the distance on the South Downs. It seems to me they should be called High-Speed Fritillaries 😊

So now it's my 2017 mission, and at least I have started the season with a nice fresh Pearl-Bordered Fritillary last Friday at my local stomping ground of Abbots Wood. Conditions were cloudy and rather cool, so the single individual I saw was quite torpid and he let me get some good shots.



*Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Abbots Wood*



*Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Abbots Wood*

## Re: Andy Wilson

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-17 07:24 PM GMT

High Browns are a bit of a trek Andy but try PMing DavidM he's got excellent inside information about the Welsh site 😊 Good luck with you quest – are you counting Duke of Burgundy as an honorary Fritillary? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Andy Wilson

by David M, 23-Apr-17 10:35 PM GMT

In truth, you need fairly cloudy conditions to chase down High Browns and Dark Greens reliably....either that, or you arrive early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

It helps if you have a local site where both are plentiful. I thank my lucky stars that I have one fairly close to me, but it is, sadly, the only one in the whole of Wales. 😊

## Re: Andy Wilson

by Andy Wilson, 24-Apr-17 04:17 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

High Browns are a bit of a trek Andy but try PMing DavidM he's got excellent inside information about the Welsh site 😊 Good luck with you quest – are you counting Duke of Burgundy as an honorary Fritillary? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks for the info. I was thinking of Aish Tor in Devon for the High Browns, but as you say, it's a bit of a trek from East Sussex. As for the Duke, I suppose I could include him, even though we all know he's not really a Fritillary. I know a couple of good sites in West Sussex which I'll visit in the next few weeks.

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Andy Wilson, 08-May-17 10:15 AM GMT

After Wurzel's suggestion that I should include the Duke in my fritillary quest, I went to Kithurst Meadow last Friday. Conditions were a bit cool and windy but there were a few sunny intervals. My wife spotted the first one, which went quickly to ground and let me grab some nice shots.



*Duke of Burgundy*

This site really is a cheat, because you can drive up the hill and the meadow is right below the car park. It really is a picture at the moment with cowslips growing everywhere. The best place for Dukes is in the sheltered bottom north-west corner.

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Andy Wilson, 08-May-17 10:26 AM GMT

I attended Neil Hulme's Fritillaries for the Future event with some other enthusiasts at Rewell Wood yesterday afternoon. Conditions were cool and overcast at first, but we spotted a few Pearls roosting and got some good close-up shots of them. After an hour or so, the sun came out and the butterflies became a lot more active. We saw several in the scallops off the main east-ride ride, which is a public bridleway, but Neil also showed us a few more "secret" locations deep within the woods. Thanks for a great afternoon, Neil.



*Pearl-bordered Fritillary*



*Pearl-Bordered Fritillary*

Next on my Fritillary quest will be Glanville and Marsh, which will involve travelling outside my home county of Sussex, and then of course there are Small Pearls!

### Small Pearls back in East Sussex

by Andy Wilson, 04-Jun-17 06:02 PM GMT

Over the last few days, I have visited both sites in East Sussex where Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries have been reintroduced. At least, these are the sites that have been publicised -- I wouldn't put it past our hard-working Fritillaries for the Future team if they had also introduced them to some other secret sites!

Anyway, last Thursday (1st June) I visited Park Corner Heath. It was mid-afternoon and the hot sun shone out of a clear blue sky, with temperatures in the upper 20's. Right by the information hut, I spotted a female SPBF fluttering low down, looking like she was egg-laying. Although close to the ground, she didn't stay still long enough to be photographed. Over on the other side of the site, behind "Peter's Seat", several males were criss-crossing in low-level reconnaissance flights. I saw a total of about 6 altogether, and only once did one of them stop briefly to allow me to photograph his underside.



*Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary (m), Park Corner Heath*

This afternoon (4th June) I visited Abbots Wood. Conditions were much cooler with a fresh wind, but still plenty of sunshine. I saw between 8-10 SPBFs including 2 females. Hopefully they will have mated and laid eggs for next year's generation by now, because some of them are already looking a bit faded.



*Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary (f), Abbots Wood*



*Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (m), Abbots Wood*

### Re: Andy Wilson

by bugboy, 12-Jun-17 11:14 AM GMT

I have to admit I wasn't aware the SPBF had been reintroduced to Abbots Wood but I'm very glad it's back, certainly easier for me to get to than Bentley! Fingers crossed they are here to stay 😊

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-17 09:56 PM GMT

Great stuff with the Small Pearls Andy 😊 Essex Buzzard reported Heaths out in Essex and High Browns have been recorded in Devon – they're all coming thick and fast 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Andy Wilson, 13-Jun-17 12:11 AM GMT

Thanks for the heads-up, Wurzel. The weather forecast looks good, so I'll be embarking this week on my annual pilgrimage to Canterbury to worship at the shrine of Melitaea athalia. Hopefully, I'll report back in a few days with some pics.

Good news too about the High Browns. I confess that this would be a lifer for me if I get to see one. Hopefully, I'll manage a trip to the West Country in the next fortnight, and (even more hopefully) I might see one. Large Blues are also out, so I'll try to (photographically) bag a few of them too!

### First Dark Green Fritillary of the season

by Andy Wilson, 13-Jun-17 06:10 PM GMT

I did my usual walk around the perimeter of Friston Gallops in the heat of the day today. In the sheltered south-west corner of the field, I saw my first Dark Green Fritillary of the year, nectaring on bramble and other flowers.



*Dark Green Fritillary, Friston Gallops*



*Dark Green Fritillary, Friston Gallops*

I saw several other species, including 100+ Small Heath which were abundant all over the site, and similar numbers of Meadow Brown which were particularly numerous along the path on the western side of the site. Large Skippers were also very common with 50+ seen. I also saw Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, and some very faded specimens of Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak. Cinnabar and Six-Spot Burnet moths were also present, together with one Humming-Bird Hawk Moth.

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by David M, 13-Jun-17 11:00 PM GMT

Lots of folk deriving great pleasure seeing SPBFs in the east of England so far this year. Long may it continue!

Well done with the Dark Green Frits too....I hope to catch up with this species at the weekend! 😊

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Wurzel, 14-Jun-17 09:01 AM GMT

Great to see you've ticked off another Frit for the year – good luck with the continuance of your quest 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Canterbury Tales**

by Andy Wilson, 14-Jun-17 06:16 PM GMT

With reports of Heath Fritillary already out in Essex, a completely free day and a forecast of good weather, I decided that this was the day for my Canterbury pilgrimage. I wasn't disappointed 😊

I arrived at the car park at East Blean Woods at about midday. Conditions were hot and sunny with the temperature in the high 20's. There were several other people about and I had hardly left the car park when I saw my first Heath Fritillary. However, it probably had seen me first and soon fluttered away. No worries, because I soon saw another, and after a while it became clear that they were all over the place. Almost everywhere I looked across the young Sweet Chestnut coppice, I could see one flying. Often they disturbed another, and you could see two, if not three, jousting with each other. I didn't do a scientific count, but I would guess that there were upwards of 50 individuals flying today. Most were close to the car park, but I did see a few other further afield. The site is certainly a credit to the people who are managing it.

The only problem was that, in these hot conditions, they hardly ever stopped moving, with their characteristic mixture of deceptive weak fluttering alternating with the occasional quick glide. Eventually, I got some shots of one or two when they settled. Later I came across what looked like a mating pair, but which actually turned out to be a "menage a trois", with a happy couple being pestered by another male interloper.



*Heath Fritillary, East Blean Woods, 14/06/2017*



Heath Fritillary (there are actually 3 in this picture)



Heath Fritillary orgy

Apart from the Heath Fritillaries, the only other species I saw were a few Meadow Browns flopping around, and 3 White Admirals (my first of the year).

However, regarding my quest to see all the British Fritillary species, I didn't have time to go west for Marsh Fritillaries, so I've probably blown it this year. The same applies to Glanvilles. Last year I saw them at Hutchinson's Bank, but reports from there this year seem to say the colony is very much down on numbers. Anyway, that's cheating 😊 I need to plan a trip to the IOW next year.

Hopefully, I will soon get a free window to travel to see High Browns. Does anyone have any reports from the sites in the south-west?

## Re: Canterbury Tales

by David M, 14-Jun-17 06:50 PM GMT

### Andy Wilson wrote:

Hopefully, I will soon get a free window to travel to see High Browns. Does anyone have any reports from the sites in the south-west?

Andy, the first ones were spotted **last weekend** at the site in south Wales, so given the warm conditions lately I'd expect them to be about in SW England too. They'll probably peak between 21st and 28th June this year.

## Heddon to Devon

by Andy Wilson, 18-Jun-17 05:33 PM GMT

Continuing my fritillary quest and my desire to see the High Brown for the first time ever, the excellent weather forecast persuaded me to make a last minute decision to head west to Devon and Somerset last Friday (16th June). Due to heavy traffic, we didn't arrive my first site of Aish Tor until about 5 pm on Friday, but as the weather was warm and sunny, I was hopeful that any butterflies present would gradually settle down as the heat declined. Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of activity, but we did see about 3 fly-bys of "Large" Fritillaries. The last one did look rather brighter and paler than the others, but there was no chance of a definite ID.

Disappointed, we retreated to stay with family near Yeovil and drew up plans for Saturday. Our first site was the Heddon Valley. If you've never been here, it's a wonderful place and well worth the trip even if you didn't see a single butterfly. We consulted with a National Trust Ranger who gave us a leaflet for their special butterfly walk. For some reason, we started doing it backwards and went down the easy path towards Heddon Mouth, but then turned left on to the south-west coast path which climbs steeply up on to the cliffs to the west of the mouth of the river. This went up through precipitous slopes covered in bracken, but disappointingly, we didn't see many butterflies other than the odd Speckled Wood.

We finally reached the highest point of the route where the butterfly walk leaves the coastal footpath and heads back inland. One bit of advice here -- these paths are very steep and it's quite strenuous. I'm used to the Cornish coastal path, but North Devon, where Exmoor meets the sea, is on a

different scale. Anyway, as soon as we started the gentle descent back inland, we started to see "Large" Fritillaries -- probably 10 in all, but they were all flying at high speed in the warm sunshine and were also assisted here by a refreshing sea breeze which had sprung up. Some came quite close to us, and if I had to guess, I'd be pretty sure that all of them were Dark Green Fritillaries. The flight and their general behaviour was typical of what I see with this species on the South Downs. There were also a few Wall Browns here, together with the odd Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell.

We descended further and eventually came to the lane which goes down Trentishoe Coombe. There's a large area of south-facing bracken-covered slope here which is much more sheltered than the higher areas. Nothing was obvious at first, but we stopped and gazed up at the slope. Eventually, it became clear that there were several fritillaries up there, lazily flitting around and sometimes going to rest. One or two descended tantalisingly close to the lane, but frustratingly none came within camera range. I decided there was nothing to it but to try to clamber up on to the 45 degree angled slope and take my chance with the bracken, brambles and thistles -- not to say ticks and other nasties. Of course any time I got within range of a butterfly, it took off and lazily glided several metres further away from me. In the end, all I got were a few long-distance shots of one individual, which I have blown up and cropped. I hope it's not just wishful thinking, but from these rubbish pictures I am fairly sure that this individual was a High Brown. The others were all behaving similarly, and very differently from what I normally see with Dark Greens, so if I am right, I saw 5 or more individual High Browns on the slope during the period I was looking.



*High Brown Fritillary? Heddon Valley, 17/06/2017*



*High Brown Fritillary? Heddon Valley, 17/06/2017*

Having got at least some shots, we decided to retreat for a late lunch at the excellent Hunters Inn by the car park (highly recommended!). The afternoon was drawing on now and we had to get back for our relatives' evening BBQ, but on the way back we stopped for half an hour at Haddon Hill, and to my delight we spotted a Heath Fritillary -- just the one, but the first time I have ever seen this species anywhere other than Blean Woods in Kent.



*Heath Fritillary, Haddon Hill, 17/06/2017*



Heath Fritillary, Haddon Hill, 17/06/2017

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Mark Colvin, 18-Jun-17 06:38 PM GMT

Hi Andy.

You'll be pleased to know that there's enough visible detail to confirm High Brown.

The Heddon Valley is a great place – I know the route you took well – but can be very hard work as I'm sure you now know. Another option, for future reference, is the meadow at the end of the National Trust car park by the Hunters Inn where High Brown are regularly seen. Taking the easy option you would of course missed the view – and exercise !!!

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by David M, 18-Jun-17 07:27 PM GMT

Shame you're not available this Tuesday, Andy. I'll be walking the Welsh High Brown site and am sure I'll get to see a few relatively becalmed.

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Andy Wilson, 18-Jun-17 09:59 PM GMT

Thanks, Mark. I'm very chuffed that you have confirmed my tentative ID. I went into perhaps more detail than necessary, but for people inexperienced at this site, I thought it was worthwhile explaining that it requires a bit of exercise and patience. Often, we read reports from experts who make it all seem too easy!

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-17 10:48 PM GMT

I had a look Andy and was going to ID them as High Browns but Mark beat me to it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Andy Wilson, 19-Jun-17 12:28 AM GMT

Thanks also DavidM. Unfortunately, that's it for my trip west, at least for the next few weeks. I need to concentrate on family matters for a while, but that doesn't exclude a few local trips, e.g. to Knepp and other Purple Emperor sites 😊

**Knepp Emperors**

by Andy Wilson, 19-Jun-17 04:03 PM GMT

I've spent the last 3 days in the south-west and came home to find everything kicking off here in Sussex, so I decided to visit Knepp this morning. It was already hot when I arrived at 10 a.m. and grew hotter by the minute. Meadow Browns were everywhere and were augmented by a few early Marbled Whites in the grassier areas. I saw no sign of Purple Emperors during the first hour, but then one flew past me at head height along a path through a tall thicket. I followed it for a few seconds but it quickly disappeared. After another hour and a half of walking in the heat, I rested for a few minutes in one of the tree platforms and a vision of a pint of something cold at the Countryman Inn grew ever more tempting. I decided to call it a day and started trudging back to the car.

Having mentally given up and with my mind on other things, I nearly trod on a grounded Emperor, which shot up and circled me several times, seemingly to scold me for disturbing him. Then another Emperor appeared from nowhere and they had a brief skirmish before one of them flew off. The

(presumably original) Emperor circled me again and then, somewhat surprisingly, suddenly settled on a bramble right beside me at shoulder height. I got a few shots of his underside before he flew off. Having seen two, I decided to hang around for a few minutes and await developments. Sure enough, an Emperor came down on the track behind me and settled very briefly several times, as if looking for a good place for a drink. Disappointingly, he didn't stay and flew off after a minute. I then waited another 5 minutes before continuing on my way. However, now fully alert, I trod gently and sure enough, after a minute or so, I spotted an Emperor on the ground about 10 yards in front of me. He seemed well "dug in", so I approached gingerly and got some nice shots.



*Purple Emperor, Knepp*



*Purple Emperor, Knepp*

It may not be significant, but it was interesting that the Emperors I saw today were all at low-level, whereas the last time I visited Knepp a couple of years ago, they stayed well out of reach high up in the trees. Maybe it was the hot weather, or the fact it's still very early in the season -- I don't know.

## Knowlands Wood

by Andy Wilson, 20-Jun-17 04:59 PM GMT

After my very hot tramp around Knepp yesterday morning, I had a more gentle walk this afternoon at Knowlands Wood, near Barcombe, a site that is much more local to me. Despite the 30 degree heat, Meadow Browns were flying everywhere, together with a few fresh Ringlets. There were also a lot of Silver-Washed Fritillaries, madly dashing around all over the place and hardly ever coming to rest. Eventually, I got a shot of one when the sun was very briefly obscured by a small cloud. I didn't do a scientific count, but I must have seen at least 50 (all males as far as I could tell). At times, I had 4 or 5 in view at the same time.



*Silver-Washed Fritillary (m), Knowlands Wood, 20/06/2017*



*Silver-Washed Fritillary (m), Knowlands Wood, 20/06/2017*

I also saw about 5 White Admirals, but I suspect that the heat was making them less active than usual. Those that I did see were mostly skulking around in the undergrowth to avoid the full heat of the sun.

It's easy to dismiss the Ringlet as one of the "little brown jobs" of the butterfly world, but when they are newly minted with their plain chocolate colour and white fringes, they are really quite attractive 😊



*Ringlet, Knowlands Wood, 20/06/2017*

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-17 06:23 PM GMT

Cracking shots of His Nibbs Andy 😊🍷 I fear that I might miss out on an audience with Him this year 😞 but at least I have yours (and others) images to make me feel better 😊🍷😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Andy Wilson

by David M, 21-Jun-17 10:48 PM GMT

Well done on your Emperor experience, Andy. Shame High Browns aren't generally so co-operative! 😊

### Re: Andy Wilson

by bugboy, 22-Jun-17 08:14 PM GMT

Hi Andy, yes that was me at North Stoke this afternoon, good to put another face to a name 😊. Sorry I couldn't hang around to chat more but I had a train to catch! My gut feeling is the same as yours though, a little early but probably no more than a week or two. Earlier in the afternoon before I bumped into you it was much warmer and brighter but with enough cloud to calm things down, optimum conditions I would guess. Fingers crossed they're just about ready to burst forth from their pupae 😊

### Re: Andy Wilson

by Andy Wilson, 22-Jun-17 09:53 PM GMT

Hi Bugboy,

Nice to meet you. I saw you on the lane back to Amberley station. I feel guilty for not offering you a lift, but you were nearly there 😊

Let's hope for better luck Large Tort-wise a little later.

### Re: Andy Wilson

by bugboy, 22-Jun-17 10:33 PM GMT

#### Andy Wilson wrote:

Hi Bugboy,

Nice to meet you. I saw you on the lane back to Amberley station. I feel guilty for not offering you a lift, but you were nearly there 😊

Let's hope for better luck Large Tort-wise a little later.

Thats ok, I was keeping my eyes peeled on all the patches of sunlit bramble flowers and there is a big Buddliea I wanted to check out, just in case 😊!

### Re: Andy Wilson

by David M, 22-Jun-17 10:37 PM GMT

#### Andy Wilson wrote:

Let's hope for better luck Large Tort-wise a little later.

With Neil Hulme otherwise engaged, I'll be rooting for you boys to come up trumps with this! 😊

### "Newick Rootz" Knepp Awayday

by Andy Wilson, 06-Jul-17 05:24 PM GMT

I am a member of a group of volunteers that does footpath maintenance around our village in East Sussex. We are all interested in nature in general, and many have expertise in specific areas (e.g. birds and wild flowers), but none apart from me had ever seen a Purple Emperor before. Several months ago, I suggested a trip to Knepp and today was the date we decided upon. Of course, I wasn't to know that because of the early season, we would be past the peak, so as our group of a dozen or so people arrived on site at about 10:00 on this hot morning, I was rather anxious about getting any Emperor sightings.

I briefly saw one over the shallows by the east-west path at around TQ138203, but it disappeared before I could alert the rest of the group. We then walked up and down the north-south path between about TQ139201 and TQ140206. Here there is a line of mature oak trees on one side and shallows on the other. We watched a Silver-Washed Fritillary for several minutes as it kept coming back to the same patch of brambles, but then an Emperor appeared up in an oak tree and circled around for a few seconds. As we slowly walked along, we saw a few more, all lazily gliding from one tree to another, and not doing much else. It was probably too hot, but at least my group and I saw a total of about 6 before we retired for lunch.

I'm now on Grandpa duty for a few weeks, so my butterflying trips will be rather reduced in numbers 😊

### Friston Gallops – 12th July

by Andy Wilson, 13-Jul-17 09:26 AM GMT

After the much-needed rain that fell here in East Sussex on Tuesday and overnight into Wednesday, I had day free from grandparent duty. It was rather frustrating because conditions remained mostly cloudy and rather cool throughout the day, but after Andy Murray's demise from Wimbledon, I finally decided late in the afternoon to pay a quick visit to Friston Gallops. As I arrived on the lower slopes at the NE corner, almost immediately I flushed up 2 roosting Chalk Hill Blues. They whizzed off and my eye then alighted on a nice fresh female Small Copper that was minding its own business on a Knapweed flower.



*Small Copper (f)*

I walked around carefully for a few minutes and saw that there were many Chalk Hill Blues around, but they were all hunkering down in the grass. They were all males and were mostly in very fresh condition. It seems clear that the flight period has only just begun here.



*Chalk Hill Blue (m)*



*Chalk Hill Blue (m)*

There were also many "Little" Skippers about, and this site is known to have both Small and Essex flying together. After prostrating myself several times in the sweet sward of wild thyme, I managed to get some positive ID's. At one point, there was one of each almost within the same shot, and with the cool conditions they were much more approachable than usual.



*Small Skipper*



*Essex Skipper*

I then climbed up to the higher slopes at the northern end of the site, which is usually the best place for Chalk Hill Blues. Sure enough, there were several about, and they were all roosting in the close-cropped grass that occurs in this area. It was quite easy to see them at a distance as little blue jewels in the green background. I probably saw about 30 in total.

I was also struck by the large number of Gatekeepers that were everywhere, in the more open grassland as well as around the hedgerows that border the site. I think other people have remarked that they seem to be having a good year. Meadow Browns and Ringlets were also still flying in reasonable numbers. Strangely however, I saw no Marbled Whites, but maybe that was due to the weather conditions. Small Heaths were absent as well, but we're probably betwixt and between generations with them.

In addition to the butterflies, the most numerous Lepidoptera species by far was the Six-Spot Burnet. They were everywhere, roosting on Knapweed, thistles and Viper's Bugloss.



*Six-Spot Burnet on Viper's Bugloss*



*Six Six-Spot Burnets on one thistle flower (try saying that quickly!)*

Hopefully, I'll be back here several times over the next few weeks to monitor the flight period of the Chalk Hill Blues and other species.

## **Friston Gallops – 17th July**

by Andy Wilson, 17-Jul-17 03:45 PM GMT

### **Chock-full of Chalk Hills and Gatekeepers Galore!**

Friston Gallops was a wonderful place this morning. I arrived just after 10 am and conditions were not too hot at first, with some high cloud and a cooling breeze. As I arrived on site, there were a lot of butterflies active, but even more just roosting, waiting for the weather to warm up a bit.

Gatekeepers were everywhere. I lost count but must have seen several hundred. Overall, there must be several thousand at this site. There were large numbers of Chalk Hill Blues too. They are still concentrated at the northern end of the site, especially on the higher ground. However, there is also a sizable colony at the SW corner of the site, and with the numbers now present, they are dispersing all over the download areas, even to places where the grass is long and rank, and not really suitable for them. Like the Gatekeepers, I must have seen several hundred at least, and the site overall must have thousands present. The vast majority were males, which suggests that numbers are yet to peak.

Meadow Browns were also omnipresent, though probably not so many of them as Gatekeepers. Ringlet numbers are now well down, but in contrast, Small Heaths are picking up again, presumably as a new generation begins its flight period. Marbled Whites were also present, but not in the numbers I have seen before. I suspect they are coming to an end soon.

There were also many "little" skippers. It was impossible to ID them all, but Small and Essex were both present. It was also nice to tick off other species, such as Dark Green Fritillary (about 6 seen, but getting a bit past it), Common Blue, Small Copper, Brown Argus and Wall Brown. Other "odds and sods" were a few Peacocks, Red Admirals, a Comma, a few Brimstones and the inevitable Whites, although I only saw Large and Green-Veined for sure, not Small.



*Tatty Dark Green Fritillary and friend*



*Brown Argus*

I was nearing my target of 20 species by now, and considered cheating by diving off into the adjoining woodland to spot a Speckled Wood or Holly Blue, but fortune smiled on me and in the sheltered SW corner I spotted a lone female Clouded Yellow, my first of the year, which was just hunkering down in the grass. So that was my 20 of the day, but with luck and a few more pairs of eyes I reckon you could push the species count on a single day up to 25 at this site.



*Clouded Yellow*

### **Queen of Spain Fritillary in Sussex**

by Andy Wilson, 09-Sep-17 02:45 PM GMT

My butterflying activities have been severely curtailed for the past two months (partly because I indulged my other passion and went to see the total eclipse of the sun in America, so I can't really complain!). However, a window in the weather and my diary this morning allowed a visit to Halscombe Farm, Piddinghoe, to try to see a Queen of Spain. In the company of about 5 other enthusiasts, we waited for about an hour and eventually one rather worn individual put in an appearance on the ground by the bonfire site. It stayed for a few minutes before it took to the air, did a little pirouette and then disappeared somewhere to the east. I stayed for another hour but never saw it again. Apparently the same one had been seen about an hour before I arrived, but the second individual seen on Thursday was not there today.



*Queen of Spain Fritillary*

### **Re: Andy Wilson**

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-17 11:11 AM GMT

Hi! Andy, bad condition or not I'd love to have seen one 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by David M, 10-Sep-17 08:10 PM GMT

Good to see you got an audience, Andy. These opportunities don't come by every day (or even every year)!

**Re: Andy Wilson**

by Wurzel, 11-Sep-17 10:11 PM GMT

Any UK vagrant (butterfly or bird 😊) no matter how tatty is a joy 😊🇬🇧 I'm actually just as envious of that lush Clouded Yellow – in very fine fettle 😊



Have a goodun

Wurzel