

Glebe Field, Thakeham.

TQ106174

22.06.2022

Fine sunny day with temperature at 24oC.

Insects recorded:-

Lepidoptera:	Maniola jurtina [Meadow Brown]	6
	Oligia strigilis [Marbled Minor moth]	1
	Pieris brassicae [Large White]	2
	Pyronia Tithonus [Gatekeeper]	5
	Tyria jacobaea [Cinnabar moth]	1
Heteroptera:	Leptopterna dolabrata [Grass mirid]	>20
	Lygocoris pabulinus [Green capsid]	>10
	Notostira elongate [Grass mirid]	>50
Orthoptera:	Omocestus viridulus [Green grasshopper]	1
	Peudochorthippus parallelus	>20
Coleoptera:	Amara sp. {Ground beetle}	1
	Cantharis flavilabris [Soldier beetle]	2
	Coccinella septempunctata [7-spot]	2
	Harmonia axyridis [Harlequin ladybird]	1

Also noted were several Honey bees [*Apis mellifera*] on the bramble round the edges of the field.

Generally speaking, the species recorded indicate a thriving meadow ecosystem, perhaps somewhat low on flowering species, but well represented by the different grass species present. The introduction of a few strips of a wildflower mix could greatly enhance the diversity of insects present. It might even be possible to dig out a small pond in a corner of the field, which would attract species of Odonata [Dragonflies] many of which are under threat in our area of West Sussex.

I noticed that part of the field had been cut – probably a little early in the year for many of the floral species to have set seed. Unfortunately, the cut grass had been left in situ which as it rots down will increase nitrogen levels in that area favouring the coarser grass species. In a meadow habitat cutting or grazing the grass at the end of the season [August] is good for the habitat, but if cut the grass should be removed. Lowering the nitrogen present enhances the chances for the ‘finer’ grasses to remain and helps the floral diversity of the ecosystem.

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