



HAWKSHILL BUTTERFLY SURVEY – 2025

The annual Butterfly Survey was carried out by a Butterfly Conservation Trust volunteer through the flight period in 2025, and compared with sightings in previous years.

Butterflies generally had a rather better year this year in the UK, assisted by a warm, dry spring and summer and this was generally reflected by the results at Hawkshill. These figures do not, however, approach the counts from even a decade ago as invertebrate numbers continue the long-term decline in the country.

Numbers of species at Hawkshill like **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Common Blue** and **Large White** were noticeably higher this year, and it was particularly pleasing to add both **Green Hairstreak** (in two locations) and **Clouded Yellow** (in October) to the site list. The only species not recorded in 2025 was **Green-veined White** which had a poor year nationally.

Clouded Yellow



Conservation work continues to work towards improving habitats Hawkshill for butterflies.

- The three-year rotation of mowing and the use of a scissor mower is intended to allow grassland butterflies and other invertebrates to lay eggs undisturbed.
- Close-cropping the chalk pit may allow a wider variety of food-plants to spread, like Kidney Vetch (for **Small Blue**), Horseshoe Vetch (for **Adonis Blue** and **Chalk Hill Blue**) and Common Bird's-Foot Trefoil (for **Green Hairstreak** and others).
- Specific plantings are also being made of Buckthorn (for **Brimstone**) and Everlasting-Pea (in the possible but unlikely event that **Long-Tailed Blues** may find it).
- Creation of scallops in the hedgerows and south-facing banks are also intended to encourage warmth-loving butterflies like **Wall Brown**, as well as bees, other invertebrates and reptiles.



Green Hairstreak

<u>Species</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Comparison</u>
Brimstone	7	6	17%
Brown Argus	1	1	0%
Chalkhill Blue	0		
Clouded Yellow	2	0	
Comma	21	9	133%
Common Blue	42	5	740%
Essex Skipper	0		
Gatekeeper	70	67	4%
Green Hairstreak	2	1	100%
Green-veined White	8		
Holly Blue	8	11	-27%
Large Skipper	2	22	-91%
Large White	189	48	294%
Long-tailed Blue	0		
Marbled White	31	44	-30%
Meadow Brown	182	176	3%
Orange Tip	0	9	
Painted Lady	3	7	-57%
Peacock	28	1	2700%
Red Admiral	25	57	-56%
Ringlet	7	17	-59%
Small Blue	0		
Small Copper	5	4	25%
Small Heath	46	16	188%
Small Tortoiseshell	4	4	0%
Small White	65	31	110%
Small/Essex Skipper	6	1	500%
Speckled Wood	10	11	-9%
Wall Brown	2	3	-33%
Total count	767	614	25%
Species	24	23	104%