

Butterfly Transect Report to Holme Park Quarry LNR Management Committee – 10th October 2012

The overall count of 274 for 2012 was the fourth lowest in the 10 years of recording.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary numbers were maintained at last years high count, indicating one of the main successes, as numbers have increased from zero in each of the first four years to 33 last year and 32 this.

Ringlet appear to have established a colony especially in section 7, the cherry tree area. The count has increased from none until 2010 to 40 this year.

The large fritillaries, High Brown and Dark Green combined, had virtually the same low count as last year at 26, but at least both species were confirmed as being present.

The decline of the Speckled Wood and Grayling continued, but still had counts of 31 and 23 respectively.

Mid and late season rainfall probably explains the lower numbers of several species including Meadow Brown, Green-veined White, Common Blue, Peacock and Large Skipper. Unsuitable conditions resulted in 6 weeks without any records, compared with 2 weeks last year.

Species recorded previously, but not this year, were Wall, Red Admiral, Large White, Comma, Painted Lady, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Gatekeeper and Small Copper.

Full details are shown on the Weekly and All Years record sheets.

Reg Hesketh