

## **Butterflies Transects at Lime Kiln Way, Salisbury**

Monthly transects have been carried out over the last two years, this can only give an indication of species and abundance, but is a useful starting point. 17 species have been recorded with the highest numbers of the typical grassland species-Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Marbled White, Small and Large Skipper and Common Blue. The other most common species is the Brimstone because of the abundance of its caterpillar food plant purging buckthorn. Eggs of the Brown Hairstreak butterfly have been found in three locations on blackthorn bushes in the SE corner of the site, in the centre of the hedge on the southern boundary and the sheltered triangle at the western end, south of the recreation ground. Here a large ash tree nearby provides a prominent 'master' tree where the adults congregate. Future management must ensure that potential 'master' trees, such as ash, are not removed in these locations. This butterfly has high conservation status, it is a UK BAP priority species and a priority species for Butterfly Conservation.

In future weekly counts would be beneficial to provide a more complete picture and assess any increase in numbers as a result of scrub clearance. The site is also likely to be valuable moth habitat, moth trapping would add to our knowledge of species diversity.

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