

Pamber Forest Nature Reserve

Quarterly Newsletter



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

July 2017

The weather continued very dry and April was in fact the driest on record with virtually no recorded rainfall; this contributed to the rides looking very drought stressed in mid April. At least in May some rain fell on 11th and 17th so the drought was relieved but June was again dry and combined with some very hot weather mid month resulted in both Gravel Pit Pond and Honey Mill Stream drying out at least a month earlier than usual. This caught the toad tadpoles out in Gravel Pit Pond where about 50% of them were left high and dry, so did not make it, but it was probably due to the hot weather than many of them developed quickly and were already toadlets when the water was gone.

The cool spring with NE winds held up migration so that many species arrived in very small numbers at the usual time and we had to wait several weeks for the full migration to occur. The first cuckoo was heard on the 15th April but most of the warblers did not really arrive until May. There were five records of lesser spotted woodpecker in April and May mostly heard drumming or calling and spotted flycatchers were seen in at least two locations from 24th May to the end of the month. Some good records of moths occurred, with four Devon carpet



White-barred Clearwing moth

recorded in the last week of May a new record for the site. Then on 1st June I had a white-barred clearwing to a pheromone lure in Gold Oak Copse (with 2 on the 2nd) where we had been coppicing birch and alder. This species is recorded most years on Silchester Common but has not been recorded on the reserve

since the 1960's. An RDB2 beetle (very rare) the Welsh oak longhorn beetle was found in May (four of them) on cut chestnut poles, this species used to be confined to Wales but has now been found further east. Both white admiral and silver-washed fritillary were on the wing in mid June brought out by the heat wave. Last year I only had 17 white admiral on the transect so it was a great



Welsh longhorn beetle

surprise to see 17 in the first week they appeared; so their numbers will be well up this year.

Volunteers put in 105 work days during the 3 months a great effort considering we had two fewer work days than normal because of Easter and my holiday! Most of this effort was in finishing off the coppicing as we were helped by the late spring.

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Basingstoke
and Deane