

SUMMARY OF 2015 BUTTERFLY SURVEY RESULTS

1934 RECORDS OF 5969 INDIVIDUAL BUTTERFLIES IN 2015

GOOD COVERAGE OF ALL THREE ROUTES

35 SPECIES RECORDED BY VOLUNTEERS IN 2015 (78% SUSSEX SPECIES TOTAL)

SPECIES WHICH DID WELL: Common Blue, Holly Blue, Marbled White

SPECIES WHICH DID POORLY: Speckled Wood, Small Heath

NOTABLE EVENTS: Wave of immigrant butterflies from mainland Europe in late July, including Clouded Yellow, Large White, Small White

HEADLINE STORIES: First Silver-spotted Skipper (ever!) seen on site; definite increase in numbers of Adonis Blue; first signs of possible increase in Dark Green Fritillary

REASONS FOR OPTIMISM: Wide variety of species up on Round Hill and Pepperscombe Bank, but in very low numbers. Huge improvement in habitat through grazing with Dexters could therefore result in rapid and spectacular increases in many butterfly species over the next two or three summers

BROWN HAIRSTREAK UPDATE: Below average season (weather-related) as seen everywhere else in 2015

HABITAT: Great improvements across the entire site, particularly The Coombe, Pepperscombe Bank, flat area above northern flank of the Rifle Range