



Silver-studded Blue Butterflies

Mark Collins

I thought you would all like to know that last year's reintroduction of Silver-studded Blue butterflies from Buxton Heath to Broadland Country Park was a success despite the strange weather. At least 15 specimens flew at the Park in late June and early July.

It is extraordinary that after perhaps 70 years of absence, the newly restored heathland in the Park has retained the underlying conditions needed for the butterfly's successful return. Not only has the Bell Heather bounced back, but the necessary black ants have strengthened in numbers, enabling the butterfly to complete its life cycle once again, with a little help from its friends in NNNS.

On July 4th, we completed the second and final reintroduction permitted by the Natural England licence, releasing another 35 butterflies. Hopefully, this will lead to a permanent population at the Park for visitors to enjoy in years to come.

Major credit goes to Dave Weaver, Jules Kennelly and their colleagues at the Park, who have so patiently brought the heath back to life. Not only have Nightjars and Woodlarks returned of their own volition, but this year, Stonechats have successfully moved in, too. Thanks go to Alan Dawson, Butterfly Conservation and NWT for facilitating the work.

This is nature recovery in action.



Silver-studded Blue release at BCP



Silver-studded Blue (m) and pair / Hans Watson