



White-letter hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* by Tania Orgill (Wild About Bath)

Butterflies & Moths of Avon (BaMA)

Version 2

14th December 2023

Introduction

Thank you to those who sent in information for this directory. The idea for it came from a conversation with members of the [Somerset and Bristol branch of Butterfly Conservation](#). The committee was conscious that most of its members and activity tended to be at the southern end of its branch area and they needed to know more about what was happening in and around Bristol. Of course, an important part of ‘around Bristol’ is South Gloucestershire and we have attempted to include that area in this directory as well as Bath and Northeast Somerset (BANES) and North Somerset. We hope that the directory will be of use to the Somerset and Bristol branch committee, but more importantly perhaps that others will find it useful, especially as a way of **coordinating future efforts both to monitor and improve habitats of butterflies and moths** and to encourage more people to help in these important tasks. It is great to see that there is clearly a lot going on! But also, some important gaps. Either we have not been able to track down this work, or it is not happening (yet...).

Contacts for this directory



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I’m a retired teacher and since the 1990s I’ve been engaged in a range of community-based activities including being a founding member for several parks’ support and community gardening groups as well as the BS3 Wildlife Group. I like observing wildlife generally, but I’m particularly drawn to butterflies and moths.



Flora Tiley | Email: flora.tiley@gmail.com

I’ve been fascinated by butterflies for a little while now! I recently completed an MSc at UWE and for my dissertation, surveyed butterflies in parks across Bristol and during summer 2023 was living in Romania surveying butterflies across Transylvania. I currently work at UWE as a Technical Educator in GIS for Environmental Science.

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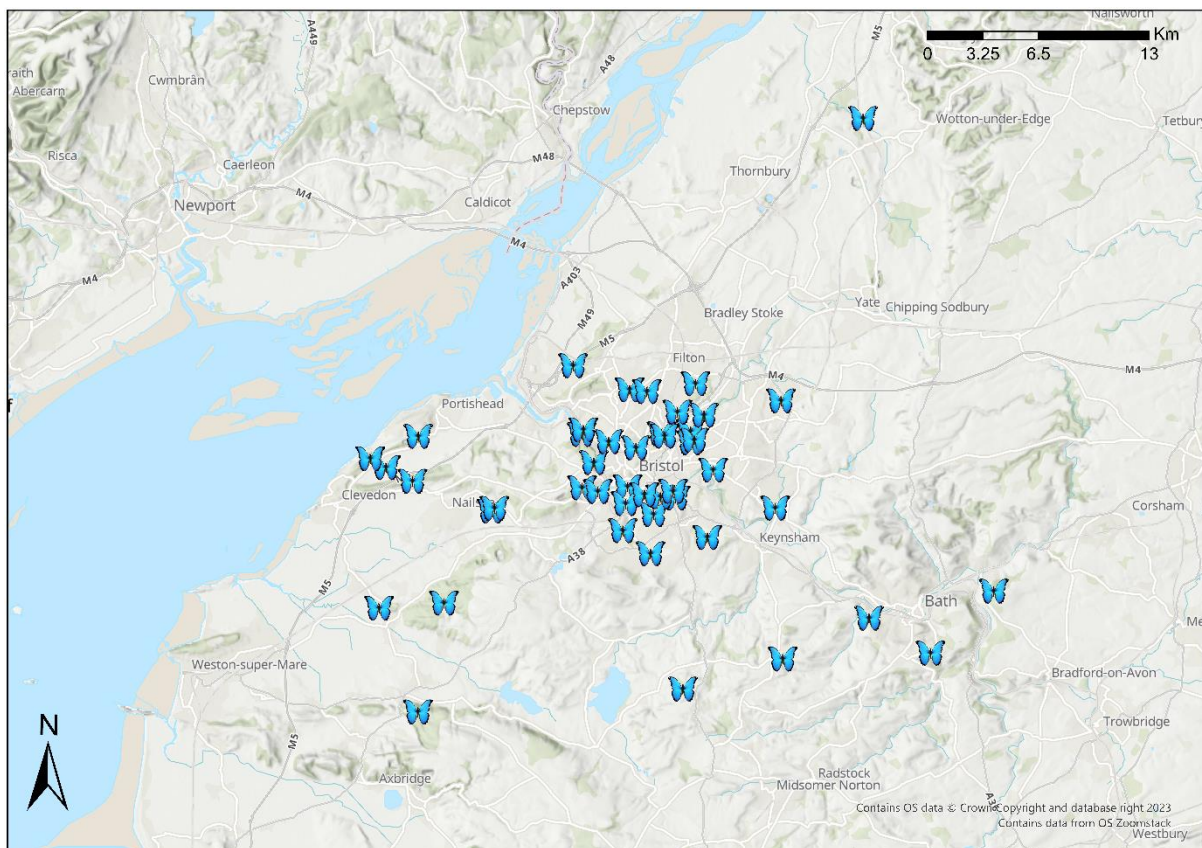
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ABOUT THE DIRECTORY

Many of the organisations and work listed below has been submitted to us though some have been added based on local knowledge. This document is a constant work in progress, so if something is not right, please let us know! Entries are sorted into alphabetical order.

MAP OF SITES

Map of (nearly) all the sites mentioned in this directory. If a site listed below is in italics, it was not able to be mapped.



For an online, interactive version, please click here:

[Butterflies and Moths of Avon \(BaMA\)](#)

GLOSSARY

Avon The former county of Avon (1974-1996), now, more or less the West of England Combined Authority or WECA.

Community Nature Reserve Neighbourhood areas being developed in South Gloucestershire by the county and parish governments. Unlike conventional nature reserves, they are not focused on green spaces, but include a whole neighbourhood including highly urbanised territory. See **Urban Nature Reserves**.

CUBA The County that Used to Be Avon.

Local Nature Reserve c12 areas in Bristol designated by the City Council.

SNCI Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Urban Nature Reserve Neighbourhoods in Bristol identified by community organisations. These are alliances of domestic and community gardeners, local businesses, churches, park groups, allotment associations and others to monitor and promote local wildlife.

ARNOS VALE CEMETERY TRUST

Whilst the conservation management priority is to provide access to visitors of graves and the listed monuments, the cemetery is also being managed as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The landscape management plan focuses on conserving the existing grassland and woodland habitats and improving their quality to benefit wildlife. The woodland is being managed through selective thinning; to improve the canopy structure and encourage biodiversity. Areas of scrub and bramble are being managed, not through total clearance, but through rotational cutting every three years. Scrub will be prevented from encroaching further onto the grassland.

Most of the grassland areas is cut annually, towards the end of the summer, when plants have set their seeds. These practices are put in place to favour the amazing diversity of wildlife which inhabits the cemetery.

Site(s) Arnos Vale Cemetery	Conservation status Site of Nature Conservation Interest
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact info@arnosvale.org.uk	Website Wildlife - Arnos Vale

ASHTON COURT RANGERS VOLUNTEER GROUP

Most of this 850-acre estate is in North Somerset, but it is owned and administered by Bristol City Council. It contains lots of wildlife including butterflies and moths, but we are not aware of any systematic survey of lepidoptera. Nor does it seem to be managed for insects, apart from wood-boring ones. Areas of long grass are reported to be full of butterflies but are removed during the summer or to facilitate events.

Site(s) Ashton Court Estate	Conservation status Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Bristol City Council Parks Department	Website Ashton Court Estate (bristol.gov.uk)

AVON WILDLIFE TRUST (AWT)

AWT manages 30 sites across Avon. Some of these are regularly monitored for butterflies and other creatures. Some sites include rare and threatened species including Small Blues, Chalkhill Blues, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Dark Green Fritillaries, Grizzled Skippers, and Dingy Skippers.

The trust has around 10 active transects currently across their various sites and would undertake more if willing volunteers were available. There are also significant sites for moths, but data on this is more ad hoc depending upon local moth trappers.

Most effort regarding habitat is in maintenance, but currently Goblin Combe is being improved. A large section of non-native plantation woodland has been felled to be replaced by a more dynamic native woodland/scrub/wood pasture environment. Monitoring in this area has begun and AWT is interested to see how the butterflies respond.

Site(s) Bennett's Patch, Browne's Folly, Charfield Meadow, Dolebury Warren (owned by National Trust but managed by AWT), Folly Farm, Goblin Combe, <i>Hellenge Hill</i> , <i>Hutton Hill</i> , Lawrence Weston Moor, Stockwood Open Space, Walton Common, Weston Big Wood, <i>Weston Moor</i>	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve (Lawrence Weston Moor and Stockwood Open Space) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Browne's Folly, Folly Farm,
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	Goblin Combe, Walton Common, Weston Big Wood)
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Jennifer Greenwood jenny.greenwood@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk David Horlick (for Walton Common information) David.horlick@btinternet.com	Website Lawrence Weston Moor Avon Wildlife Trust Stockwood Open Space Avon Wildlife Trust



Meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* by Laura Sharp (Old Sneed Park)

BATH NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BATH NATS)

Bath NATS promotes an interest in all aspects of natural history in and around Bath. They encourage study, conservation and recording of local fauna and flora. There are indoor meetings, field trips, wildlife ID, survey work, members' slides, and social evenings. There are several study and special interest groups, including one on moths. Bath NATS works with other groups but does not usually have a long-term commitment to monitor specific sites.

The Moth Group usually plans visits to traps in members' gardens. About 12 are programmed for April to October plus ad hoc traps. Annual totals from group meetings average 3000 moths of 350 species.

There is no specific Butterfly Group, but some members do weekly transect walks for Butterfly Conservation. Bath NATS is not specifically involved in habitat improvement.

Moth records are submitted to the [National Moth Recording Scheme](#) and butterfly records to recorder@somersetbutterflies.org.uk

Site(s) Bath and North East Somerset (BANES)	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Carole Catling info@bathnats.org.uk	Website BATH NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (bathnats.org.uk) Bath Naturewatch Facebook

BLOOMING WHITEWAY

Blooming Whiteway is about growing – growing plants and growing us as a community! Based on the Whiteway estate, we site between Bath City Farm and open countryside. We are fascinated by what happens over the garden fence – and how we can garden as a neighbourhood to increase biodiversity.

Site(s) Whiteway, Bath	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Jude Rice judebloomingwhiteway@gmail.com	Website Blooming Whiteway

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT MOTH GROUP

Overseen by BRERC, membership is free in exchange for moth sightings entered into the BRERC database. Field and indoor meetings are held, and an e-mail newsletter is produced with regular updates to Moths of the Bristol Region (2008).

Most field meetings are light trapping and are held across CUBA at many different sites. Such surveying is therefore largely ad hoc. The group supports and encourages the membership to regularly trap in their gardens which can provide systematic data. Occasional daytime meetings search for day-flying or leaf mining moths. 12 species have been added to the moth list for CUBA between January 2021 and July 2023 taking the total to 1,640.

The Group is concerned primarily with monitoring/recording and supplying this data to BRERC. Some members may be involved in site management, e.g., at Watercress Farm, Wraxall or be willing to give informal advice.

Many of the Group members are part of the Avon Entomology Group on WhatsApp – sharing images, records and assisting each other in accurate identification.

Site(s) Bristol	Conservation status
Active surveys? Some	Active habitat management? Some
Contact Coordinator – Ray Barnett	Website



BRISTOL BUTTERFLY GROUP

This is a Facebook group set up in 2019 for enthusiasts and photographers to share images, sightings, and information.

Site(s) Bristol	Conservation status
Active surveys? Some	Active habitat management? Some
Contact	Website Bristol Butterfly Group Facebook

BRISTOL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

The Museum holds extensive collections of butterflies and moths many from Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire which act as a historic record of insect collecting and collectors and of the historic distribution of lepidoptera. The collections are available for study by appointment and are used for public training in identification and engagement issues such as climate and ecological emergencies.

Direct surveying is not usually undertaken by staff, but collections and staff can support those who do this. Voucher specimens of critical species (i.e., those which require identification under high power magnification) can be deposited for future preservation.

New collections of reference material have been donated to the museum in recent years, e.g., the moth collections of county moth recorders of Cornwall and Wiltshire.

The museum has no direct involvement in habitat improvement, although advice may be provided.

The study and conservation of lepidoptera is promoted in permanent and temporary displays and exhibitions and through identification workshops. It also arranges occasional walks and talks on local nature conservation. The museum is part of the Culture & Creative Industries team in Bristol City Council alongside BRERC which it works with closely.

Site(s) Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Rhian Rowson, Curator of Biology Rhian.rowson@bristol.gov.uk	Website Bristol Museum & Art Gallery Bristol Museums

BRISTOL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

The BNS has been recording and publishing information on the wildlife and geology of the region since 1862. The Invertebrate Section (originally the Entomology Section) is one of the original sub-sections of the Society and continues to hold field meetings and talks to encourage knowledge and understanding of local wildlife including lepidoptera.

Field meetings are arranged each year at sites across 'Avon' and further afield into Somerset and Gloucestershire, e.g., on the Somerset Levels.

The annual publication of the BNS 'Nature in Avon' carries a summary of the significant insect reports from the region for each year including butterflies and moths. As such, it uses records from members and from the Bristol and District Moth Group and other sources. It is therefore the only publication of its type available to indicate annual changes specifically for the Avon area. BNS has no particular role in habitat improvement other than to offer advice.

The Society is perhaps noted for the expertise of many of its members, but its aim is to encourage recording and conservation of wildlife at all levels and to encourage new enthusiasts to take up study. It is not however a campaigning body.

Site(s) Avon	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Maico Weites, President of the Invertebrate Section maicoweites@gmail.com	Website Home - Bristol Naturalists' Society (bristolnats.org.uk)



Clouded yellow *Colias croceus* by Peter Loy-Hancocks (Manor Woods Valley)

BRISTOL REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE (BRERC)

BRERC has 625,478 digitised records of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) for the West of England area (North Somerset, Bristol, Bath & Northeast Somerset, and South Gloucestershire). This and other species data is made available to local authorities, Avon Wildlife Trust, and Butterfly Conservation.

Currently, BRERC has nearly 4 million digitised records across all species. These are shared with the National Biodiversity network and Global Biodiversity Information Facility. This data is fully available on the BRERC Website and, on request, via our data search services (which may incur a charge). Additionally, BRERC holds data on habit and sites for most land parcels in our region.

BRERC produced and published the 'Moths of the Bristol Region'* and the 'Butterflies of the Bristol Region'* which are based on data we hold and display distribution mapping and other relevant ecological, historical, and cultural information. These books are collaborative works with many contributing recorders and experts. The books are available to buy from the Bristol Museum's Shop including their on-line shop. (<https://shop.bristolmuseums.org.uk>).

BRERC staff and volunteers have wildlife, geological and data management expertise. The information is also used at BRERC for data modelling and other state of the environment reporting purposes.

Of course, all BRERC data depends on information from observers. To find out how to submit records please visit the BRERC website.

Site(s) Avon	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Tim Corner tim.corner@brerc.org.uk	Website Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (brerc.org.uk)

BS3 WILDLIFE GROUP

The BS3 Wildlife Group launched in 2017 and aims to raise awareness of local wildlife and to improve habitats in Greater Bedminster. In 2023 it declared BS3 to be the Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve with the aim of protecting so-called ‘common’ species, not just butterflies and moths, that are now under threat.

In 2017 we asked our member ‘how many species of butterfly can you find in BS3?’. Most reports were from domestic gardens. By the close of 2022 the answer seems to be c15 core species and perhaps a further c5 appearing less frequently. We have six annual reports. We asked a similar question about moths and, so far, c250 are claimed.

Core butterflies are Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, and Ringlet. Less frequently reported were Small Skipper, Small Copper, Common Blue, Marbled White and Small Heath.

Amongst the most frequently reported moths are Box Tree, Brimstone, Garden Carpet, Willow Beauty, and Large Yellow Underwing. Moths were a mixture of day and night flyers. Only a few people had access to a moth trap. Reports exist for both butterflies and moths.

Our members include domestic and community gardeners, park support groups, allotment associations etc. We are urging all of these to improve ‘their’ space for wildlife. Many are introducing appropriate plants, water, hiding places, uncut grass etc.

Site(s) Greater Bedminster (BS3)	Conservation status Urban Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Some
Contact Ben Barker mywildbedminster@virginmedia.com	Website BS3 Wildlife Group Facebook

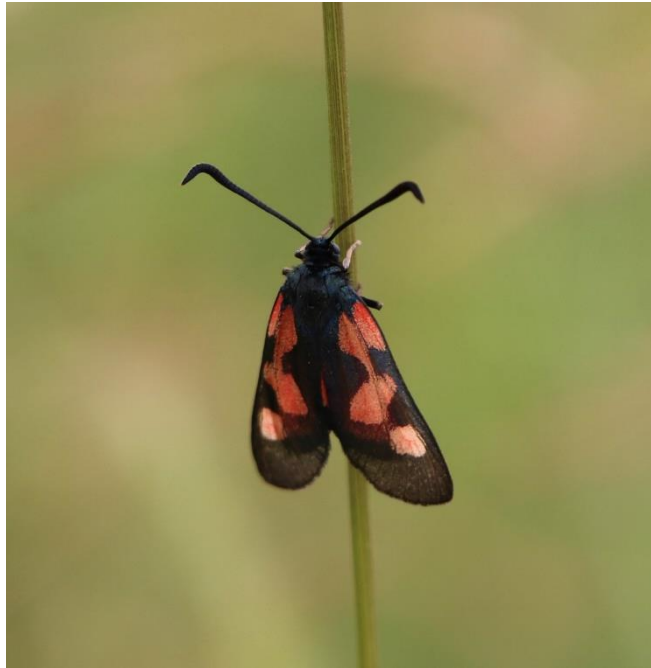
CLEVEDON MOTH GROUP

This is an informal group of four moth trappers linked to the Bristol and District Moth Group. They have undertaken regular trapping over the last 10 to 15 years at Walton Common, Weston Moor, Walton Moor and, currently, Watercress Farm at Wraxall.

Additionally, two members trap every night in their gardens, weather permitting. One garden reports 3685 records of 347 species in the period January 2022 to April 2023.

Trapping at Watercress Farm is approximately monthly. Between May and December 2022 327 species were recorded over five occasions. Watercress Farm is a regenerative farm. It uses management principles where sustainability and sympathy for wildlife and natural processes are very important. As well as moths, the group survey dragonflies, butterflies, and other invertebrates.

Site(s) Walton Common, <i>Walton Moor</i> , Watercress Farm (Wraxall), <i>Weston Moor</i>	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Bob Fleetwood bobfleetwood@virginmedia.com	Website



Narrow-bordered five-spot burnet *Zygaena lonicerae* by Tony Moulin (YACWAG)

FRIENDS OF AVON NEW CUT (FRANC)

The Avon New Cut is to the south of Bristol's Floating Harbour. Next to it on the north bank (BS1) is Butterfly Junction. This is a community gardening, post-industrial space near the Create Centre. Volunteers from the Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) maintain it on the first Saturday of every month from 11am with the aim of enhancing it with plants for wildlife, including butterflies, moths, and other pollinators. The space was first monitored for butterflies a couple of decades ago before it was damaged by development of a bus route. Monitoring has begun again.

Site(s) Avon New Cut	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Guy Malkerson zennoguyma@yahoo.com	Website Home - Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

FRIENDS OF BADOCK'S WOOD

A local volunteer undertakes a butterfly transect along a breeding bird survey route that includes Badock's Wood and one site in Westbury on Trym. Data is entered for WCBS. A hay cut is done late summer by Bristol City Council.

Site(s) Badock's Wood	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Sian Parry sianp2002@yahoo.co.uk	Website Friends of Badock's Wood (fobw.org.uk)

FRIENDS OF EASTVILLE PARK

The Friends of Eastville Park have recently expanded their Habitat Management Volunteers. One of this group's aims is to improve the grassland at Redhill Drive and Everest Road fields. The current focus is on removing encroaching blackthorn saplings and locals are working alongside Bristol City Council to establish wildflower plants that are beneficial to the resident butterfly population in terms of caterpillar food plant and adult nectaring.

Site(s) Eastville Park	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact epnaturegroup@gmail.com	Website Friends of Eastville Park Facebook



Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* by Laura Sharp (Old Sneed Park)

FRIENDS OF EMERSON'S GREEN

This was launched in 2023 as the first neighbourhood-based nature reserve in South Gloucestershire. We are unaware of any particular studies or habitat improvements related to butterflies and moths, but the emphasis on wildlife gardening, linking spaces and other measures is bound to be helpful.

Site(s) Emerson's Green	Conservation status Community Nature Reserve
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact jenny.griffiths@southglos.gov.uk	Website Friends of Emersons Green Park Facebook

FRIENDS OF GREENBANK CEMETERY

The cemetery was created in 2020 and lies adjacent to Royate Hill nature reserve. The Friends of Greenbank Cemetery are introducing a more nature-friendly management whilst striving to keep a balance of human and nature needs. The habitat contains a wealth of butterfly species. In 2020 an official UKBMS butterfly transect was established with a route through the cemetery and the nature reserve.

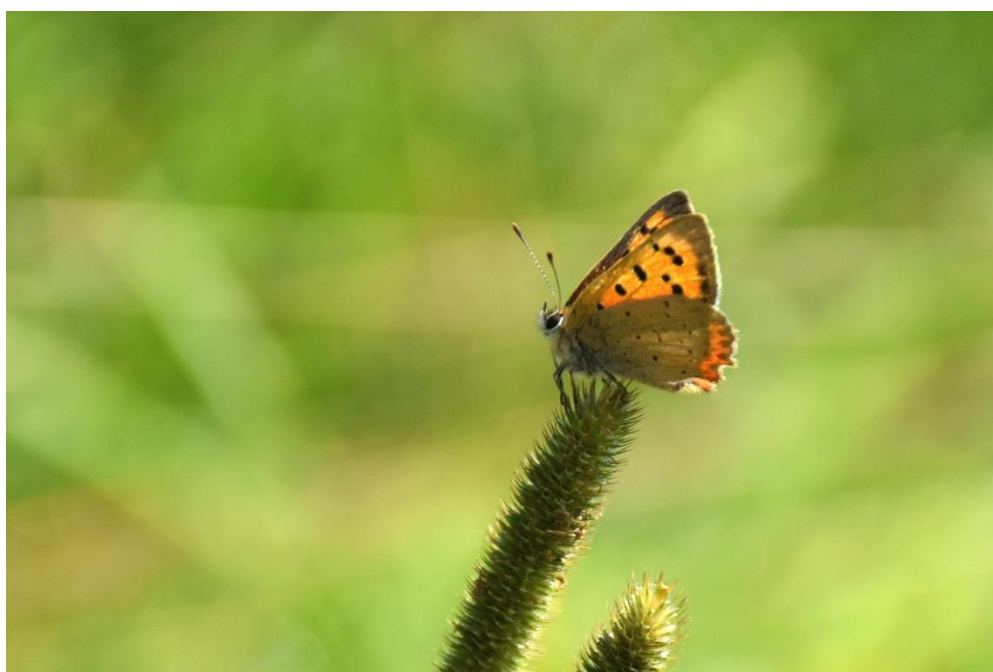
Site(s) Greenbank Cemetery	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact royatehillnr@gmail.com	Website Friends of Greenbank Cemetery Facebook

FRIENDS OF HENGROVE MOUND AND HAWKFIELD MEADOW

Ron Gillard is a member of Butterfly Conservation and has undertaken a transect since July 2021. Between April and October, he strolls the 2km route once a week, taking about an hour and a half. His records go to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme website. Only butterflies are counted although he has rarely spotted a 6-Spot Burnet, Lattice Heath, and Silver-Y moth.

On 29 June 2023 when it was a warm and sunny early afternoon, he spotted eight species: 7x Small Skippers; 1xBrimstone; 2xLarge Whites; 1xRed Admirals; 8xCommas; 14xMarbled Whites; 8xMeadow Browns and 10xRinglets. At 51 this was the largest number of butterflies so far that year. Whites in flight are sometimes difficult to identify. A fairly new goat enclosure fence has made counting more difficult as it splits the path making it hard to check the verges on both sides of the path.

Site(s) Hengrove Mound and Hawkfield Meadow	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact ron.j.gillard@gmail.com	Website Friends of Hengrove Mound and Hawkfield Meadow (wordpress.com)



Small copper *Lycaena phlaes* by Laura Sharp (Old Sneed Park)

FRIENDS OF OLD SNEED PARK NATURE RESERVE (FOSPNR)

Old Sneed Park is a small (6.6ha) yet diverse Nature Reserve in Sea Mills. The Reserve includes a large variety of important habitat types including woodland, hedgerow, scrub, reedbed, a lake and semi-improved neutral grassland meadows. The Reserve's connection to Bishops Knoll, Bennetts Patch and the Trym meadows make it a small, yet significant, contribution to the Downs and Gorge, Leigh woods and Horseshoe Bend ecological network.

The FOSPNR manage and maintain the diverse habitats on the Reserve through work by a dedicated group of local volunteers and monthly work parties which are open to everyone. The FOSPNR also host regular family events on the Reserve.

The FOSPNR hope that by establishing a UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme transect on the Reserve they can supplement current data for the local area from The Gulley and Walcombe Slade monitoring, in addition to understanding the impact of climate change on butterfly populations and distribution. Monitoring will begin in April 2024 and will be carried out weekly for the survey season (6 months) by volunteers.

Site(s) Old Sneed Park	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact FOSPNR@gmail.com	Website The Friends of Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve

FRIENDS OF ROYATE HILL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

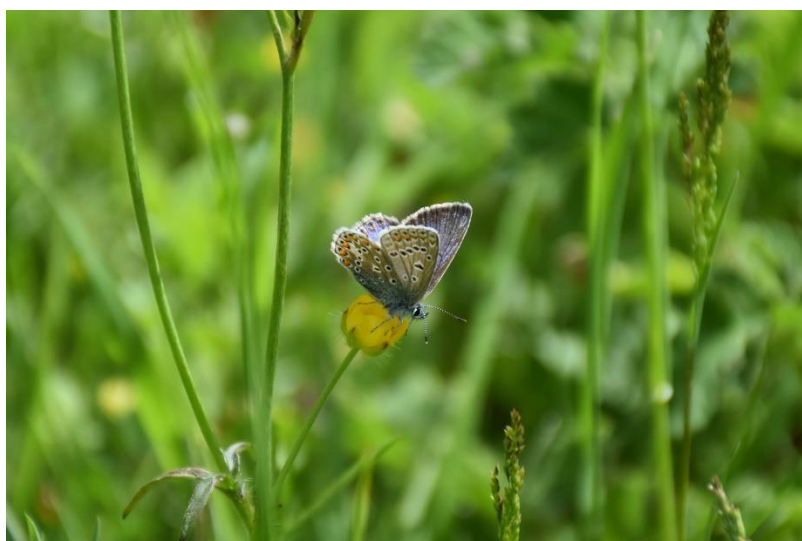
The Friends of Royate Hill Local Nature Reserve was established in 2017 to bring the local community together to restore and maintain this unusual site which straddles an old railway embankment. It has a wide range of habitats including a sloping neutral calcareous grassland. Improvements are ongoing to restore the habitats and the site is home to a wide range of grassland and hedgerow butterfly species. The UKBMS transect that begins at Greenbank Cemetery includes the Royate Hill LNR.

Site(s) Royate Hill	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact royatehillnr@gmail.com	Website Friends of Royate Hill Local Nature Reserve Facebook http://www.twitter.com/RoyateHillLNR

FRIENDS OF SEA MILLS MEADOWS

The meadows lie on either side of the River Trym in North Bristol. The group have been negotiating with Bristol Parks over the grass cutting regime. Cuts are now less frequent; grass is longer with more wildflowers and the group reports a noticeable increase in butterflies.

Site(s) <i>Sea Mills Meadows</i>	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact meadows.seamills@gmail.com	Website



Common blue *Polyommatus icarus* by Laura Sharp (Old Sneed Park)

FRIENDS OF THE DOWNS AND AVON GORGE (FoDAG)

The aims of the group are:

To monitor, work and influence the Downs Committee, Bristol City Council and all others involved in the management, maintenance and improvement of the Gorge and Downs.

To protect and enhance the Downs and the Gorge for the benefit of all its users and its wildlife.

To consult with, and represent, the views and aspirations of all users.

It meets these aims through restorative projects, conservation, and education. A full programme of talks, walks and events is held as well as volunteer programmes such as wildlife monitoring and deep litter clean-ups.

One of the wildlife monitoring programmes is to monitor butterflies in two transects, loosely one on the flatter parts of the Clifton and Durdham Downs and one in the area called The Gully and Walcombe Slade, which descends to the Portway and is largely grazed by our goats.

Five or six volunteers survey each area at weekly intervals from April to September. Survey results from the transects are reported to the UKBMS. Monitoring began in 2010. Record sheets for 2010 to 2022 are available on the website. Typically, the number of species is in the low 20s each year, with slightly greater variety in The Gully.

Site(s) The Downs and Avon Gorge	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact	Website Butterflies - FRIENDS OF THE DOWNS AND AVON GORGE

FRIENDS OF TROOPERS HILL

Invertebrate surveys last carried out in 2021.

Site(s) Troopers Hill	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact	Website Friends of Troopers Hill (troopers-hill.org.uk)

MANOR WOODS VALLEY GROUP

Manor Woods Valley is in Bishopsworth, Bristol. Details of the site are available on the website. The annual butterfly transects of the site is now in its fifth year (as of 2023). Survey reports are available at http://manorwoodsvalley.org/get-involved/education_and_learning/research-projects/. Nineteen species have been recorded.

The annual butterfly survey is conducted as part of the site monitoring and surveying activities of the Manor Woods Valley Group (MWVG). The Group is not a butterfly or moth group but has a much wider site monitoring and conservation remit. MWVG is not looking for additional assistance with the butterfly survey at this time but would be very interested in contacting anyone who wants to survey moths on the site.

The Manor Woods Valley Group is constantly carrying out habitat improvements on site. Future plans include more of the same, i.e., scrub management and increasing the area and diversity of wildflower meadows.

Site(s) Manor Woods Valley	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Peter Loy-Hancocks manorwoodsvalley@gmail.com	Website https://manorwoodsvalley.org/ https://www.facebook.com/manorwoodsvalleygroup/



Comma *Polygonia c-album* by Peter Loy-Hancocks (Manor Woods Valley)

NARROWWAYS MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

Volunteers have undertaken a transect across these two adjacent sites since 2017 under the auspices of the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). 21 species have been identified. The most frequently recorded in 2022 were Small White, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and the least frequently seen were Small Copper, Painted Lady and Green-veined White.

Site(s) Narrowways Millennium Green and Ashley Vale Allotments	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Liz Empson lizempson5@gmail.com	Website Welcome Narrowways Local Nature Reserve (wordpress.com)

NATIONAL TRUST

Volunteers carry out surveys in Tyntesfield Estate; Cadbury Camp; Tickenham and Leigh Woods on behalf of the Trust. At Tyntesfield the transect runs alongside a field that has been managed for wildflowers to encourage butterflies (it would be good to know who manages this field and if the project has been successful). Cadbury Camp reports common species including common blues, marbled whites, and small skippers. Purple Hairstreaks have been sighted in Leigh Woods, but not often.

The rewilding project at Watercress Farm in Wraxhall also has a butterfly transect element and a moth trapping element, both producing very detailed records.

Site(s) Cadbury Camp, Leigh Woods, <i>Tyntesfield Estate</i>	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Peter Allen peterallen123@btinternet.com	Website

NATURAL ENGLAND

A butterfly transect is carried out in Gordano Valley National Nature Reserve.

Site(s) Gordano Valley	Conservation status National Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact David.horlick@btinternet.com	Website



NORTHERN SLOPES INITIATIVE

Since late 2021, Clive Weston has undertaken a weekly butterfly transect on this reserve and neighbouring spaces. So far, 21 species have been identified. Some habitat management is carried out by volunteers on the transect. This includes cutting back and scything grass to encourage wildflowers as well as bramble management in meadows.

Site(s) Northern Slopes and Nover's Common	Conservation status Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Some
Contact Clive Weston cliveweston@yahoo.co.uk	Website Northern Slopes Initiative – A nature reserve for the health and wellbeing of people and wildlife (northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk)

ONE CITY ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY

This came out in 2020 with the support of 24 organisations including Bristol City Council (BCC), Avon Wildlife Trust and the Natural History Consortium. Its aim is to establish ‘an ecologically resilient, wildlife-rich Bristol by 2030’. Amongst other things, this will include at least 30% of the city (not just that part administered by the signatories) to be ‘managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030’. This means that over the next few years, at least the larger spaces, will have a plan to promote wildlife whilst recognising the other demands on the space. Some park support groups have moved faster than BCC and have begun to develop their own plan. The strategy also pledges to ‘reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50% by 2030’.

Assuming these goals are achieved, butterflies and moths should be among those creatures that do well. BCC is also reviewing its general park and green space strategy. Consultation on this is promised before the end of 2023. It is said to contain a section on the promotion of wildlife. We are also expecting the publication of a WECA wildlife strategy in early 2024.

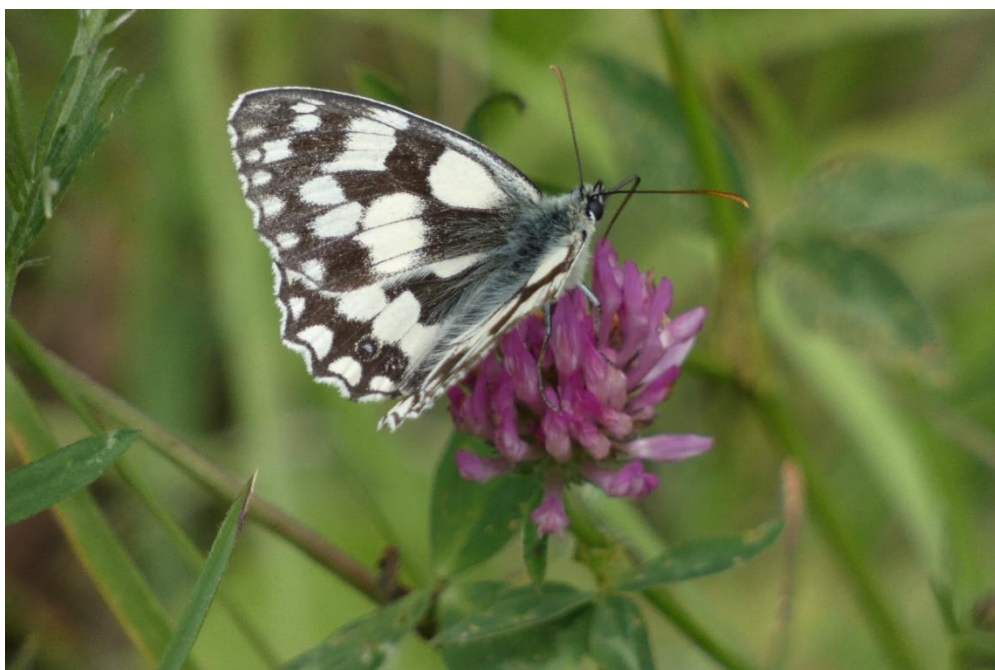
Site(s) Avon	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Alex.minshull@bristol.gov.uk	Website One-City-Ecological-Emergency-Strategy-28.09.20.pdf (bristolonecity.com)

REALLY WILD LOCKLEAZE

This is a Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust project and will be establishing butterfly transects across Lockleaze and encouraging residents to do FITcounts (Flower-Insect Timed Count) <http://ukpoms.org.uk/fit-counts>

The project intends to create 12 acres of wildflower meadows across the housing greens and private gardens of Lockleaze.

Site(s) Lockleaze	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact reallywild@lockleazent.co.uk	Website Really Wild Lockleaze — Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust (lockleazehub.org.uk)



Marbled white *Melanargia galathea* by Peter Loy-Hancocks (Manor Woods Valley)

SOMERSET AND BRISTOL BRANCH OF BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

This is run by a committee of some 12-13 people representing different parts of the organisation. The area covered is vice counties 5 and 6 which includes metropolitan Bristol, North Somerset, Bath and Northeast Somerset and Somerset County. The County butterfly recorder for these two vice counties is Ross Harley (recorder@somersetbutterflies.org.uk). The part of Bristol north of the Avon is in vice-county 34 and is covered by the Gloucestershire recorder.

Monitoring of weekly transects is organised through the transect coordinator, Peter Bright. This includes transects in Bristol, BANES and North Somerset as well as the County of Somerset.

Site(s) Avon	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Alison Uren secretary@somersetbutterflies.org.uk Acting-chair Peter Bright peterbright60@btinternet.com	Website Somerset and Bristol Branch Butterfly Conservation (butterfly-conservation.org)

SOMERSET MOTH GROUP

The Somerset Moth Group was formed in 1989 with the aim of recording and studying the moths of the area and to promote the importance of moths in the context of biodiversity and habitat health. A macro moth distribution atlas for Somerset was produced in 2012 and an up-to-date distribution map for every species of macro- and micro moth found in the county is shown on the Group's website (somersetmoths.org). Records are submitted annually to Butterfly Conservation's National Moth Recording Scheme.

The group provides an identification and verification service, and anyone can send in photographs or specimens for confirmation. Although run independently, it is affiliated to Butterfly Conservation Somerset and works closely with a range of conservation bodies.

Members can keep in touch via the website where they can share news of sightings and upload photographs. There is also a regular newsletter 'Nocturnal Record' for members, normally circulated twice a year.

The group caters for all levels of experience, from the beginner to the expert. There are several experienced enthusiasts at various locations across the county who are willing to help new members or those wishing to improve their skills. There is a small annual membership fee.

Site(s) Somerset	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Rob Grimmond, Chair motcombe@btinternet.com Paul Newman, Membership Secretary pingramnewman@gmail.com Neale Mellersh, Recorder VC5 and VC6 sneale48@hotmail.co.uk	Website Somerset Moth Group - Somerset Environmental Records Centre (somerc.com)

SOUTHMEAD HOSPITAL

Staff carry out a regular butterfly transect on the site.

Site(s) Southmead Hospital	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Phoebe.webster@nbt.nhs.uk	Website



Small copper *Lycaena phlaes* by Laura Sharp (Old Sneed Park)

TOTTERDOWN RESIDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ACTION (TRESA)

Totterdown is a neighbourhood in South Bristol. Its long-standing Residents' Association (TRESA) declared itself an urban nature reserve in 2023. It has been encouraging local residents, park groups, allotment associations etc to become more wildlife friendly for several years. As an urban nature reserve, it has pledged to redouble its efforts, and this can only be good for moths and butterflies.

Site(s) Totterdown	Conservation status Urban Nature Reserve
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact hallo@tresa.org.uk	Website TRESA – Totterdown Residents Environmental & Social Action

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The University of Bristol, Campus Division, have been collaborating with Wessex Ecological Consultancy since 2015 to oversee the monitoring of our campuses in Stoke Bishop, Clifton Village, and the 'precinct' (which actually encompasses sites in Cotham and Kingsdown). The attached report includes maps of the transects.

Utilising the gathered data, we are actively enhancing and preserving habitats, with a particular focus on moths and butterflies. Our strategies include meadow restoration initiatives, as well as involving both staff and students in projects like constructing 'bug hotels.' Furthermore, we've meticulously mapped all our areas in preparation for Biodiversity Net Gain metrics and are currently formulating plans in line with Natural England's Green Infrastructure principles.

Notably, our Botanic Garden in Stoke Bishop plays a crucial role in monitoring invertebrates and tracking changes within its exceptionally floristic environment. It houses a rich collection of local flora and rare native species, establishing itself as an example of excellence in this field.

Site(s) <i>Campuses in Stoke Bishop, Clifton Village, Cotham and Kingsdown</i>	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Alan Stealey alan.stealey@bristol.ac.uk	Website

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND (UWE)

Site(s) Campuses at Frenchay, Glenside and Bower Ashton	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact Richie Fluester richie.fluester@uwe.ac.uk	Website

Porter's Rustic, Timsbury, Bath. VC6 10 September 2023 MVLlight



WATERCRESS FARM

Watercress Farm is a privately owned rewilding site between Wraxall and Flax Bourton in North Somerset. There are two transects on site. The first transect consists of farmland that is being returned to nature and one of the fields has been rewetted recently to develop a wetland area with spoil used to develop butterfly banks that have been seeded with a suitable flower/plant mix. The second transect covers an old brownfield site that has been disused for 30+ years. Butterfly results are submitted to UKBMS and BRERC.

Site(s) Watercress Farm	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact robin.martin@me.com	Website https://belmont.estate/

WIDER COUNTRYSIDE BUTTERFLY SURVEY (WCBS)

Andy Danford is the designated Somerset and Bristol Branch Champion for this UK-wide survey. He coordinates 21 WCBS recorders in the Somerset and Bristol region. Andy and four others cover 7 Ordnance Survey squares in the Bristol/BANES area. The WCBS research design incorporates randomly selected OS squares which can typically cover farmland, wooded areas, grassland, parks, coastal areas, and urban spaces and so on.

WCBS is run jointly by Butterfly Conservation and the British Trust for Ornithology with support from the UK Centre for Hydrology and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Their surveys measure the abundance of widespread butterfly species in under-recorded habitats, and separately, the abundance of our British breeding birds. The emphasis in these transects is therefore different from those which monitor sites where habitat specialist species are to be found. All data is reported into the UKBMS data recording system. 30 species were recorded in 2022. Six were recorded over 100 times (Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Small White, Ringlet and Large White). 5 were recorded only once or twice (Clouded Yellow, Purple Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper). The group also record occasional day moths (e.g., 5 and 6 Spot Burnetts and Silver Y) and sometimes dragonflies.

Site(s) Avon	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact andy.danford@gmail.com	Website Home page Butterfly Conservation (butterfly-conservation.org)

WILD ABOUT BATH

Wild About Bath do not have any sites as such, we are based in the Combe Down, South Stoke and Monkton Combe region of Bath and rarely venture beyond these areas. We have two sides to our organisation: the first being a Gardening for Wildlife survey, allowing people to see how wildlife friendly their gardens are and how they might improve biodiversity. As part of this survey, we offer to review gardens in person to give verbal advice too (and the opportunity to gain a higher award). Secondly, we run many events throughout the course of the year, mostly field events in the more pleasant months including moth trapping and butterfly walks. These tend not to be formal recording events but aim to increase interest and knowledge in the local community, with the belief that it is difficult to get people to care about protecting something they know nothing about. For example, at our most recent moth trapping event in August we focused on ways to identify what came to the trap. We do always recommend recording finds at these events via a variety of routes (e.g. iRecord, iNaturalist, BRERC). Moth trapping events tend to be held in private residences (gardens), while butterfly walks in more public areas (e.g. South Stoke Millenium Viewpoint). In the winter months we hold talks, examples of previous relevant talks include a talk on Gardening for Wildlife, and a talk by Meadow in My Garden about planting native wildflowers.

Site(s) Combe Down, Monkton Combe and Southstoke	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Cat info@wildaboutbath.org	Website Home - Wild about Bath



Small white *Pieris rapae* by Tony Moulin (YACWAG)

WILLSBRIDGE MILL COMMUNITY REFRESH

Launched in October 2023, this is South Gloucestershire’s second neighbourhood-wide nature reserve.

Site(s) Willsbridge Valley	Conservation status Community Nature Reserve, Local Nature Reserve
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact	Website

WINDMILL HILL CITY FARM

WHCF covers c4 acres and is part of the Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve. It has been surveyed since 2017 as part of the BS3 Wildlife Group’s monitoring.

17 species have been identified over six seasons. Small Whites, Large Whites, Green-veined Whites, Orange Tips, Brimstones, Holly Blues, Ringlets, Speckled Woods, Commas and Red Admirals have been identified most years. Less frequently seen are Common Blues, Small Skippers, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, and Painted Ladies.

Site(s) Windmill Hill City Farm	Conservation status
Active surveys? Yes	Active habitat management? None yet
Contact Ben Barker benbarker@blueyonder.co.uk	Website

YATTON AND CONGRESBURY WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP (YACWAG)

YACWAG is a registered charity formed in 1999 to acquire land in the two parishes for nature conservation. Most of the land is on designated sites on coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and amounts to approximately 47 acres (19 ha) and is managed by rough grazing or a late hay cut under a Countryside Stewardship agreement. The YACWAG reserves are surveyed each year to note the presence of species. Generally most grassland butterflies are found. Three florally species-rich fields have a higher species count including Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Brown Argus and Common Blue. Moths include Burnet Companion, Small Yellow Underwing, Five Spot Burnet, Narrow Bordered Five-Spot Burnet and Six Spot Burnet. Other butterfly species regularly seen include Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Green-veined White. YACWAG also owns a small woodland (5 acres, 2 ha) on Kenn Moor which is very good for moths.

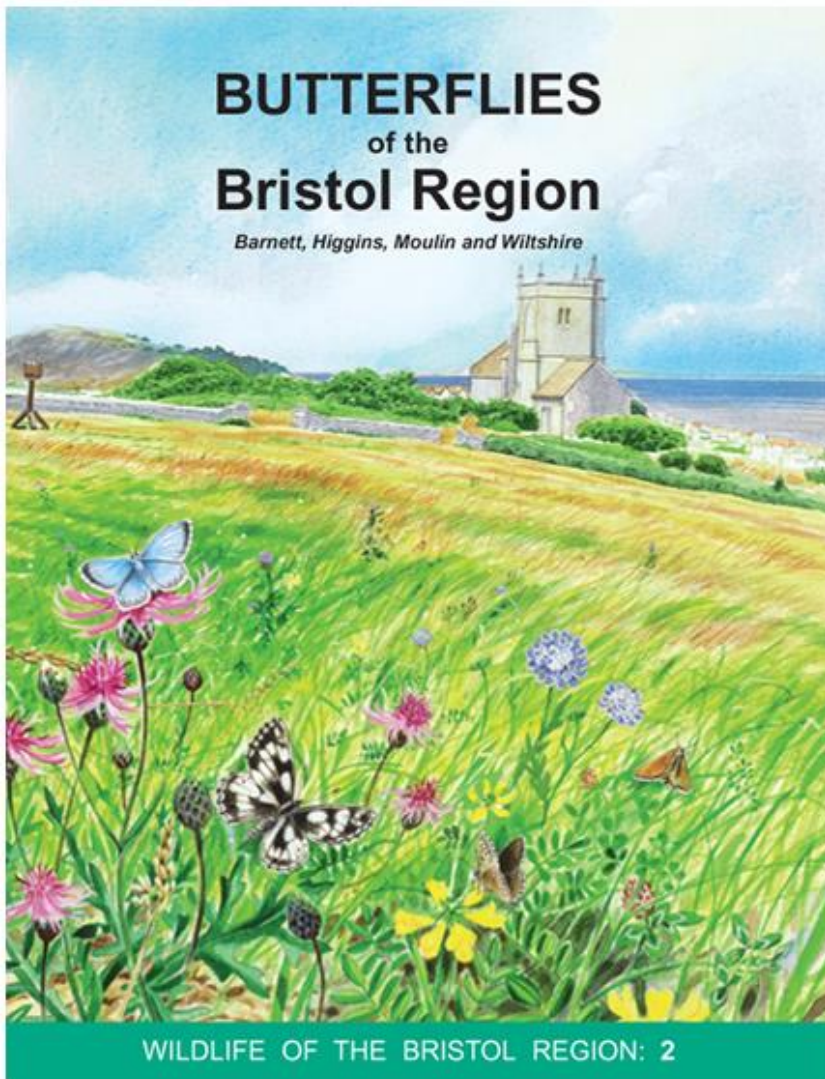
There is no public access to YACWAG land except by arrangement to people wishing to study or survey flora and fauna.

Site(s) Yatton and Congresbury	Conservation status
Active surveys? None yet	Active habitat management? Yes
Contact contact@yacwag.org.uk	Website https://yacwag.org.uk/



Meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* by Peter Loy-Hancocks (Manor Woods Valley)

TWO BOOK ADVERTS



Main authors
Ray Barnett, Rupert Higgins,
Tony Moulin & Chris Wiltshire
Illustrations
Andrew Daw & Brio Edwards

With a foreword by
Bill Oddie

The second in the series
Wildlife of the Bristol Region
Published by the Bristol Regional
Environmental Records Centre
(BRERC) 2003

This book follows the *Flora of the Bristol Region*, and presents the results of the Avon Butterfly Project's survey of the butterflies to be found in the region over the last decade. Furthermore it reviews all the known historic records of butterflies in a comprehensive summary.

It is illustrated throughout with superb colour photographs of the adult butterflies, certain life-stages and habitats and distribution maps as well as line drawings of those species no longer found in the region.

The text highlights the worrying decline in many species at the end of the 20th century. The loss of fritillary butterflies, blue butterflies and their respective habitats has been dramatic, their ecology and conservation is discussed.

Despite the parlous state of some species, *Butterflies of the Bristol Region* guides the butterfly watcher to sites where it is possible to find the approximately 40 different species that occur. This includes sites within, and close to, the major cities of Bristol and Bath.

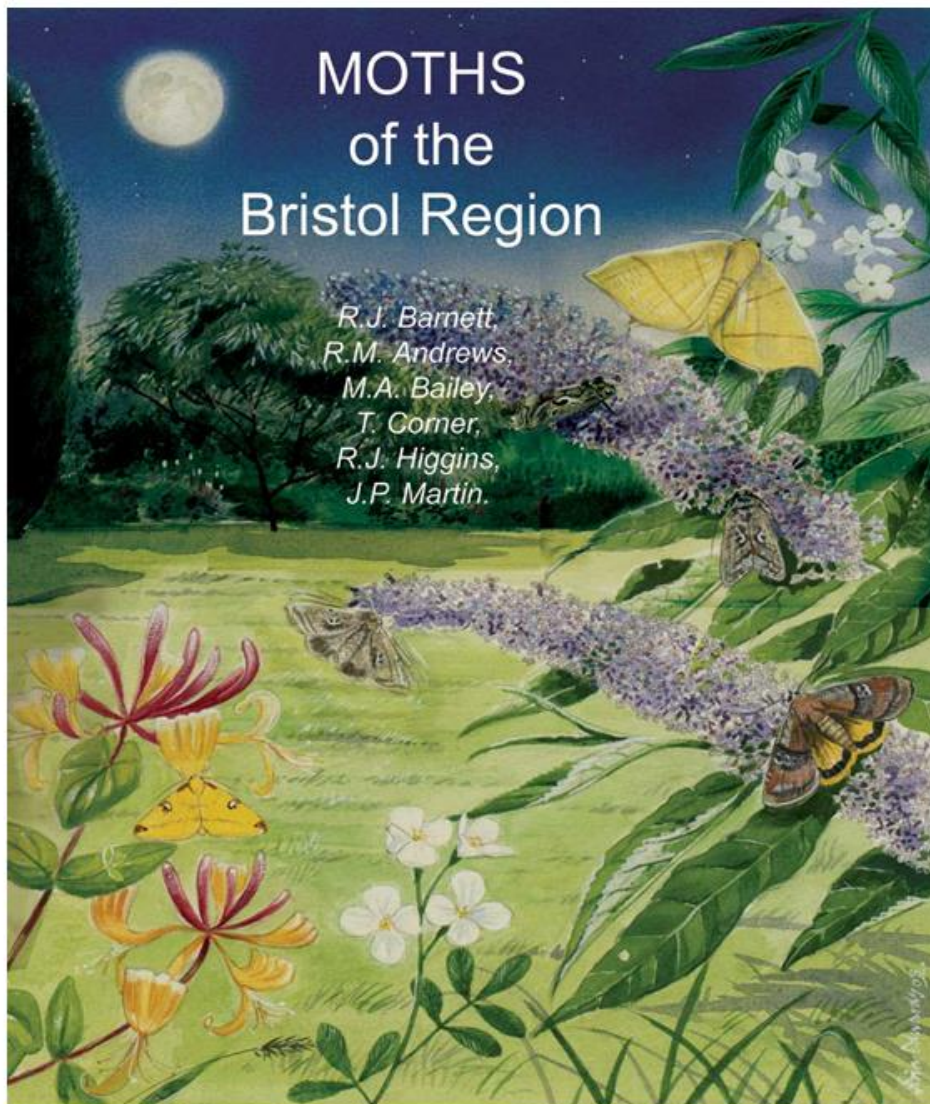
This book will be an essential reference for anyone interested in wildlife in the region. It will also be of interest further afield as part of the mosaic of similar publications that cover the country.

The publication of this book is sponsored by the Bristol Magpies, Bristol Naturalists' Society and the British Entomological & Natural History Society.

Available to buy from the Bristol Museums Shop - <https://shop.bristolmuseums.org.uk>

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC), www.brerc.org.uk

MOTHS of the Bristol Region



MOTHS of the Bristol Region

*R.J. Barnett,
R.M. Andrews,
M.A. Bailey,
T. Comer,
R.J. Higgins,
J.P. Martin.*

WILDLIFE OF THE BRISTOL REGION : 3

by
Ray Barnett, Richard
Andrews, Mike Bailey,
Tim Comer, Rupert
Higgins and John
Martin

Illustrations
Mike Bailey, Brin
Edwards and the late
Ken Poole

With a foreword by
Nick Baker

The third in the series:
Wildlife of the Bristol
Region
Published by the
Bristol Regional
Environmental
Records Centre
(BRERC) 2008

ISBN 978-0-9545235-1-
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528pp

This book follows the *Flora of the Bristol Region (2000)*, and the *Butterflies of the Bristol Region (2003)* and summarises the current known status of over 1,500 species recorded in and around Bristol and Bath. In addition it reproduces published historic information on each species from the last 150 years. It provides a baseline against which future changes in the status of moths in the Bristol Region can be measured.

It is illustrated throughout with superb colour photographs of adult moths, certain life-

stages and habitats and colour distribution maps as well as line drawings of some species.

Available from the Bristol Museums Shop - <https://shop.bristolmuseums.org.uk>

OTHER ACTION GROUPS AND PARKS WE WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON

Action group	Site(s)	Conservation status	Website
Friends of Arnos Court Park	Arnos Court Park		Friends of Arnos Court Park Facebook
Friends of Ashton Court Estate (FACE)	Ashton Court Estate	SSSI	
Friends of Blaise	Blaise Castle Estate		Friends of Blaise Bristol Facebook
Friends of Brandon Hill Avon Wildlife Trust	Brandon Hill	Nature Reserve	Brandon Hill Nature Reserve Avon Wildlife Trust https://www.facebook.com/groups/291747611710299/
Friends of Callington Road Local Nature Reserve	Callington Road	Local Nature Reserve	
Friends of Eastwood Farm	Eastwood Farm Open Space	Local Nature Reserve	Eastwood Farm Local Nature Reserve – Wildlife haven by the side of the River Avon in Brislington, Bristol
Friends of Greville Smyth	Greville Smyth Park		Friends of Greville Smyth Park (wordpress.com)
Friends of Horfield Common	Horfield Common		Friends of Horfield Common Facebook http://www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com/home.html
Friends of Lamplighters Marsh	Lamplighter's Marsh	Local Nature Reserve	Friends of Lamplighter's Marsh (wordpress.com)

Friends of Netham Park	Netham Park		Friends of Netham Park Facebook
Friends of Oldbury Court Park	Oldbury Court Estate		Friends of Oldbury Court Park Facebook
Friends of St Andrews Park (FoSAP)	St Andrew's Park		Friends of St Andrews Park – (FoSAP) (webserve.it)
Friends of St Anne's Park	St Anne's Park		Home - Friends of St Anne's Park (mailchimpsites.com)
Friends of Stoke Park	Stoke Park		Friends of Stoke Park Facebook
Friends of Watchhouse Hill	Watchhouse Hill Open Space		Friends of Watchhouse Hill - Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council (pillandeastoningordano.org) https://www.facebook.com/groups/363932184478306
Kings Weston Action Group	Shirehampton Park		Wildlife in Shirehampton Park Kings Weston Action Group (kwag.org.uk)
North Somerset Council	Kilkenny Fields, Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve		
Redland Green Community Group	Redland Green		Redland Green Community Group (google.com)
Victoria Park Action Group	Victoria Park		Wildlife – Victoria Park Action Group (vpag.org.uk)