

Transect Monitoring Report for 2008

As expected, the results for 2008 were not very good but one ray of sunshine was that overall they were slightly better than in 2007.

Compared with 2007 results, of the 25 transects monitored, 13 showed an increase in the total number of butterflies seen, with the increase varying from 10% to over 100%. The average for all transects was an increase of 10%.

The two species which probably improved the overall figures for 2008 were the relatively good numbers of Ringlets and the continued increase in the numbers of Speckled Wood.

The figures for comparison with our best year in the past five years, which was 2006, are rather poor, with 15 of the 21 transects monitored showing a decrease in the total numbers recorded. The average for all transects was 46% of those recorded in 2006. The worst loss was in one transect which only recorded 17% of those recorded in 2006. Only six transects showed an increase compared to 2006 with the maximum increase being 33%.

There has been an increase in the number of sightings of Gatekeeper on transects, so this could be one to watch out for in 2009 – could it be the next Speckled Wood?

All in all 2008 was not all doom and gloom but let's hope 2009 is better.

I know it's a bit early for this request but it would help me and headquarters if you could get your transect records in by the end of October 2009.

Thanks for your help in 2008

Brian Denham
Transect Co-ordinator