

## One Tree Hill

Paul Hudson, EWT Local Group member, recently visited One Tree Hill and sent in this report. The area is part of Langdon Hills, Thurrock and a popular place to spot wildlife. The main car park is off One Tree Hill, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 9NH and more information is available here:

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/langdon-hills-country-park/one-tree-hill>

3 of us enjoyed a walk in some warm sunshine on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July and I think we saw 15 species of butterflies - numbers below are very approximate:

Small Skipper - 20+, some seen at rest and were clearly not Essex Skipper

Essex Skipper - one identified positively - black tips on antennae

Large Skipper - some of the skippers seen in flight seemed slightly larger and paler than most and were probably this species

Large White - 10+

Small White - 5-10

Purple Hairstreak - only 1, around an ash tree - settled briefly with closed wings for confirmation of the ID

Holly Blue - perhaps 20

Red Admiral - 10+

Comma - about 5 - those seen at rest were all fresh and golden so presumably *Hutchinsoni* form - as would be expected at this date

Silver-washed Fritillary - 5+ - all in flight and almost certainly not Commas.

Speckled Wood - very few

Marbled White - probably 100+

Gatekeeper - 5-10, all those seen at rest were males

Meadow Brown - 100+

Ringlet - again perhaps 100+ but fewer than the MBs.

We also saw a Six-spot Burnet Moth which posed nicely for a photo - attached - and two Pyramidal Orchids

Lack of White Admirals was a disappointment and we looked carefully near Elm trees for White-letter Hairstreak without success. Commoner species such as Peacock and Common Blue also seemed to be missing.

All in all, a worthwhile walk though fewer species than I've sometimes seen in early July.