



A review of historical butterfly sites and rare species
Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire February 2008
by Mike Slater

During the last 3 years the Warwickshire Branch has carried out a review of all of its butterfly sites that historically have contained our rare species.

This review has revealed that unfortunately we have lost some sites due to the development of Brownfield sites and through natural succession. On the positive side new sites have been discovered as they have become suitable. Many of these are new Brownfield sites

Many sites that have not recorded rare species such as the Green Hairstreak in the last three years are still thought to contain small colonies. Searches for adults can be difficult when colonies are small. Searches of sites for eggs or larvae have often proved more rewarding. Finding eggs or larval also proves that there is breeding so a colony definitely exists.

Overall the situation in Warwickshire is positive when comparing 2003-2005 with 2005-2007

Dingy Skipper: An increase of 6 colonies from 31 to 37. Most new colonies in the Kineton area

Grizzled Skipper: Remains at 39 colonies

Wood White: Remains at 2 colonies

Green Hairstreak: Remains at 11+ colonies (Sutton Park may be several colonies or one very large widely dispersed one)

Brown Hairstreak: No change still 2 to be confirmed areas of breeding

Small Blue: Down to 3 colonies from 4 with the loss of a small satellite colony at Bishops Bowl

White Admiral: Increase in 2 colonies to 26.

Dark Green Fritillary: Remains at one colony

Silver-washed Fritillary: Increase in 7 colonies to 10

If anyone wishes to assist in surveying known or potential colony sites please contact Mike Slater so access can be arranged.