



SURVEY 2018

## Butterfly

A total of 26 butterfly species were recorded during the 2018 butterfly survey carried out by two Butterfly Conservation volunteers on the southern part of Rougham Estate between April and September 2018, using a standard, replicable, butterfly survey technique.

A total of 26 butterfly species were recorded representing 75+% of Suffolk's 34 butterfly species that have regularly occurred in Suffolk during the last five years ie 2013-2017. The list reflects the varied habitat in a small area and especially priority habitats - ancient broadleaved woodland (with some key plants), good connecting species-rich hedges with healthy elm and some good field margins.

*More overleaf*



*Above:*  
The elusive Purple Hairstreak  
- down from the tree top.

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One notable exception to the expected species was the absence of the Essex skipper which is a widespread species that has undergone an 88% decline in abundance between 1976-2014.

- This really good number includes four of Suffolk's target priority species, notably Small Heath and three with very specific larval host plants: White Admiral (larvae feed on honeysuckle), White-Letter Hairstreak (larvae feed on elm) and Silver-Washed Fritillary (larvae feed on dog violets).
- Two elusive treetop species, often not seen, were recorded probably because they came down from the tree tops to find moisture in the droughty conditions, notably Purple Hairstreak and Purple Emperor.
- The field margins supported farmland butterflies including Brown Argus (larvae feed on cranesbill) and Small Copper (larvae feed on sorrel and sheep's sorrel), the whites, the browns and nettle feeders. All were recorded nectaring on knapweed and ragwort but suffered from the drought shriveling both grasses and flowering plants prematurely.

You can see most of these species in woodland rides and glades at nearby Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve where there is good parking and a visitor centre.

Rougham Estate Trust is committed to implementing Butterfly Conservation and Suffolk Wildlife Trust's recommendations to provide more nectar-rich areas over a longer season, and to manage woodland to benefit specialist species.

-END-

*Compiled and written by Juliet Hawkins of Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

*The trustees of the Rougham Estate Trust would like to thank all those involved in undertaking the work on this important survey, which will help guide woodland management at Rougham in the future.*

18 January 2019



Above:  
White Admiral basking in the sun.

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Above:  
The Silver-Washed Fritillary nectaring on bramble.

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Front page:  
White Admiral sunning itself on oak leaf.

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# Rougham Estate Trust

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