

## BUTTERFLY REPORT FOR 2004

Medina Valley Centre Nature Reserve

Rebecca Cooksley

Table 1 shows the species recorded during the transect walks this year and those species which were observed in the reserve throughout the year. The transect was walked on 27 out of the 30 weeks of the recording season but not on weeks 2, 9, 20 and 23.

The total species count at 22 was the same as 2003, but with 678 individuals recorded in comparison to 853, the number of individuals was closer to the long-term mean of 625 (1988-2003).

A *Painted lady* was the first butterfly observed this year on both 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February and the last species to be observed on the reserve in 2004 were a *Red Admiral* and *Small White* on 7<sup>th</sup> October and a *Peacock* on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The peak flying time was late July to early August when temperatures reached their maxima (Figures 1 and 2). 10 different species of butterflies, the largest at any one time, were recorded in weeks 17 and 21 and the maximum number of individuals was recorded in week 18.

Both the *Small* and *Large Skipper* and the *Large* and *Marbled White* were down on their long-term averages. The largely wet August, also meant the *Common Blue* and *Small Tortoiseshell* and continental species such as the *Red Admiral* and *Painted Lady* and were present in much lower numbers than the previous year. The most abundant butterflies continued to be the *Gatekeeper* and *Meadow Brown*, both exceeding their long-term average.

Both a *Brimstone* (Plate 1) and a *Small Heath* (Plate 2) had not been recorded on one of the transect walks since 1998, but both were seen this year. However, the *Brimstone* has been observed on the reserve on other occasions.

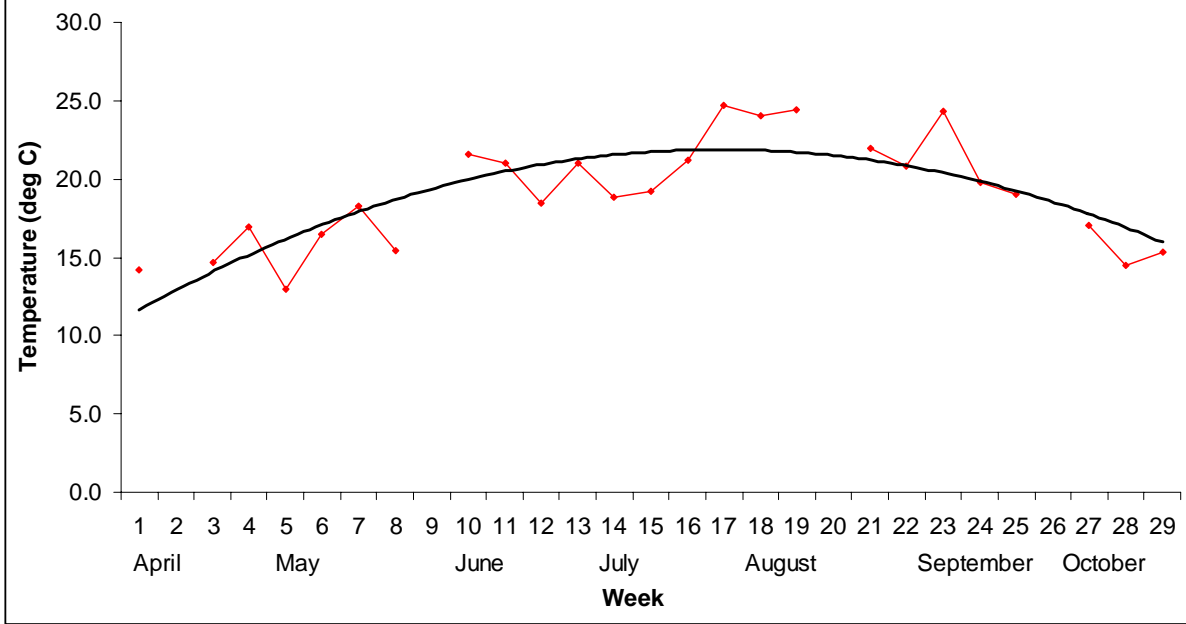
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (1981) *Butterfly Monitoring Scheme*  
The Butterfly Conservation website: [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

**Figure 1. Butterfly species list and sightings at Medina Valley Centre (SZ503909) for 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.**

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004
Brown Argus	-	-	-	-
Brimstone	*	-	*	1
Chalkhill Blue	-	-	*	-
Clouded Yellow	-	*	1	-
Comma	13	23	25	16
Common Blue	17	36	91	39
Dingy Skipper	-	-	-	-
Gatekeeper	163	178	204	225
Green Hairstreak	-	*	-	-
Green-veined White	1	3	4	5
Grizzled Skipper	-	*	-	-
Holly Blue	3	15	9	11
Large Skipper	14	40	41	11
Large White	23	30	21	10
Marbled White	23	32	39	28
Meadow Brown	120	138	212	191
Orange Tip	6	5	6	4
Painted Lady	3	3	13	2
Peacock	5	4	10	3
Purple Hairstreak	2	-	-	1
Red Admiral	7	16	19	5
Ringlet	-	-	-	-
Silver-washed Fritillary	-	-	-	-
Small Copper	44	16	31	34
Small Heath	-	-	-	1
Small Skipper	5	16	7	4
Small Tortoiseshell	2	15	29	13
Small White	60	65	67	52
Speckled Wood	8	23	14	16
Wall Brown	9	1	9	6
White Admiral	-	-	-	-
White-letter Hairstreak	-	1	-	-
Number of species recorded	21	23	22	22

\* indicates that the species was seen during the year, but not during a transect walk.  
 - indicates that the species has been recorded on the reserve, but not seen this year.

**Figure 1: Temperature at time of survey. The transect was not walked in weeks 2, 9, 20 and 26.**





**Plate 1: Brimstone**



**Plate 2: Small Heath**

