

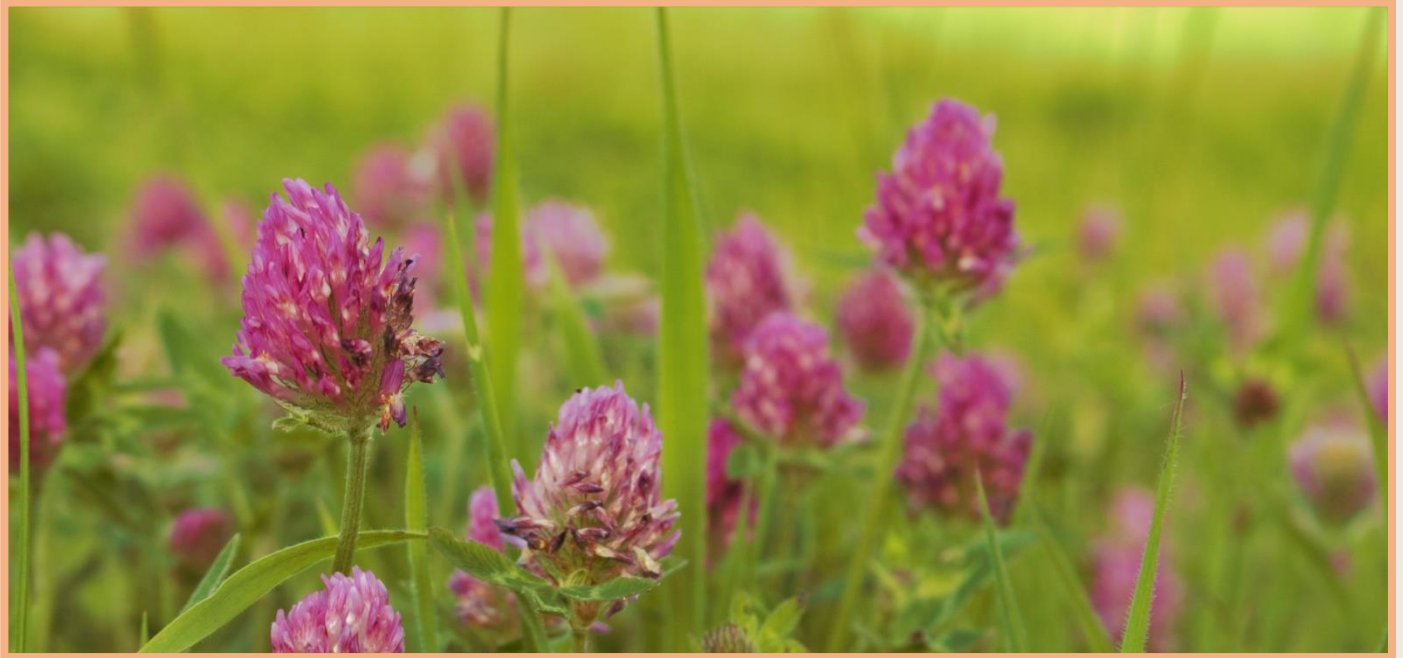
the  
**GREEN**  
house  
Sussex Ltd



## WILDLIFE REPORT No. 21

APRIL - JUNE 2017





**TOP – PYRAMIDAL ORCHIDS**

**BOTTOM – RED CLOVER**

## Introduction

This report is centred on some of the biodiversity successes and biodiversity challenges the nursery faces in improving the biodiversity of a congested site; particularly those that occur in this quarter of the year.

The spring quarter of the year is the best quarter of the year, there's lots of new growth across the nursery. It's the time to see which of our favourite plants have come through the winter to bloom again. Will there be new insects we haven't seen before, will there be lots of butterflies? What birds are going to be about, will our bird boxes be accepted and will the swallows return from Africa? Just some of the many questions that will be answered as these seasons three months unfold.

There is a huge difference between the look of the places given over to encouraging biodiversity between the beginning of April and the end of June. On April 1<sup>st</sup> spring growth has hardly begun but at the end of June lots of wildflowers have either flowered or are flowering. It makes it appropriate that flowers should begin this report.



## Wild Flowers

The classic early spring flowers; bluebell and primrose both grow on the nursery. Both exist as single colonies as far as we know. The two places are easy to locate, maintain and keep from harm. The primroses are on the north side of the rainwater reservoir. Where they grow is dominated by bramble plants. To stop them from being shaded out the bramble growth is cleared away every year at about February time. This gives them sufficient time to



flower, seed and build up reserves for the following year. Their location has the additional benefit that they can be seen by all the passing traffic along Lake Lane. At their peak of flowering they give a very good show.

It would be good to be able to clear more bramble away than we do to encourage the primrose area to expand further along the reservoir bank. This is would be big task, removing one years worth of bramble growth is quick and easy, cutting away bramble growth that is several years old and located on the sloping side of a reservoir is much harder; then once completed it could be many years before primroses

expanded along the bank. This would be something for us to consider.

Our bluebells (the proper UK species, not the Spanish type) live quietly under the hedgerow near the water silo; as they probably have since long before the nursery was built.

Caring for these clumps of plants amounts to just ensuring that they are not badly shaded by the boundary hedge or the foliage cut before they have naturally died down for the summer. Our bluebells are fortunate in that they are unpalatable to the rabbits which are numerous on the nursery at present. At the present they seem content with the care they get and are possibly slowly expanding their colony.

### A NEW FLOWER

It is always great to find something new growing on the nursery it makes carrying out surveys really worthwhile. When I saw this bright splash of orange colour I knew immediately that we had a new plant on the site. This had to be Fox and Cubs. This orange flowered plant from the asteraceae family is properly a native of central Europe but is naturalised in the UK, mainly as a result of escapes from cultivation. It is rarely invasive; but it can form quite a big clump by sending out rhizomes if the growing conditions are favourable for it. This plant is growing in the field beyond the rainwater reservoir and although there is only one flower this year there are more plants growing nearby. This flower will be attractive to some pollinators though not especially so for bees.



Our orchids ( a maybe a new species)

The nursery is known to have four species of orchid growing on it. This year three species are flowering; Pyramidal, Spotted and Early Purple. These three species are perennial and so it is quite easy to keep a track of where they are and how they are doing. The



Pyramidals which are all on the edge of the turning circle still grow in the two places where they always have. The clump of plants is slowly expanding, in 2014 there were eight flowering spikes this year it has 13 spikes. (This plant is pictured at the head of the report). The other plant is just a single flower and not as strong as in previous years.



The Spotted Orchids have had a mixed year; the plants in the most sunny locations have suffered with drought and did not flower very well this year, particularly the plant which normally grows the biggest flower spike. The plants in the shadier locations flowered much better.

The pictures to the left and right are of Spotted Orchids, both of these are in the field beyond the rainwater reservoir, the single spike is close to the road and the clump (there are five spikes in the picture if you look carefully) is on the railway side. There is also a sizable colony of thirteen distinct plants.

**Southern Marsh Orchid?**



For several years now Early Purple has been represented by a solitary plant; which isn't a beyond the rainwater reservoir. It is difficult because it rapidly disappears in the middle of that field. This is a problem for our orchid population; one in a narrow strip of land I thought at first that it was now I am sure they are not. It is behind a chicken wire guard so there is no chance it will flower again next year, when it in fact is a Southern Marsh Orchid species on the nursery.

this plant behind 6-9 in the region of

Purple Orchid has been represented by a great specimen living in the field. The ground it is growing in fluctuates from very wet to very dry year there are two additional plants in the field beside 14-17 and the separating 14-17 and the railway line. There are two more Early Purple Orchids but they are both protected behind a good reason to expect they will be possible to confirm if they are. If they are, this will be the fifth orchid

The fourth orchid, the Bee Orchid has not flowered this year. This orchid usually dies after it flowers so to get flowers in successive years there needs to be more young plants coming up to flowering size and they don't seem to be here. It may be that it will be many years before we see Bee Orchid again but we can continue to have places looked after in a way that makes it possible they could reappear. To ever see this plant is a success.

This year has seen several other plants important to pollinators increasing their presence on the nursery; two I think are especially important are Birds-foot-trefoil and Red Clover.

Birds-foot-trefoil is a food plant for Common Blue Butterfly and Burnet Moth as well as being popular with bees and other pollinators. It is increasing on the nursery at last. It is still not frequent, there are only four places where it is known to be growing but all of them are getting bigger. The most increased place is by 6-9 where the plant growing on the edge of the grass is expanding towards the water tank. I am often asked why I would want to leave an un-mown strip just beside the road where it has never looked particularly tidy or planned. It is the Birds-foot-trefoil plant here that I wanted to allow to thrive and now this plant is spreading



itself about. This plant is key to any chance of a big population of common blue butterfly. This plant is its preferred caterpillar food plant.

The other plant that is occurring more frequently is red clover a plant much loved by bees. There is an abundance of white clover on site which perhaps makes the red version seem especially rare and an obvious splash of colour amongst the white clover. Red Clover has a slightly taller growth habit so it suffers more from regular mowing than the white clover. Our current mowing regimes are allowing this plant more opportunity to grow successfully. Like its white counterpart this plant is also very attractive to a range of insect pollinators and is a food plant for some butterflies as well. I am happy that this plant is starting to appear in the un-mown areas of the nursery. The picture at the head of the report is Red Clover from near the A-D boiler house.

At the beginning of the journey the company begin to try and increase the biodiversity of the site it was understood that to create habitat there would be compromise between the absolute tidiness of closely mown lawns and unkempt wilderness. Striking this balance has not been easy but it is possible to get to a balance that works. Huge increases in the quantity of flowers are one indicator that progress is occurring.

The next picture shows what can be achieved. Here there is a suitable herbicide strip around the glasshouse so



that plants cannot easily spread under the walls and it is easy to see if animals are burrowing their way in. Building inspection and maintenance is also facilitated. The mown strip follows the line of the footpath making it both easy to walk and defining where it is. Before this biodiversity experiment started everywhere in this picture would have looked like the mown strip. There would be fewer species of plants (probably); certainly some would never get the opportunity to flower and the rest would only get to flower if they could beat the mowing frequency. The reward for getting the balance right is a range of flowering plants, butterflies in amongst the taller grasses and the background hum of many grasshoppers going about their business. If you are lucky, habitat creation lets you observe something that you will not see often. A dragonfly, a Black-tailed Skimmer has taken up residence in the triangle of long grass in the centre of the previous picture. This insect will only be a few days old. It has flown away from the pond it immersed from to mature in a quiet location



until it is ready to find a waterside territory. There is no chance this individual would be living here on the nursery if all that was here was the short grass. For starters there wouldn't be a perch to land on! It is pictured on the next page.

Black Tailed Skimmer, close up and hardly visible in the mass of grass stems



## Moths

Our moth trap is a wooden box filled with egg cartons with a strong light above it. The moths are attracted to the light and drop through the gap in the plastic box lid and are unable to escape so they sit among all the space provided by the loose egg cartons. The trap is left on all night from dusk to dawn to capture any passing moths. All the captured moths can then be inspected before being released unharmed the following morning.



The moth trap has been used six times in the last three months catching 84 insects of 44 different species. The species are mainly but not exclusively the common types as would be expected. There are also five rarer species that are on the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan; these are the Buff Ermine, White Ermine, Brindled Beauty, Cinnabar and Shoulder striped Wainscot. The trap is always set in the same place, not far from the generator room because it provides a convenient electricity socket.

There is a honeysuckle not far away from this location; I think that this nectar resource could be part of the reason that so many moths are getting found here.



The table on the next page lists the moths we have caught over the last three months.

09.04.2017		21.05.2017		28.05.2017				17.06.2017			
brindled Beauty	1	Maidens Blush	3	Small Emerald	4	Peach Blossom	1	Heart and Dart	4	Buff Ermine	1
Clouded Drab	1	Poplar Hawk Moth	2	White Ermine	4	Setaceous Hebrew	1	Elephant Hawk Moth	4	Lime Hawk Moth	1
		Flame Shoulder	2	Flame Shoulder	3	Snout	1	The Uncertain	4	L. Yellow Underwing	1
		Pebble Hooktip	1	Treble Lines	3	Blood Vein	1	Flame Shoulder	2	Beautiful Hooktip	1
		Pale Tussock	1	Pale Oak Beauty	2	Straw Dot	1	S. Striped Wainscot	2	Vine's Rustic	1
		Scalloped Hazel	1	Willow Beauty	2	Pale Tussock	1	Riband Wave	2	Privet Hawk Moth	1
		Hebrew Character	1	Buff Ermine	2	Orange Footman	1	Clouded Border	1	Willow Beauty	1
		Tawny Marbled	1	Clouded Border	2	Vine's Rustic	1	Sword Grass	1	Dark Arches	1
		Green Carpet	1	Marbled Minor	2	Light Brocade	1	Pine Hawk Moth	1		
				Cinnabar	1						

25.04.2014	
Hebrew Character	2
Spectacled Moth	1
Knot grass Moth	1

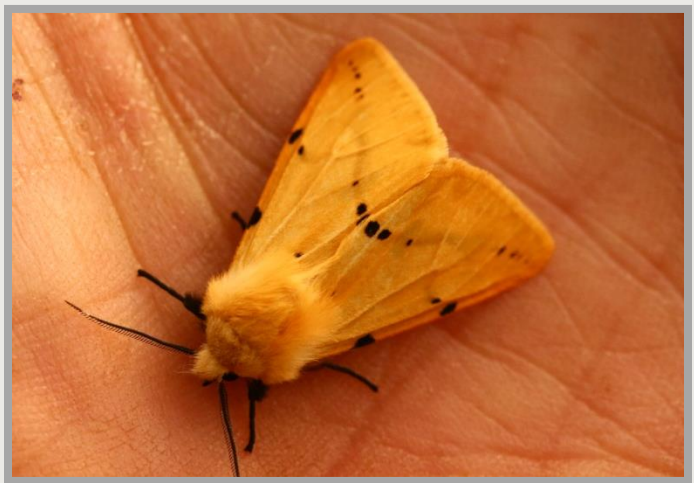
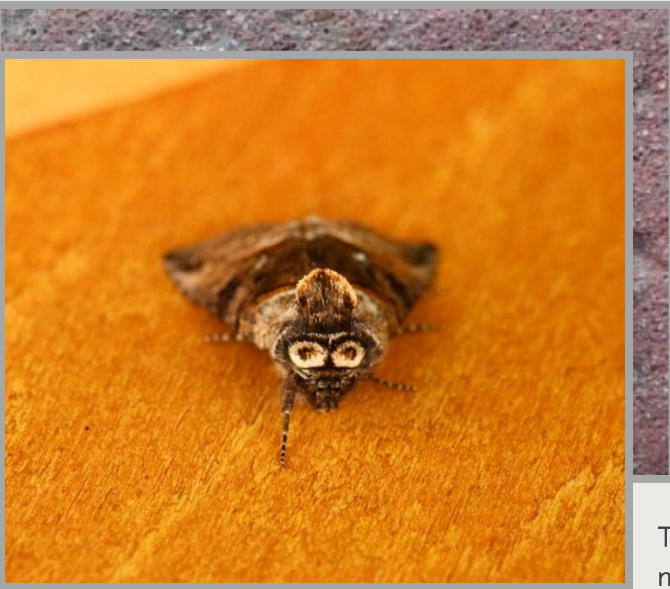
06.05.2017	
Muslin Moth	1
Early Thorn	1

Five of my favourite moths, the Hawk Moths have been caught; Lime, Poplar, Pine, Privet and Elephant. It is always exciting to have these spectacular moths in the hand. Pictured below are two of them; on the left the Pine Hawk Moth and to the right the impossibly well coloured Elephant Hawk Moth.



The next two pictures of moths are the White Ermine and Buff Ermine. These are two of the moths which are listed on the Sussex BAP list. These BAP listed species are of greater conservation concern than the preceding Hawk Moths but they don't have the same wow factor for me.





The last moth picture is the Spectacled Moth. It's so named because it looks like it is wearing them. This is an

insect that thinks it's cool.

Hopefully this selection of pictures of our moths shows there is more to these insects than just something irritating that flies inside if a window is open after dark.

## Butterflies

Butterfly surveying has now reached the half way point for the 2017 season. Early indications are that this year will be a better year for butterflies than last year. The population of Meadow Brown population is building nicely which suggests that in the first weeks of July there will be some big butterfly counts. Let's hope the weather holds up and that there is not a period of prolonged wet and cold weather. An occasional wet day is not a problem the butterflies can shelter from the rain, it's a long period without feeding and getting warm that is damaging.

So far this year the survey has shown up 136 insects of 11 species compared to 82 insects of 12 species in 2016. This is a big increase in insects so there is good reason to hope for some excellent counts in July.

As often happens the most infrequent seen butterflies don't get onto the survey and this has happened again this year. Both the Orange Tip and Brimstone have been seen on the nursery, just not during a survey.

There is one very big number on the table for Meadow Brown. I saw 62 insects along the south side of the nursery in the last survey. Almost all of these 62 were between A-D and the railway line. Blackberry flowers were the reason for them all being here.

When it is in flower blackberry is a popular flower and not just with butterflies, other pollinating insects will visit as well. Later the fruit are equally popular as a food resource with birds. The growth habit of blackberry makes this a plant that will grow into dense thickets very quickly so it needs to be kept in check. A balance has to be found between the benefits of blackberry flowers and fruit and the problems it can cause if it gets out of control.

All our butterfly data for April to June is on the table on the next page.



# BUTTERFLY SURVEY DATA 2017

DATE	AREA	SMALL WHITE	GREEN VEINED WHITE	LARGE WHITE	SMALL SKIPPER	MEADOW BROWN	GATE KEEPER	RINGLET	RED ADMIRAL	SMALL TORTOISESHELL	COMMA	SMALL COPPER	PEACOCK	ORANGE TIP	CLOUDED YELLOW	SPECKLED WOOD	COMMON BLUE	BROWN ARGUS	LARGE SKIPPER	MARbled WHITE	PAINTED LADY	BRIMSTONE	COUNT BY AREA	COUNT BY SURVEY	TOTAL COUNT
09.04.2017	NORTH SIDE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	EAST END	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	SOUTH SIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
	WEST END	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
23.04.2017	NORTH SIDE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	EAST END	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	SOUTH SIDE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	WEST END	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
07.05.2017	NORTH SIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	EAST END	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	SOUTH SIDE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	WEST END	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
21.05.2017	NORTH SIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	EAST END	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	SOUTH SIDE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	WEST END	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
03.06.2017	NORTH SIDE	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
	EAST END	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
	SOUTH SIDE	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
	WEST END	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
17.06.2017	NORTH SIDE	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
	EAST END	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
	SOUTH SIDE	1	0	0	0	62	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	
	WEST END	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>TOTAL COUNT BY SPECIES</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>



These two pictures of a Comma and a Peacock illustrate exactly another of the problems we have to face in creating habitat suitable for butterflies. The butterflies are definitely something we want to encourage to flourish on the nursery; we almost cannot have too many. The adults need food resources and a favourite is thistle. Both these individuals are nectaring on Creeping Thistle. This common plant is very good at behaving in an invasive manner. Creeping Thistle can quickly become a real nuisance especially on land that has good

moisture content and has been fertilised. In these circumstances this plant can really make use of its vigorous habit and dominate. This nursery on former agricultural land provides just this sort of ideal root environment.

The nursery has to deliberately target thistle eradication even though this means less nectar resource for butterflies or there could be a situation where the whole site is a thistle stand. To do this some areas of thistle are being completely removed by treatment with translocated herbicide and in other areas the plants are being pulled out. Herbicide is the right choice for dense stands of very vigorous thistle, pulling is more appropriate for individual plants and places where spray drift will result in unacceptable losses of other desirable plants. Obtaining the balance between having a great butterfly food resource and keeping control of the troublesome thistles will always be challenging on this site. The butterflies, bees, goldfinches that love the thistles etc make it worth trying to get that a balance that does not involve getting rid of all the thistles..



## Bees

The Four bee hotels are working well this year. All of them have some activity associated with them. As in previous years this is overwhelmingly the Red Mason Bee. The busiest hotel is on the rain water reservoir electric hut.

For the first time it seems as if a second bee species is taking up residency. I had a short sighting of a bee that was certainly not a Red Mason. It may have been the Blue mason Bee which is also a known user of bee hotels. This is the first time another sort of mason bee has shown an interest in the hotels.



Considering the success we have had with our four bee hotels it would be worthwhile getting some more, perhaps of a slightly different design to see what other bees we might attract.



The Charity Buglife has a good product range and we will have a good look at these.



Of our bumblebees this one with the red tail is the one that is featured in this report; the picture is of a queen taken back in April. The imaginative name for this bee is Red Tailed

Bumblebee. This bee is not rare but the workers in particular like yellow. When this bee is foraging it will show a distinct preference for yellow flowers, this year there has been a carpet of yellow buttercup flowers, especially in the field between 10-13 and Lake Lane and this bee is taking advantage of this abundance of flowers. This show of flowers has been created by in the centre part of this field by mowing it in late April and then letting the plants all flower. The growth is now starting to get rather long so in the next few weeks a cut will be needed. We will cut half of the field and then when the flowers have come back we will consider doing the other half. By doing this we will always have nectar resources available in this field for pollinating insects including the Red Tailed Bumblebee

This picture of the field shows a wide field margin that is only mown once a year. This is in keeping with a company policy of not mowing close to the hedge lines during the bird nesting season and the flowers dominating the rest of the field as a result of a targeted mowing regime.

## Birds

### Bird Box occupation

In the last five years we have put up five nest boxes to add to the owl box which was put up previously. (The owl box will need replacement this year.) Of the five boxes four have been occupied this year. The hole nesting



boxes have been the most successful with occupation happening every year they have been up. It is Blue Tits and Great Tits have nested in them and normally the nests have successfully fledged. The two open fronted boxes have been less successful. In their first year neither was used and this year only one has been occupied. The box that has never been used will have to be tried in a new position as the chosen location is not being approved of by the birds. It is not easy trying to work out how a bird will decide if a particular nest box is suitable for use but this box is just being ignored. I think it is because the birds think the box is not well enough hidden.

The other open fronted nest box which is occupied is screwed onto a wall amongst saplings squeezed between the building and the glasshouse. This box is working for the Pied Wagtails that are occupying the box this year but also it illustrates the problem of providing space for nature when you are conflicted between biodiversity and tidiness. The two pictures on the left show the site and the nest box with just hatched baby birds in it.



There is a conflict to resolve here. These saplings need to be pruned; you cannot allow trees to grow in this space unchecked for very long. Is the answer to clear away everything and make the bird box exposed and potentially unappealing or can we find a middle way where the growth in this gap is managed so the birds like it and the needs of the business aren't compromised?

The chart below shows the bird list for the nursery over the last 30 months and the species count for the last five years.



## BIRD SURVEY 2015-17

SPECIES	JAN MAR 2015	APR JUNE 2015	JULY SEPT 2015	OCT DEC 2015	JAN MAR 2016	APR JUNE 2016	JULY SEPT 2016	OCT DEC 2016	JAN MAR 2017	APR JUNE 2017
BLACKBIRD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BLACK CAP	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
BLACK HEADED GULL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BLUE TIT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BULLFINCH	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
BUZZARD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CANADA GOOSE	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
CARRION CROW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHAFFINCH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHIFFCHAFF	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
COLLARED DOVE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COMMON GULL	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
COMMON PARTRIDGE	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
COMMON SANDPIPER	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
COOT	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
CORMORANT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
DUNNOCK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREAT TIT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREEN FINCH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREEN WOODPECKER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREY HERON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GREY WAGTAIL	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
GOLDCREST	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
GOLDFINCH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HERRING GULL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HOUSE SPARROW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
JAY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
KESTREL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LINNET	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
LITTLE EGRET	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LITTLE GREBE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LONG TAILED TIT	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
MAGPIE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MALLARD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MOORHEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MUTE SWAN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
PHEASANT	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
PIED WAGTAIL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROBIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROOK	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
SHELDUCK	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SHOVELER	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SISKIN	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
STARLING	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
SWALLOW	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
SONG THRUSH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
SPARROW HAWK	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
TUFTED DUCK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WHITETHROAT	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
WOOD PIGEON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
YELLOWHAMMER	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
WREN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>SPECIES COUNT THIS PERIOD</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>SPECIES COUNT THIS YEAR</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>SPECIES COUNT 2012 ONWARDS</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>

The hole nesting boxes are much easier to position as the birds that use them are less demanding about the nest being hidden. The enclosed box is their protection from predation.

This Great Tit is provisioning it's nest in one of our nest boxes located in the open above the redundant nursery equipment. Even in what is quite a busy part of the nursery this pair of birds has been able to have a successful nest.



Improving the biodiversity of a small intensively used site has been a challenge. After five years the progress we have made has been fantastic, one of the main highlights being recognised for this work as a LEAF demonstration farm. The biodiversity of the nursery has improved hugely but there is still more we can achieve. What's exciting is seeing how far we have come over the past five years and of course looking forward to see what we can achieve next.