



BARTON COMMON TRANSECT REPORT 2022



Team Leader: Trevor Bumfrey

Transect Team: Mike Barnes Dave Hunt
 Terry Clark Mick Long
 Anne Gorman Eric & Tani Read

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Acknowledgements

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Many thanks also to those listed below for allowing walks to take place and for their support in producing this report.

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Transect History: John French
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Transect Map: Neil Smith
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Section 1 – Introduction and Transect background

This report summarises the findings of the weekly butterfly transects undertaken at Barton Common in 2022, providing comparison with previous years' walks where possible. It is designed to provide feedback to the landowner and land managers who have allowed this transect walk to take place and to the volunteers who have carried it out. The transect has been walked since 2013.

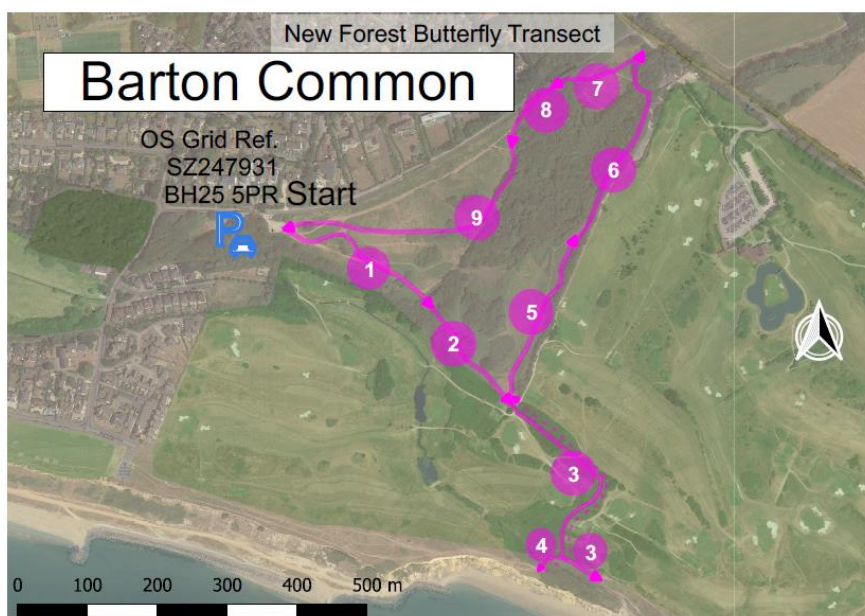
Monitoring walks have been carried out using the Fixed-route (Pollard Walk) transect methodology as promoted through the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). This involves walking a fixed route each week during the recording season which runs for 26 weeks from 1st April to 30th September, recording all butterflies within a 5m cube ahead of the walker. This produces an index for the numbers of each butterfly species seen, which may also be referred to in the report by various terms, such as 'count' or 'record'. Adopting this methodology means that it is possible to make a meaningful comparison of species indices and, over time, identify trends in their abundance. A more detailed analysis, together with the raw data is available to Group Members and Landowners on request.

Transect walkers are also encouraged to record any moths seen on transect that they are able to identify in the field, in the same way as they do for butterflies. They may also record any other sightings of note which can be entered into UKBMS and are passed to the relevant conservation body.

Transect Description

Barton Common transect is situated south of the New Forest on the cliff top adjacent to a golf course and managed by New Milton Town Council. Conservation activities took place in 2015/6 to return the common to two thirds grassland and one third scrub and woodland. That habitat ratio is maintained by grazing ponies and conservation activities as and when needed. 5 sections traverse open grasslands, 2 sections (6 and 8) go through mature woods, 1 section (3) is a scrub lined track across the golf course and 1 (4) is a short section on the cliff top.

Transect Route



Section 2 – Season Highlights

2022 Weather

The winter was mild with a dry January and a very wet February, followed by a warm and settled Spring. April was dry and sunny with an average temperature. May, in general, was warm with an above average temperature and mostly settled but with some storms on the 18th. June was warmer, drier and sunnier than average with some occasional heavy rain showers. July's weather was dominated by prolonged dry spells and above average temperatures which broke records on the 18th and 19th. High pressure dominated the weather in the first half of August resulting in the maximum temperature being 4C higher than the average with more sunshine and less rain although there were some showers and storms. August was the fifth warmest since 1884. September was wet, the first month this year with above average rainfall and continued the trend of warmer than average temperatures for every month this year.

2022 Highlights

The changeable weather undoubtedly influenced the butterfly numbers this year, but it did not prevent every week being walked.

The area at the junction of Sections 8 and 9 was cleared last winter, resulting in a more open habitat.

The number of species recorded (21) was the same as usual, none of them exhibited their highest abundance this year. No moths were recorded this year.

The total abundance was higher than the previous 2 years but below the long term average. Section 3, the path across the golf course to the cliff top which is lined with trees, gorse, holly and bramble was the most abundant.

A small number of Silver-washed Fritillary along with the expected Green Hairstreak were recorded in addition to the more common species.



Junction of sections 8 and 9 TB
TB

End of section 8



Holly Blue
TB

TB



Green Hairstreak

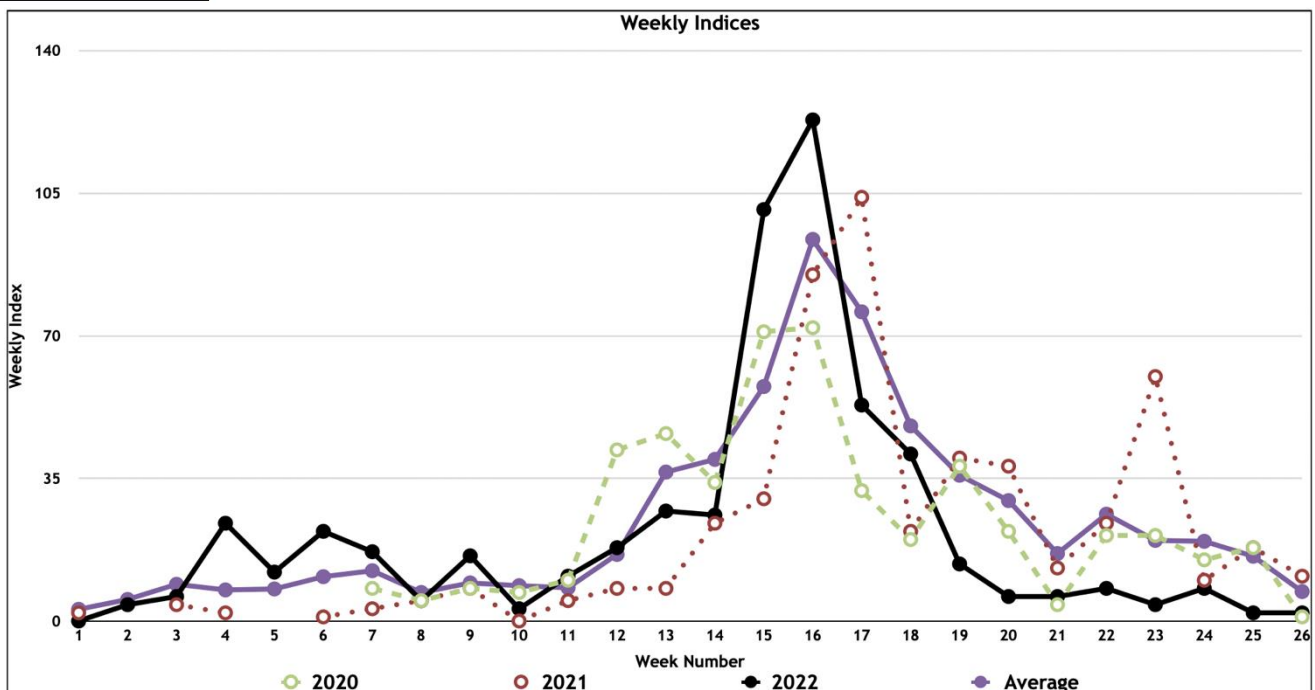
Section 3 – Weekly Flight Periods and Indices

Flight periods are based on New Forest Transect Group historic data supplemented by Alan Thornbury's Hampshire Flight Chart.

2022		Weekly Records																								TOTAL	Weeks Recorded	
Week		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			25
Sun (%)		91	100	100	94	89	100	100	58	97		100	100	100	77	79	100	89	63	100	2	71	96	83	99	31	64	
Temp (°C)		14	13	16	18	16	19	19	18	13		17	18	18	18	18	22	21	22	22	28	26	20	20	20	19	18	17
Small/Essex Skipper													2	1			6	2										
Orange-tip									1	1																		
Large White						1	4	1				2				10	11		1	1	1		2	2	5			
Small White				3	4	2	1			1		3				7	2			1	1		1			1	2	
Green-veined White						1																						
Brimstone				9	2	6	3									3												
Speckled Wood		2	1	7	2			1		6	2	1	1	2		3	6	5	3	4	2	2	5	2	1	2		
Small Heath										3		5	4	1	2					1	1							
Meadow Brown										1	2	4	10	8	28	11	8	9	1				1					
Gatekeeper															9	41	88	36	22	5	1	3						
Marbled White												1	7			3	1											
Silver-washed Fritillary																1	3											
Red Admiral			2					1		1			3	3			1	1			1	1			1			
Painted Lady													1															
Peacock		2	3	3		1	1																					
Small Tortoiseshell												1																
Comma														2					2									
Small Copper																			1									
Green Hairstreak					2	4	3	2																				
Holly Blue				2	2	5	3	1								4					4							
Common Blue						2				4											1							
TOTAL		0	4	6	24	12	22	17	5	16	3	11	18	27	26	101	123	53	41	14	6	6	8	4	8	2	2	
Weekly Species		0	2	3	5	5	8	8	4	6	2	4	8	8	4	10	8	6	7	7	5	3	3	2	4	1	1	
Week		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		Normal flight Period †		Inside Normal Peak Flight Period				Outside Normal Peak flight period				Outside Normal Flight Period																

† Normal Flight Period is derived from actual New Forest sightings from 2011 to 2018 and Hants Flight Periods by Alan Thornbury

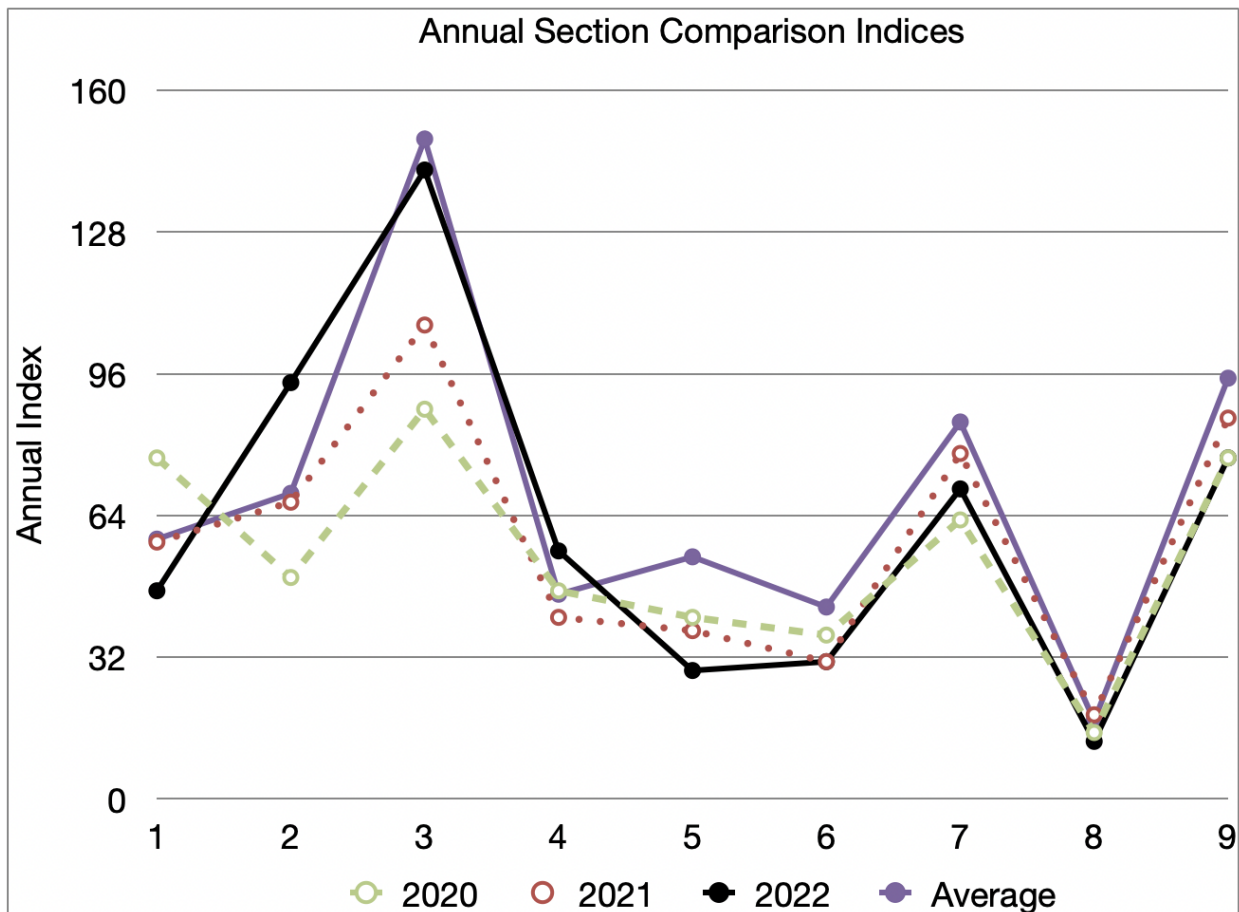
FAMILIES
Hesperiidae
Pieridae
Nymphalidae 'Browns'
Nymphalidae 'Aristocrats'
Lycaenidae



Summary of Transect Indices by Week																							Highest Index				
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Totals
2013		0	2	2	11	8	15	12	17	30		30	12	8	56	282	81	45	108	126	43	91	11	16	20	0	1,026
2014	1	5	13	3	15	19	15	3	3	8	20	7	22	38	90	63	153	90	18	9	11	14	9	26	20	14	689
2015	5	3	13	17	1	13	5	10	13	21	7	12	14	50	70	31	39	124	33	16	19	11	7	10	3	7	554
2016	2	2	1	6	4	5	16	15	6	0	0	0	5	12	8	39	35	24	22	7	6	16	6	6	1	8	252
2017	4	14	11	13	6	3	4	7	3	3	3	16	63	33	23	65	14	39	35	28	8	22	32	10	18	12	489
2018	6	4	10	5	4	15	17	5	21	6	12	27	131	130	88	111	93	24	6	4	12	7	6	37	5	8	794
2019	0	9	18	13	14	23	28	1	5	3		5	28	28	82	95	132	43	22	16	33	30	26	46	40	4	744
2020							8	5	8	7	10	42	46	34	71	72	32	20	38	22	4	21	21	15	18	1	495
2021	2		4	2		1	3	5	8	0	5	8	8	24	30	85	104	22	40	38	13	24	60	10	18	11	
2022	0	4	6	24	12	22	17	5	16	3	11	18	27	26	101	123	53	41	14	6	6	8	4	8	2	2	559
Average	3	5	9	8	8	11	12	7	9	9	8	16	37	40	58	94	76	48	36	30	17	26	20	20	16	7	630

Section 4 – Section Species and Comparison Indices

Species↓	Section→	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	Total	No. Sections
Small/Essex Skipper				6	1			1		3	11	4
Orange-tip			1		1						2	2
Large White		7	4	10	1	5	2	3	1	8	41	9
Small White		9	2	3	2	2		1	1	9	29	8
Green-veined White			1								1	1
Brimstone		2	5	3	1	2	1	3	2	4	23	9
Speckled Wood			6	28	2	1	15	2	3	3	60	8
Small Heath		1	1	1	4		1	3		6	17	7
Meadow Brown		2	14	22	14	1	4	7	3	16	83	9
Gatekeeper		22	45	45	20	12	5	33		23	205	8
Marbled White					3			8		1	12	3
Silver-washed Fritillary			3				1				4	2
Red Admiral		1	1	3	3	1	2	2		2	15	8
Painted Lady				1							1	1
Peacock		1	2		1			1	3	2	10	6
Small Tortoiseshell				1							1	1
Comma		1	1					2			4	3
Small Copper								1			1	1
Green Hairstreak			3	8							11	2
Holly Blue		1	5	11		2		2			21	5
Common Blue					3	3		1			7	3
Total		47	94	142	56	29	31	70	13	77	559	
No. Species		10	15	13	13	9	8	15	6	11	21	

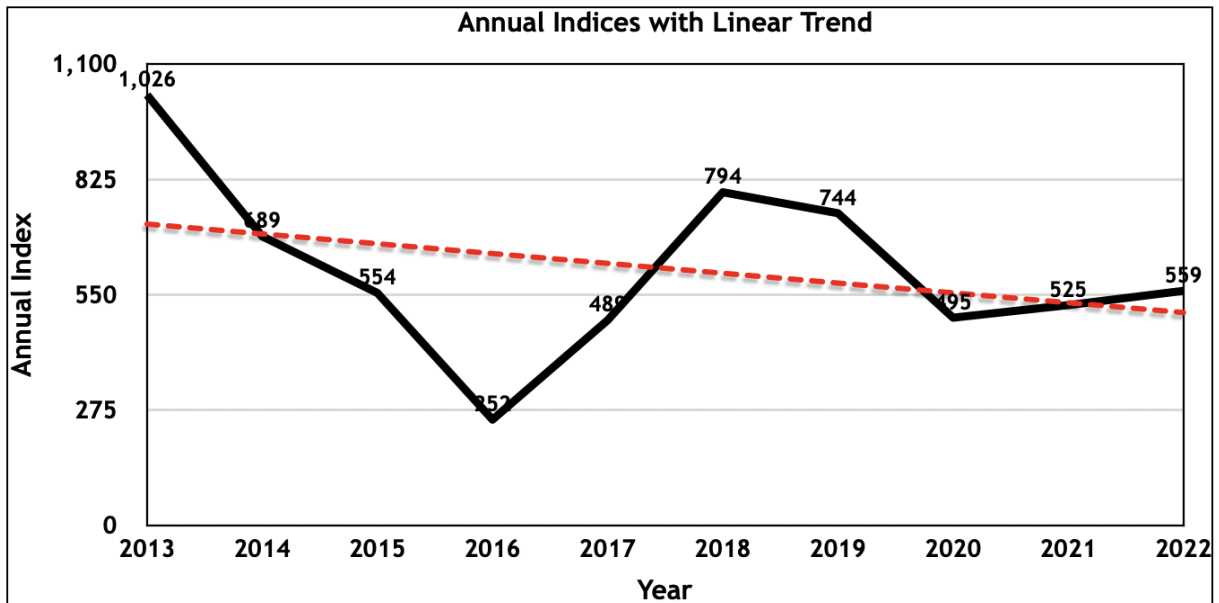


Annual Section Indices												Average Excl Current Year	Change 2022 v Average	Change 2021-2022
Section ↓	Year →	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022			
1		127	66	38	17	35	56	54	77	58	47	59	-12	↓
2		87	73	36	21	67	118	102	50	67	94	69	25	↑
3		155	209	191	75	122	192	202	88	107	142	149	-7	↑
4		60	55	36	36	36	53	52	47	41	56	46	10	↑
5		86	66	67	26	31	44	93	41	38	29	55	-26	↓
6		89	48	45	21	29	41	49	37	31	31	43	-12	↔
7		195	75	62	15	79	128	71	63	78	70	85	-15	↓
8		8	10	12	6	27	38	24	15	19	13	18	-5	↓
9		219	87	67	35	63	124	97	77	86	77	95	-18	↓
Annual Index		1,026	689	554	252	489	794	744	495	525	559	619	-60	↑

Section 5 – Annual Species Variation

Annual Indices		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average Excl Current	Change 2022 v Average	Change 2021-2022
Species ↓	Year →													
Small/Essex Skipper		66	63	20	6	12	37	4	7	9	11	25	-14	↑
Large Skipper		52	13	15	5	1	14	2	3			13	-13	↔
Orange-tip			1					2		3	2	2	0	↓
Large White		120	14	33	20	31	72	85	75	31	41	53	-12	↑
Small White		68	14	10	19	10	46	57	55	98	29	42	-13	↓
Green-veined White		5	3	6	2	24	20	8	13	1	1	9	-8	↓
Clouded Yellow		3	2	2	1		1		1			2	-2	↔
Brimstone		15	27	44	18	6	9	24	2	4	23	17	6	↑
Speckled Wood		80	101	45	12	92	96	64	13	42	60	61	-1	↑
Small Heath		120	35	22	4	18	36	28	36	27	17	36	-19	↓
Ringlet		7		2		7	4	1	1	1		3	-3	↓
Meadow Brown		126	75	54	30	113	150	90	74	92	83	89	-6	↓
Gatekeeper		208	237	198	64	84	188	248	139	142	205	168	37	↑
Marbled White		103	31	28	7	12	29	26	22	17	12	31	-19	↓
Silver-washed Fritillary		1	1	1		7	1	2	4	1	4	2	2	↑
Dark Green Fritillary									4			4	-4	↔
Red Admiral		3	10	5	14	16	3	12	10	20	15	10	5	↓
Painted Lady						2		6		2	1	3	-2	↓
Peacock		20	22	21	7	23	21	15	2	14	10	16	-6	↓
Small Tortoiseshell		1	6	3	2	4					1	3	-2	↑
Comma		3		8	4	5	8	1		2	4	4	-0	↑
Small Copper		2	7	6	9	10	25	14	13	8	1	10	-9	↓
Purple Hairstreak							1					1	-1	↔
Green Hairstreak		7	17	13	8	5	12	28	4	4	11	11	0	↑
Holly Blue		11	1	14	20	5	15	26	16	1	21	12	9	↑
Common Blue		5	9	4		2	6	1	1	6	7	4	3	↑
Total		1,026	689	554	252	489	794	744	495	525	559	619	-60	↑
Different Species		22	21	22	19	22	22	22	21	21	21	21	-0	↔
Max. Weekly Species		9	10	10	11	11	12	11	11	13	10	11	-1	↓

FAMILIES		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hesperiidae		118	76	35	11	13	51	6	10	9	11
Pieridae		211	61	95	60	71	148	176	146	137	96
Nymphalidae 'Browns'		644	479	349	117	326	503	457	285	321	377
Nymphalidae 'Aristocrats'		28	39	38	27	57	33	36	20	39	35
Lycaenidae		25	34	37	37	22	59	69	34	19	40



Section 6 – Moths recorded on Transect

Transect walkers are encouraged to record any moths seen within their standard transect 'cube' that are distinctive enough to be identified in the field. The records below provide an insight into moth species that are around during the daytime, including a number that will be missed or under-represented through more traditional methods of moth recording.

Unlike butterflies, this is not a comprehensive record of the moths that are in the area. Many more moth species are likely to be present but either not seen as they are not active during the day or not recognised as they may be too small or not distinctive enough to be identified accurately during a transect walk.

Given that the numbers of moths spotted on individual transects is generally quite low, an overview report, collating data from all NFTG transects, is also produced to give context to sightings and provide sufficient data to identify trends in more common species seen in the daytime. The overview report is available on request.

Species	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Meadow Long-horn		1			
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	3				
Orange Underwing				1	
Cream Wave		1			
Brown Silver-line	4	1	2	2	
Yellow Shell				1	
Cream-spot Tiger				1	
Jersey Tiger		1			
Cinnabar	2		2		
Silver Y	1				
Total	10	4	4	5	0
Number of Species	4	4	2	4	0
Total Species (2018-2022)					10