

Bealeswood Common Wildlife

October 2023

As seen by the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG)

Copies of this and previous notices can be found at

www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

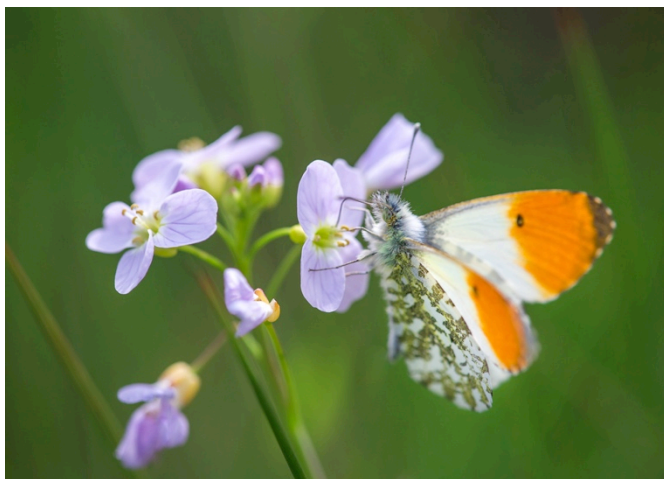
Butterflies (*Philippa Hall*)

Between us, we do 2 butterfly transects on Bealeswood Common each week. The main one runs from April to September, recording every butterfly we see; and the Purple Hairstreak transect runs from mid-June to August. The results are entered onto the Butterfly Conservation website where they contribute to a nationwide picture of how butterflies are faring.

In descending order of total numbers this year for the main transect walk:

Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small White, Large White, Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Ringlet, Peacock, Brimstone, Orang-tip, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Brown Argus, Small Copper, Small/Essex Skipper, Silver-washed Fritillary, Painted lady, Clouded Yellow, Comma, Small Heath (altogether, it has been a better year than expected after extremes of weather throughout the last year).

Purple hairstreaks are monitored by stopping at regular points along a route where there are mature oak trees with a good view of the canopy, their favourite habitat. The count takes place in early evening, preferably in warm and fairly windless conditions. As this is the first year we have undertaken this method of counting, it has been encouraging to find purple hairstreaks at many of the stopping points. If we are lucky (and observant), we see butterflies outside the regular transect walks, including, very recently, the Brown Hairstreak.



above, left: Orange Tip, right: Holly Blue

photos: Alex Potts



left: Marbled White, right: Speckled Wood

photos: Alex Potts

Report on the walk 'Fungi of Bealeswood Common' Dan Bosence

The forecast rain cleared by mid-morning on Friday 13th of October just in time for our fungi walk on Bealeswood Common. Our Leader Amanda Adolph was delighted with a few rainy days ahead of the walk which brought out a good flush of mushrooms for us to find. A week earlier, and it would have been dry and sunny with very few fruiting bodies of the fungi to view, even though their mycelia would have been busy away underground, and in fallen trees and leaf litter, recycling the nutrients on the Common. For someone used to recording the flowers on the Common, this walk took me into another world, into the damp and shady scrub and woodland areas of the Common. A good range of fungi were found, in fallen logs, in deep leaf litter and in fringing areas of grassland. In total some 21 fungi were noted, some poisonous, a number described as inedible and many with delightfully descriptive names. These included: Blackening Wax Cap, White Knight, Bitter Oysterling, Hairy Curtain Crust, Sulphur Tuft, Red Cracking Bolete, Rosy Bonnet, Earthball, Charcoal Burner, Turkey Tail, Common Bonnet, Ruby Russula, Variable Brittlegill, Burgundydrop Bonnet, Onion Earthball, Pleated Inkcap, Buttery Collybia, Pocket Stalked Brittlegill, Branching Stagshorn, Common Laccaria, and Wood Blewit.



photos by Dan Bosence (L) Alison Bosence (R)

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group

Amanda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Clare Jackson, Phil Nangle, Alex Potts, Anne Tutt, and Raf Wane. 20/10/2023.