

## Report on the first half of the Grin Low Butterfly survey.

### Progress So Far

We are now half way through the butterfly recording year (it runs from the first of April to the end of September). So far, it has been a disappointing experience and very few butterflies have been recorded. Most of the reason for this can be attributed to the unsettled weather we have been experiencing and it has been difficult for our recorders to find a suitably dry day, within the weeks, to perform the surveys. This is our first year of surveying the wood lands and, although our counts have been low, these unseasonable numbers has also been repeated across the county.

The woodland management team intend to improve the diversity of habitat for the woodlands by opening up areas to allow more light to reach the understory. This in turn will encourage a greater variety of invertebrates which will also benefit birds and mammals. This year's butterfly survey will set a base line for species recorded and should provide evidence of the benefits of the work being done as the numbers of butterflies recorded increase over the coming years. An added benefit of the woodland management scheme is to provide new habitat for wildlife as we see a decline in previous wildlife areas as they are "improved" for industrial and commercial use.

Below is a table of the species seen in the first 13 weeks of the survey. It can be seen that in seven of the thirteen weeks no butterflies were seen at all and in only one week was a maximum of 4 species seen. It is also significant that the butterflies were only recorded in the open areas of the woodland. One of these butterflies, the Dingy Skipper, is classed as vulnerable on the Butterfly Red Data list so Grin Low is an important site for this species. Who knows what other butterflies may be recorded as the survey continues?

	Week Number													Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
DINGY SKIPPER										2				2
GREEN VEINED WHITE					1		6			13	2			22
ORANGE TIP											1			1
GREEN HAIRSTREAK										2				2
SMALL TORTOISESHELL		1												1
PEACOCK			1							1				2
SMALL HEATH												1		1
	0	1	1	0	1	0	6	0	0	18	3	1	0	31

### What next?

We have another 13 weeks of butterfly surveying to do. The long term forecast suggests that July may be a hot month. The season for Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skippers is at an end. Very soon we should be seeing the other Skippers (Small and Large) and maybe even Essex Skipper which is now

being recorded in various parts of the county. It may be only a matter of time before it reaches Buxton. We have had very few Whites so far and so these should also become more abundant in the next few weeks. There is also an influx of Painted Ladies in the country so hopefully these should be reaching Buxton very soon. Other butterflies to be looking out for include Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, and Common Blue.

As the woodland improvements take affect we expect to see an increase in butterfly numbers and species diversity. The Buxton Civic Association hope to continue surveying the woodlands on a yearly basis so if you would like to take part next year or you would like to take part in a trial survey this year please contact the BCA.