

Butterfly Monitoring Results 2021

During the spring, summer and early autumn of 2021, a team of trained SDS volunteers carried out systematic butterfly surveys along three predetermined transects on the Steyping Downland. The transects followed the same routes as had been followed since 2016 (see Appendix 1 at the end of the report for these).

The histograms below show the total numbers of butterflies counted in each year from 2016 to 2021. At the bottom of each histogram is a table showing the numbers from each year, the average number from 2016-2020, and an arrow indicating whether numbers have increased, decreased or stayed roughly the same.

To summarise:

Stayed the same: Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Green Hairstreak, Adonis Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, White Admiral, Silver-Spotted Skipper

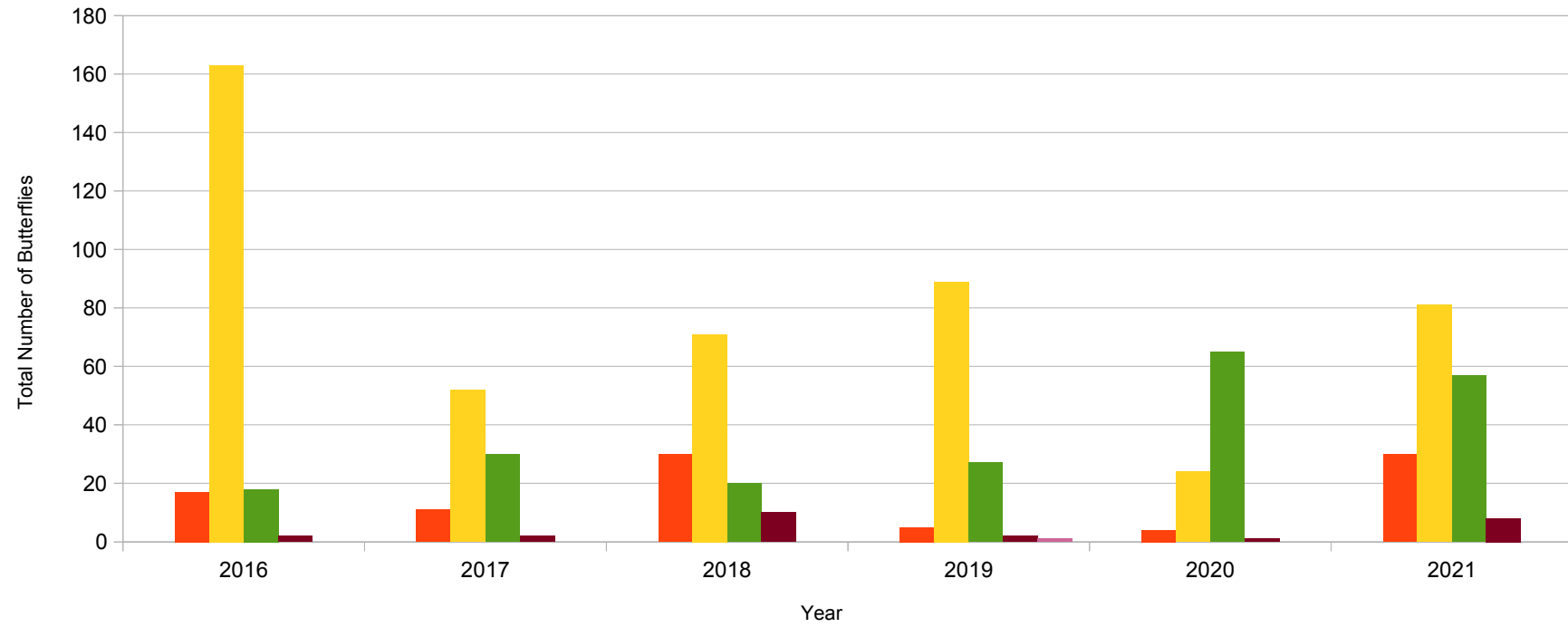
Increased: Essex Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Duke of Burgundy

Decreased: Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Brimstone, Brown Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Painted Lady, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Wall, Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Ringlet, Purple Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow, Small Blue.

The increased numbers of Duke of Burgundy are very welcome, overall 2021 was a disappointing year, although it is important to point out that 'trap effort (the number of count made) has not been taken into account. No doubt cold weather in the early spring will have also had an effect on the early and overwintering species. The summer species (Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Common Blue) did fare better, and the rise in Duke of Burgundy numbers is a notable success.

Steining Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Hesperiidae-Skippers

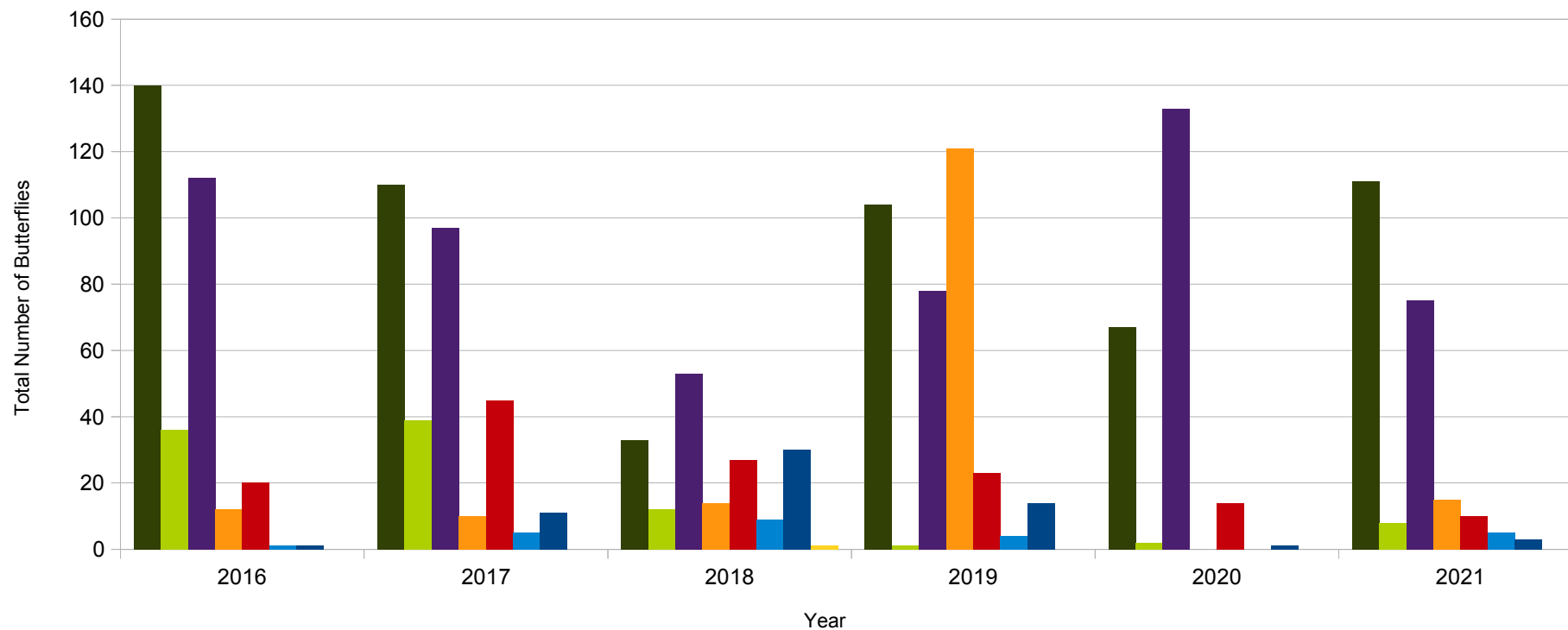


Year	Small skipper	Essex skipper	Large skipper	Dingy skipper	Grizzled skipper	Silver-spotted skipper
2016	0	17	163	18	2	0
2017	0	11	52	30	2	0
2018	0	30	71	20	10	0
2019	0	5	89	27	2	1
2020	0	4	24	65	1	0
2021	0	30	81	57	8	0

Mean No.	0	13	80	32	3	0
Trend	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔

Steyping Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Nymphalidae

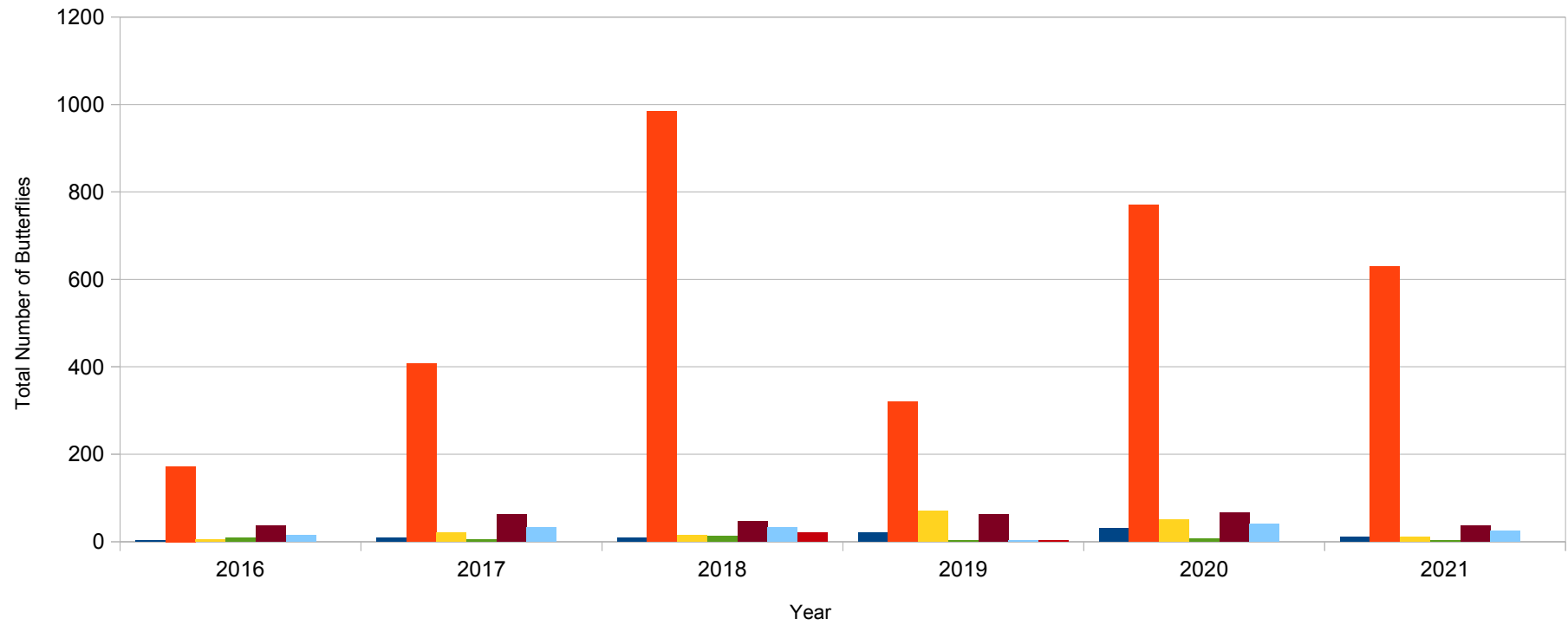


Year	Red admiral	Small tortoiseshell	Peacock	Painted lady	Comma	Dark green fritillary	Silver-washed fritillary	White admiral
2016	140	36	112	12	20	1	1	0
2017	110	39	97	10	45	5	11	0
2018	33	12	53	14	27	9	30	1
2019	104	1	78	121	23	4	14	0
2020	67	2	133	0	14	0	1	0
2021	111	8	75	15	10	5	3	0

Mean No.	91	18	95	31	26	4	11	0
Trend	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↔

Steyning Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Lycaenidae-Blues

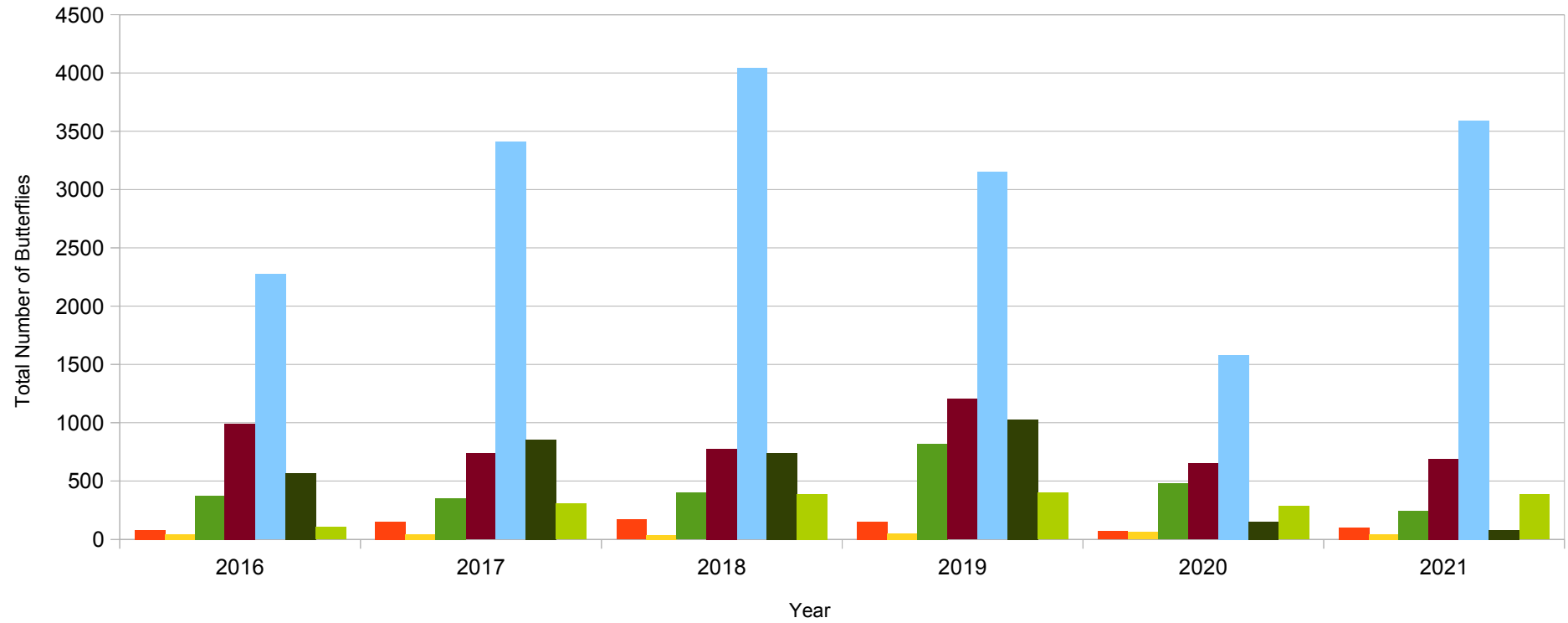


Year	Small copper	Common blue	Brown argus	Chalkhill blue	Holly blue	Adonis blue	Small blue
2016	2	172	5	8	37	14	0
2017	8	407	20	5	63	32	0
2018	8	985	15	13	47	32	20
2019	21	320	70	2	63	2	2
2020	30	770	50	7	66	40	0
2021	11	629	11	2	36	25	0

Mean No.	14	531	32	7	55	24	4
Trend	↔	↑	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓

Steining Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Satyrinae-Browns

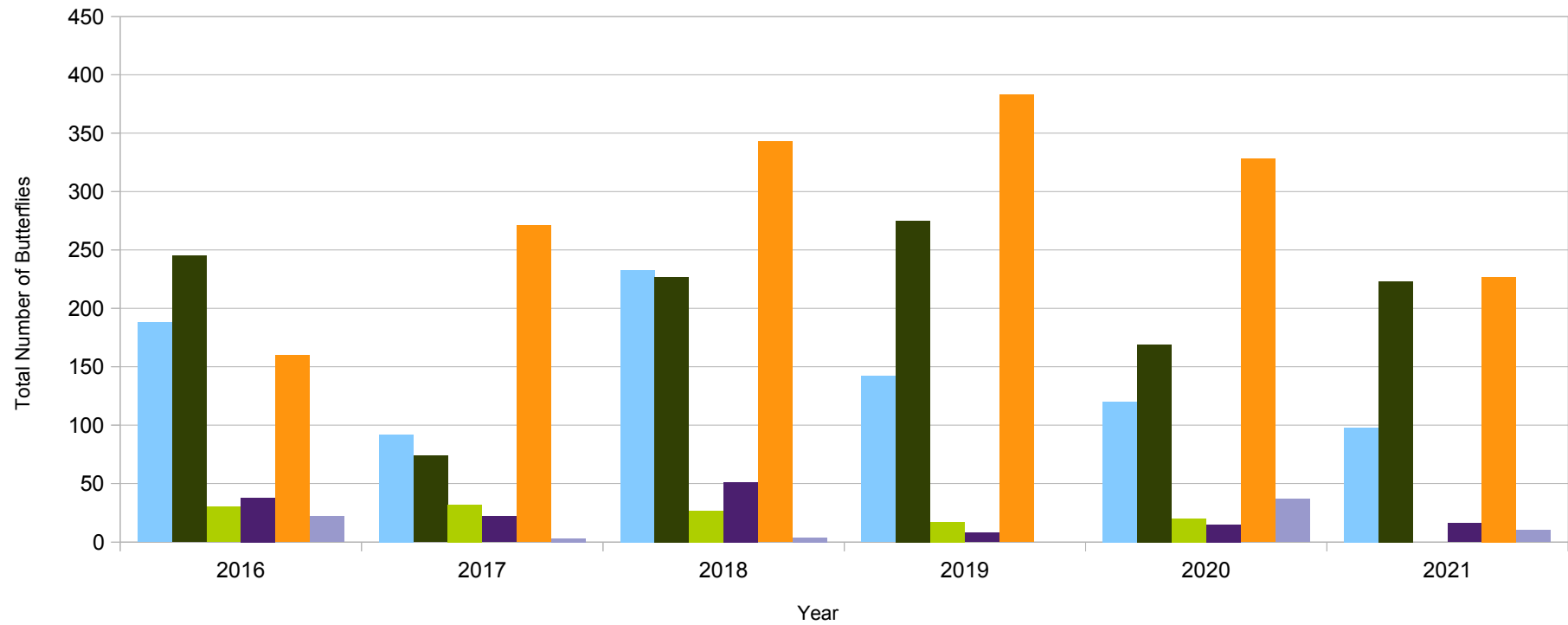


Year	Speckled wood	Wall	Gatekeeper	Marbled white	Meadow brown	Ringlet	Small heath
2016	79	44	374	993	2276	570	105
2017	154	42	354	738	3409	856	307
2018	170	38	398	776	4040	739	388
2019	153	51	818	1203	3150	1026	399
2020	70	61	477	652	1582	151	285
2021	100	44	246	691	3593	79	384

Mean No.	125	47	484	872	2891	668	297
Trend	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑

Steining Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Pieridae-Whites

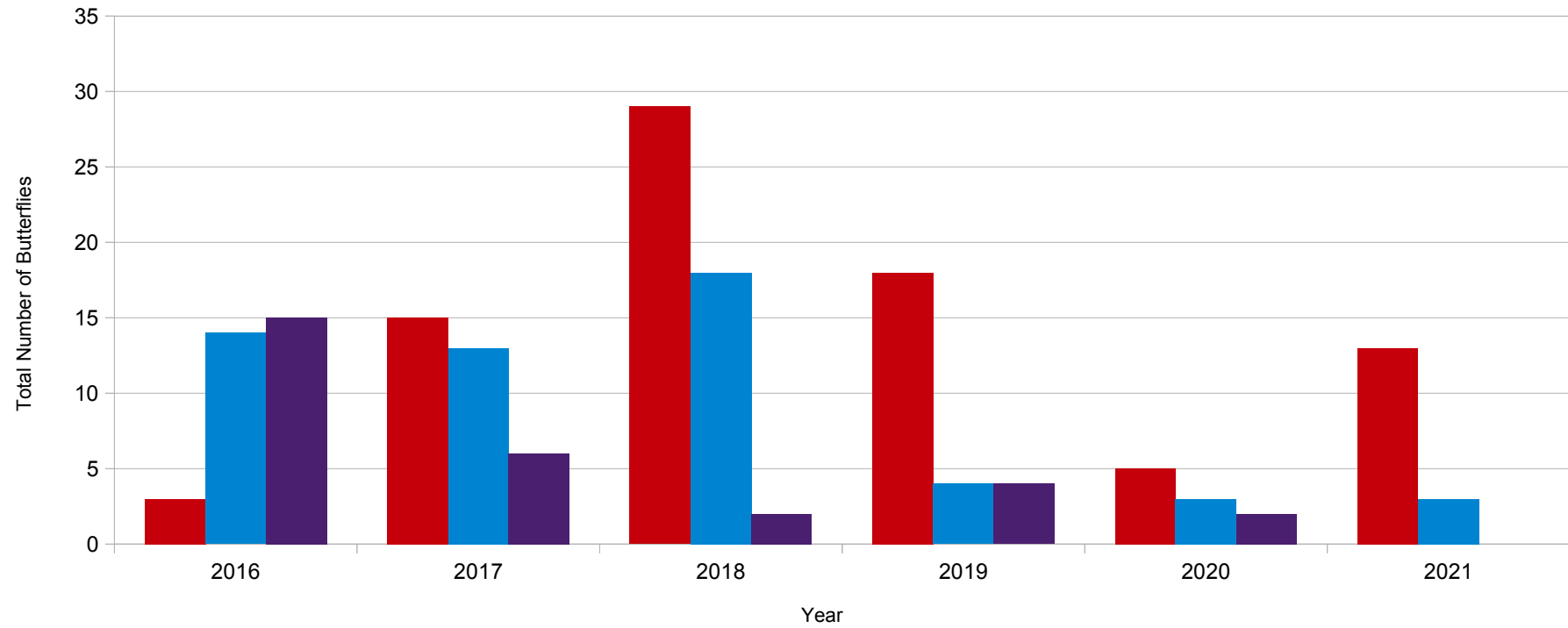


Year	Large white	Small white	Green-veined white	Orange tip	Brimstone	Clouded yellow
2016	188	245	30	38	160	22
2017	92	74	32	22	271	3
2018	233	227	27	51	343	4
2019	142	275	17	8	383	0
2020	120	169	20	15	328	37
2021	98	223	0	16	227	10

Mean No.	155	198	25	27	297	13
Trend	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Steining Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

Lycaenidae-Hairstreaks

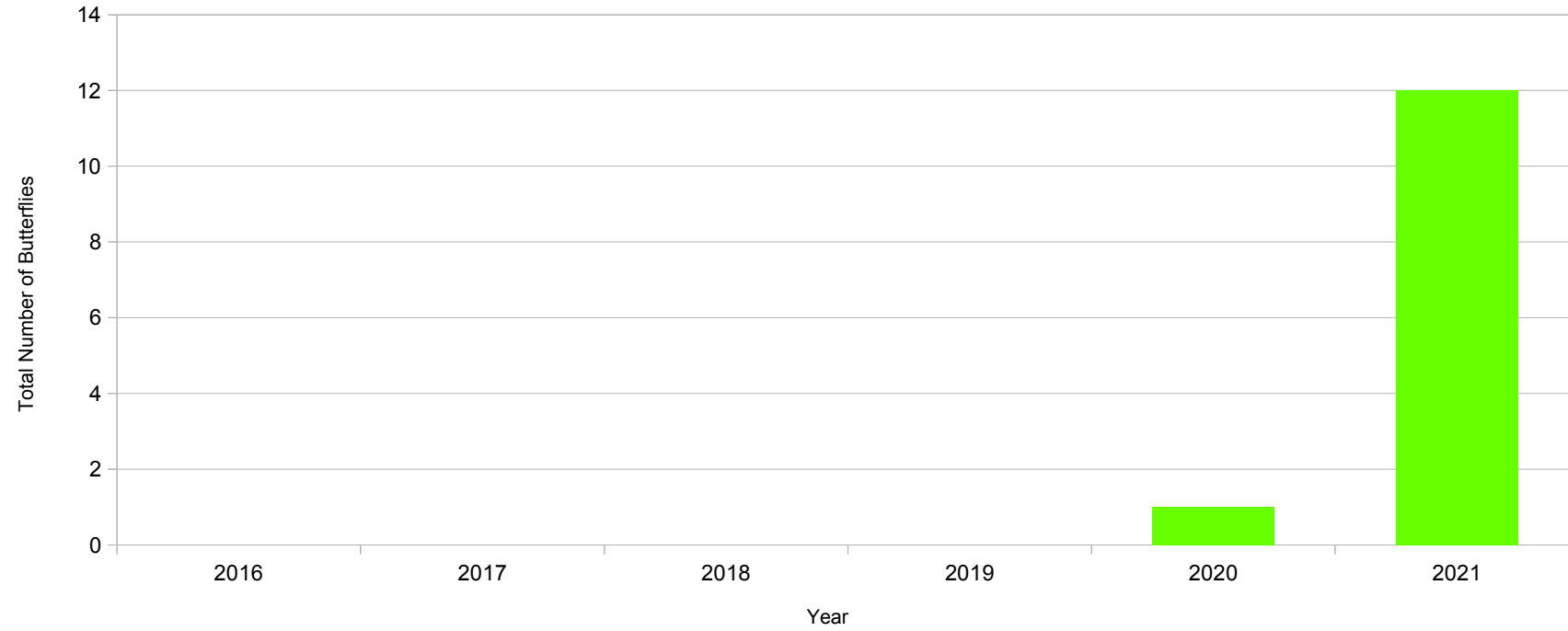


Year	Green hairstreak	Brown hairstreak	Purple hairstreak
2016	3	14	15
2017	15	13	6
2018	29	18	2
2019	18	4	4
2020	5	3	2
2021	13	3	0

Mean No.	14	10	6
Trend	↔	↓	↓

Steyning Downland Scheme - Butterfly Counts

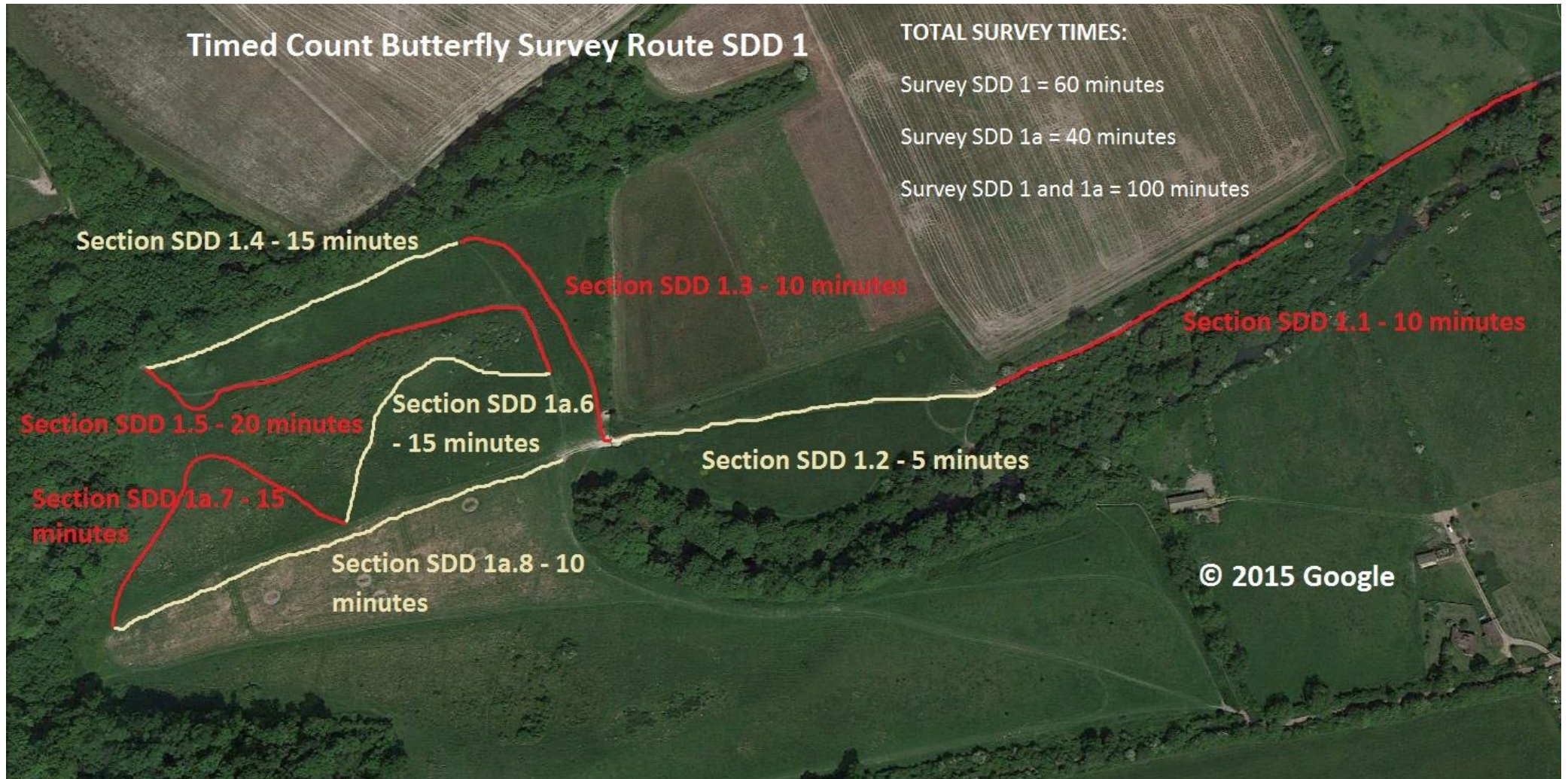
Riodinidae-Duke of Burgundy



Year	Duke of Burgundy
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	1
2021	12

Mean No.	0
Trend	↑

Appendix 1: Butterfly Transects



Timed Count Butterfly Survey Route SDD 2

TOTAL SURVEY TIMES:

Survey SDD 2 = 75 minutes

Survey SDD 2a = 50 minutes

Survey SDD 2 and 2a = 125 minutes

Section SDD 2a.8
- 20 minutes

Section SDD 2.7 - 15 minutes

Section SDD 2a.9 - 30 minutes

Section SDD 2.6 -
5 minutes

Section SDD 2.4 - 15 minutes

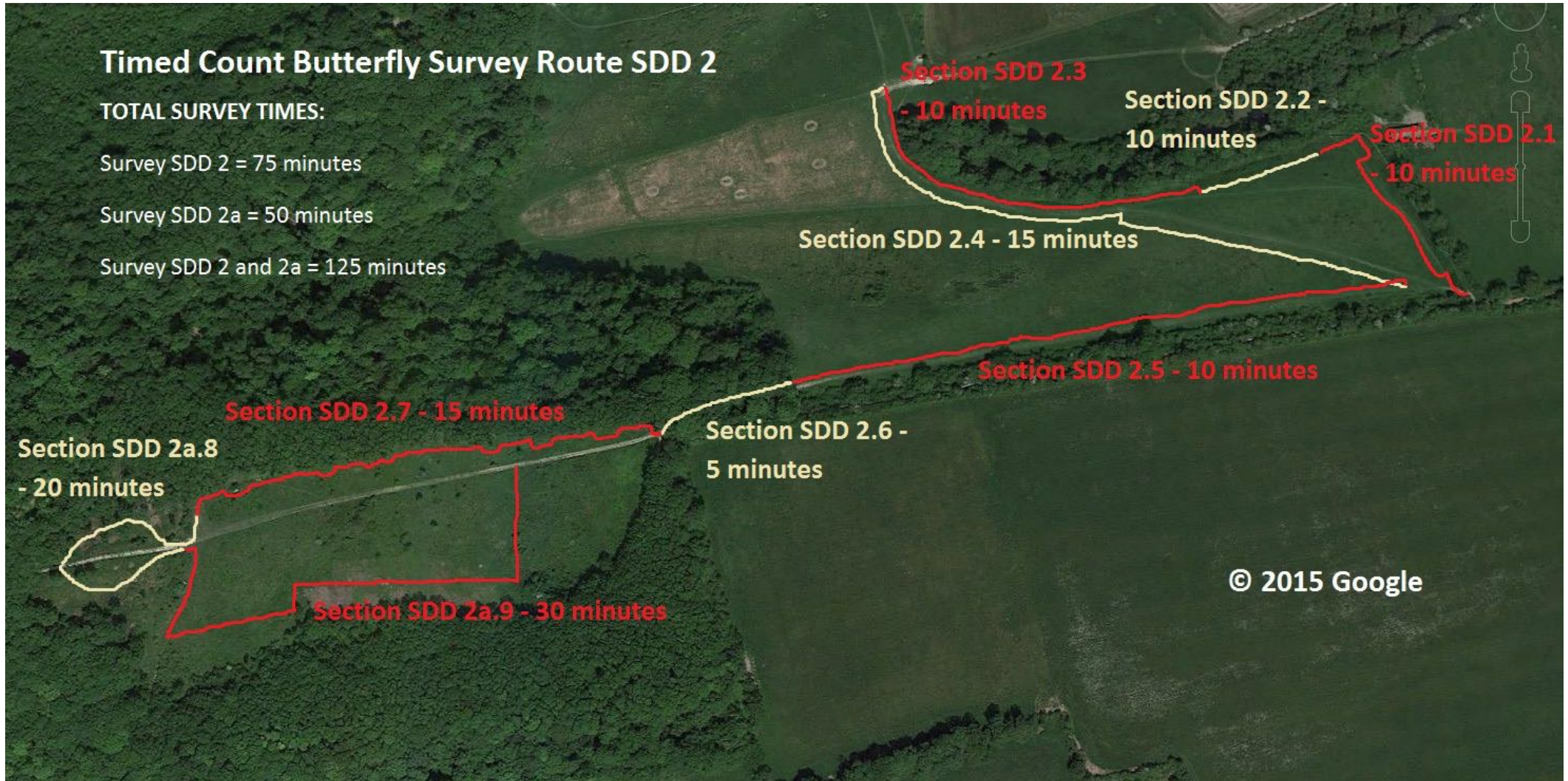
Section SDD 2.3
- 10 minutes

Section SDD 2.2 -
10 minutes

Section SDD 2.1
- 10 minutes

Section SDD 2.5 - 10 minutes

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Timed Count Butterfly Survey Route SDD 3

Section SDD 3.4 - 15 minutes

Section SDD 3a.5 - 20 minutes

Section SDD 3.3 - 10 minutes

Section SDD 3.2 - 15 minutes

Section SDD 3a.6 - 10 minutes

Section SDD 3.1 - 10 minutes

TOTAL SURVEY TIMES:

Survey SDD 3 = 50 minutes (excl. 10 minutes for road section out/return)

Survey SDD 3a = 30 minutes (excl. 10 minutes for road section out/return)

Survey SDD 3 and 3a = 80 minutes (excl. 10 mins for road section out/return)

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