

2023 Ovington/Ovingham butterfly record





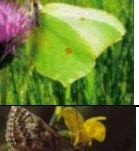
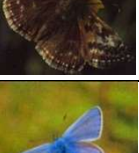

A warm spring with few frosts seemed to help butterflies, even though the summer was wetter than usual.

Green Ovingham Butterfly record 2018 for the Ovingham/Ovington area

Note: there are more than 50 butterfly species in Britain but many of these are not seen in northeast England. Observation of butterflies continues to delight the eyes. On 23 September David observed on his Buddleia 4 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 2 Painted ladies and 1 Small white at the same time.

The annual Big Butterfly count gives a national picture of comparative numbers from year to year. During 2018, the average number of individuals seen per 15 minute count was only just above the 2017 count which was the lowest recorded since the project began in 2010 in spite of the warm sunny spells during the summer. In 2013 when the count started over twice as many butterflies were seen per count compared with 2018. The local pattern of behaviour based on our observations in Ovingham and Ovington matches the national picture and the number of our 4 observers who saw each species is listed in the table. The Small White was seen in large numbers but the Large White showed a serious decline. As in 2017 Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks were scarce. The Red Admiral again had a successful year and seen in Ovingham till 9 October. The Speckled Wood was again common throughout the season and seems to have increased here from year to year. With the warm dry weather from May through July we could have expected a record number of sightings but as in the national picture this was not to be. However it brought Skippers from the Spechells over the Tyne to our gardens. Perhaps the continued low numbers follow on from low overwintering larval stages from 2017. The pattern of decline continues to be a cause for concern.

David Archer - Ovingham

Species		Comments (2018)	Seen in 2012	Seen in 2013	Seen in 2014	Seen in 2015	Seen in 2016	Seen in 2017	Seen in 2018	Seen in 2023 plus comments
Large white Larger than small white and more conspicuous black tip May-Sep		Much fewer in numbers than in previous years	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	X
Small white Smaller and commoner than large white Apr-May and Jul-Aug		Very common	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X
Green veined white Veins on upper wings dark, greyish green on under wings		Difficult to distinguish from Small white		X	X	X	X	X	3	X
Orange tip No orange tip in female Marbled hind under wing Spring butterfly		An early emerger but this year later than last – first seen on 30 April	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X
Brimstone Unusual wing shape and colour unmistakable Spring Feb onward		Rare and seen only by Sandra in her garden					X	X	1	X
Dingy skipper Moth like with buzzing flight. Spechells May-Jun		Normally only in the Spechells but this year seen in the garden		X					2	X Seen in Ovingham Orchard and Ovington
Common blue Male upper blue wings Female brown Apr-Sep		They made a brief appearance but in good number on the Spechells on 11 June		?	X	X	X	?	1	X Now regularly seen in Ovington

