



# Dorset Butterflies 2023

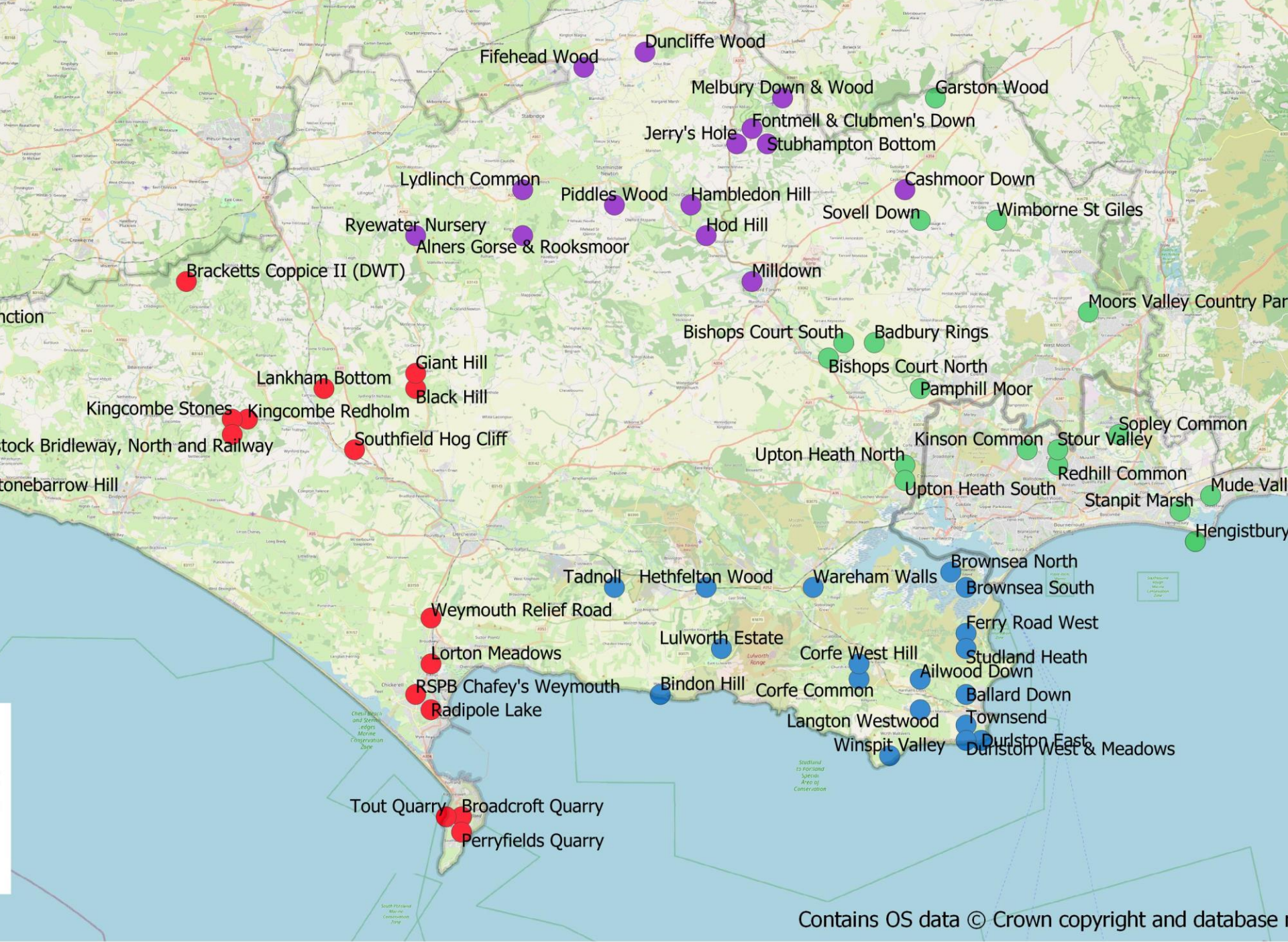
An early look at the results

# Red Admiral Autumn



Harold Gillen

Harold took this amazing photo of Red Admirals at Old Harry at the end of September

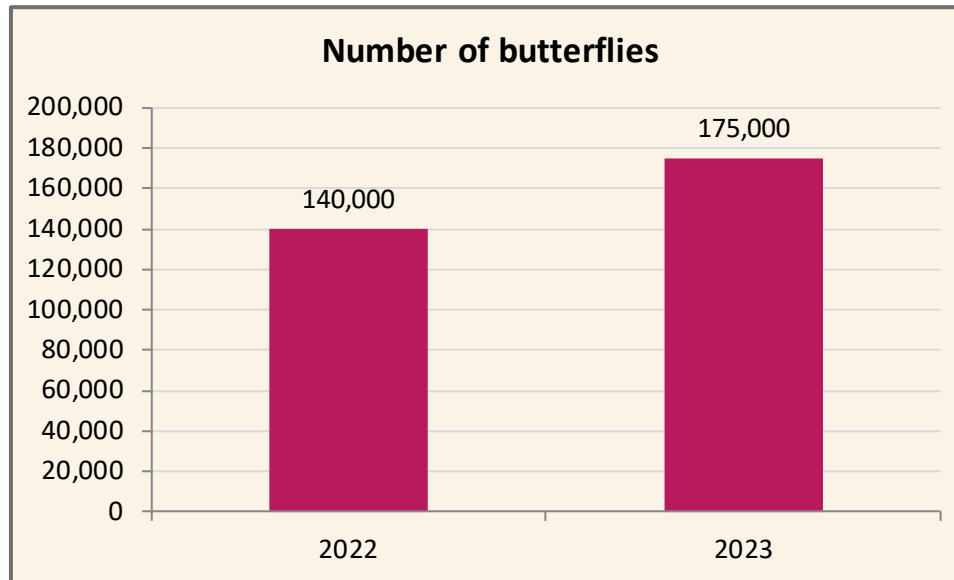


# Transects

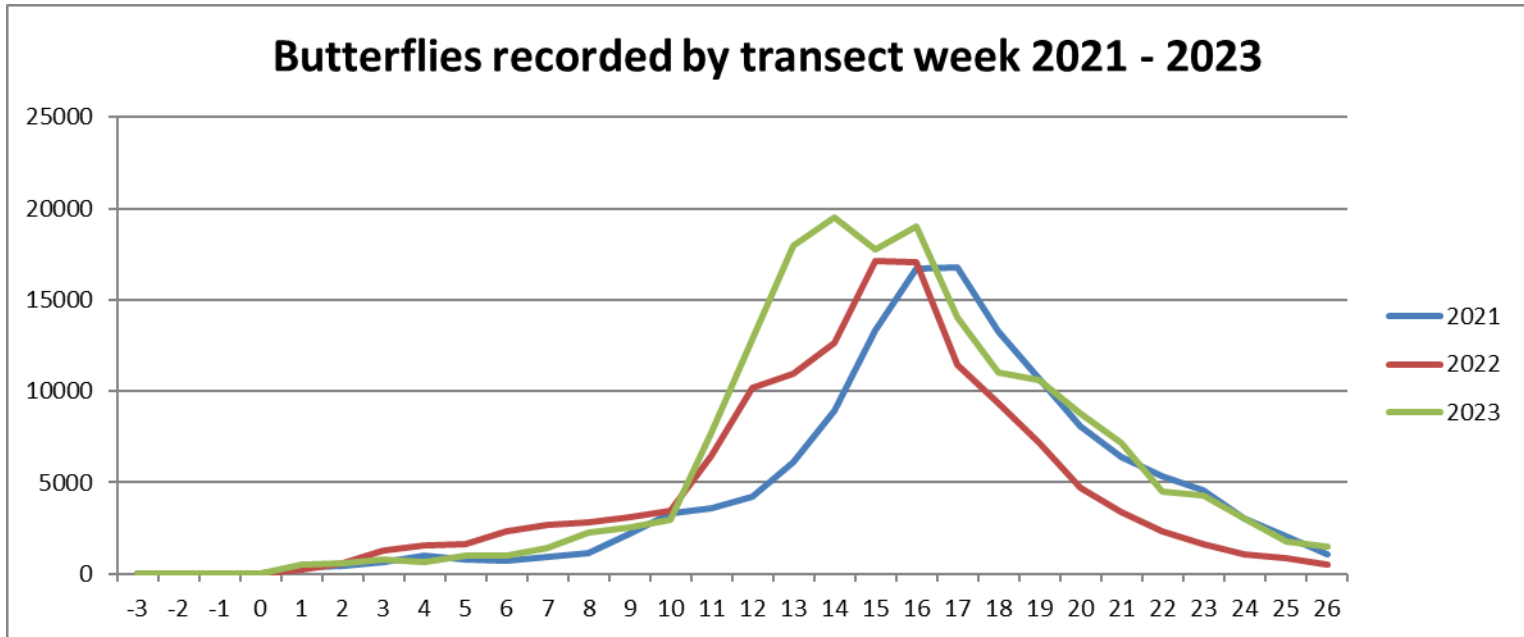
- 96 walks altogether, including reduced week walks for particular species
- 50 completed and ready for checking, 30 checked
- More than 1760 walks carried out
- About 240 different walkers

# Total numbers on Transects

- Total number of butterflies up - approx 25% increase
- Much of this due to Meadow Brown numbers 40,000 in 2022, 61,000 in 2023 >50% increase



# Butterflies on Transects



2021	2022	2023
136,000	136,000	175,000

Number of species: 2020-2022

- 1-9 species
- 10-19 species
- 20+ species

# White Holes

- 392 White Holes filled this year ready for the 2020-2024 Atlas
- 18% of our squares are still White Holes (539 squares)
- 48% of Dorset squares have 10 or more species recorded in them
- One more year to go – please help in 2024

30 40 50 60 70 80 90 00 10 20

# Website butterflies

- Nearly 80,000 butterflies recorded so far this year – compared with 70,000 for 2022
- Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper are the top two species
- Red Admiral is 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2023
- Small White was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2021, 2020 and 2019, but is 4<sup>th</sup> in 2023



# Still to come

- Big Butterfly Count – started in pouring rain but the weather improved, and the Red Admirals flooded in
- Wider Countryside Survey
- iRecord
- Living Record
- Individual sets of records from recorders



# Overall

- Very early days but the following species seem to have done well
  - Red Admiral
  - Peacock
  - Small Copper



# Overall



- The following species seem to have done badly
  - Small Tortoiseshell
  - Dark Green Fritillary
  - Ringlet

# Chalkhill Blues still struggling

