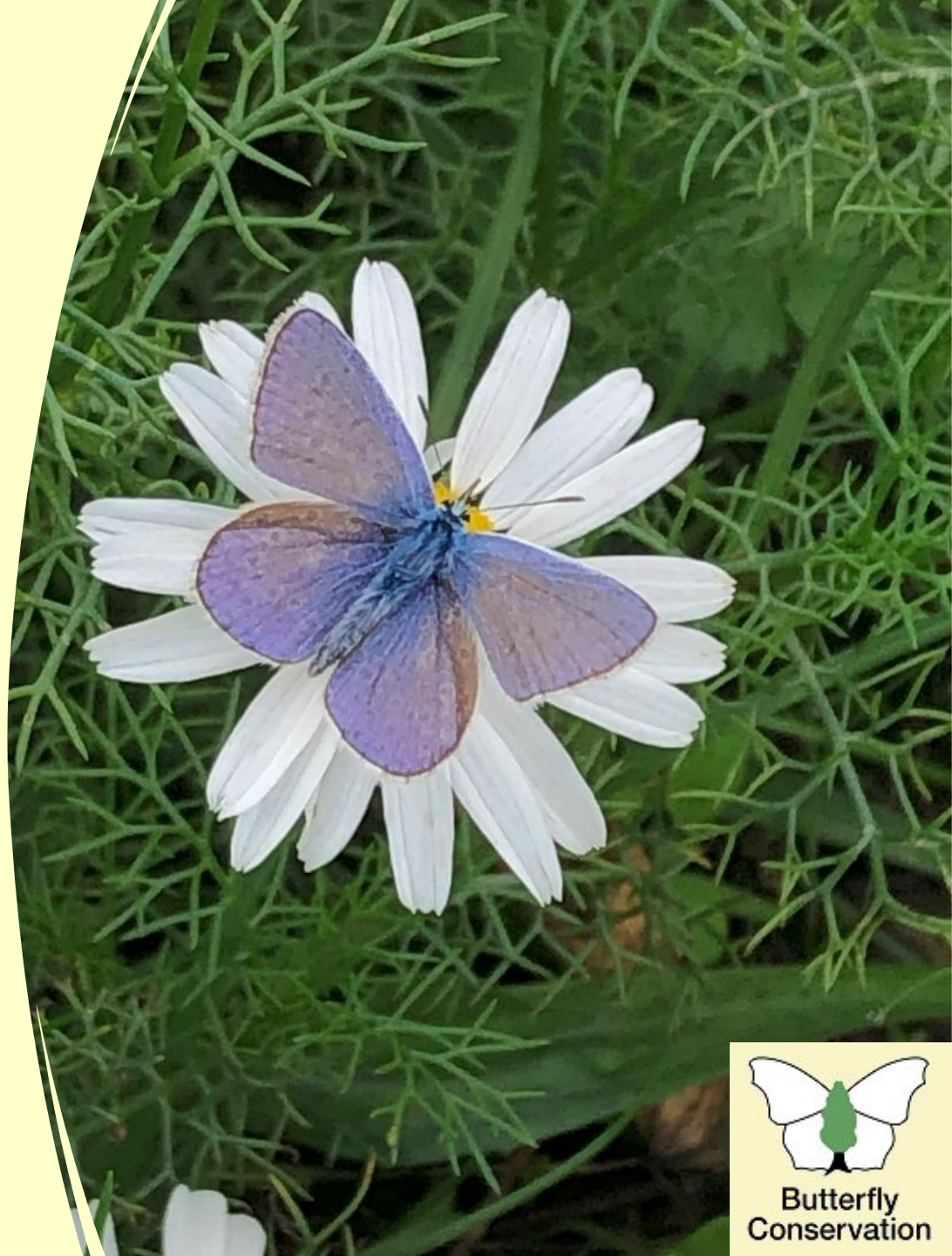


Butterflies & Moths for Wilder St Albans

Malcolm Hull

Chair

Butterfly Conservation
Herts & Middx



Butterfly
Conservation



Performance since 1925

- **31** butterfly species in our district
- **28%** loss of species
- **98%** loss of wildflower meadows
- **99%** loss of heathland
- **100%** gain in woodland, but severe decline in management
- Massive increase in the use of **Pesticides**



Since 2000 ...



- **Purple Emperor and Silver-washed Fritillary have arrived!**
- **Slight improvement in Woodland management**
- **Creation of glades and clearings**
- **Ride widening**
- **Coppicing**
- **Woodland edge management – scallop at Bricket Wood Common**





Golf club plan 'threatens' rare butterflies

Conservationists against course's expansion



The White Admiral butterfly, threatened by the Centurion

By PEARCE BATES

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THE expansion of a golf club near St Albans would "ruin a woodland stronghold for rare butterflies", according to conservationists.

Butterfly Conservation – a charity with the aim of protecting the animal across the UK – have warned that the Centurion Club's planning application for 10 additional holes would put two colonies of the White Admiral butterfly at risk.

However, the golf club has affirmed that "no evidence of the White Admiral has been found" at the site.

Malcolm Hull, chair of the charity's

in this wood for at least ten years, and there were good numbers last summer.

"The club's ecology report that tries to justify this expansion does not even mention them.

"This species has complex habitat requirements, which is why it is only present in a few woods.

"I am appalled that an excellent site for these wonderful insects could be sacrificed just to allow a golf club to get a bit bigger.

"The club claims it will mitigate the environmental harm with its action plan, but they can't possibly mitigate harm to a highly specialised butterfly they are not even aware of.

"We strongly urge the council to re-



Most woods still in unfavourable condition



Forestry operations often uneconomic



Reduction in wood burning



Threats from development



Improving Grassland Habitats

- Let the grass grow
- How about some wild flowers?
- Here come the insects!
- Keep scrub and coarse vegetation at bay
- Varied management is good



St Albans Low Mow and Wildflower Sites 2024

- Volunteer recording since 2021
- 275 visits to 33 sites
- In 2024, butterfly numbers up 75% on previous years
- Wildflower seeding highly beneficial when Yellow Rattle is included
- It works and we need much more!



Chalk grassland habitat creation - Greenwood Park Butterfly Bank



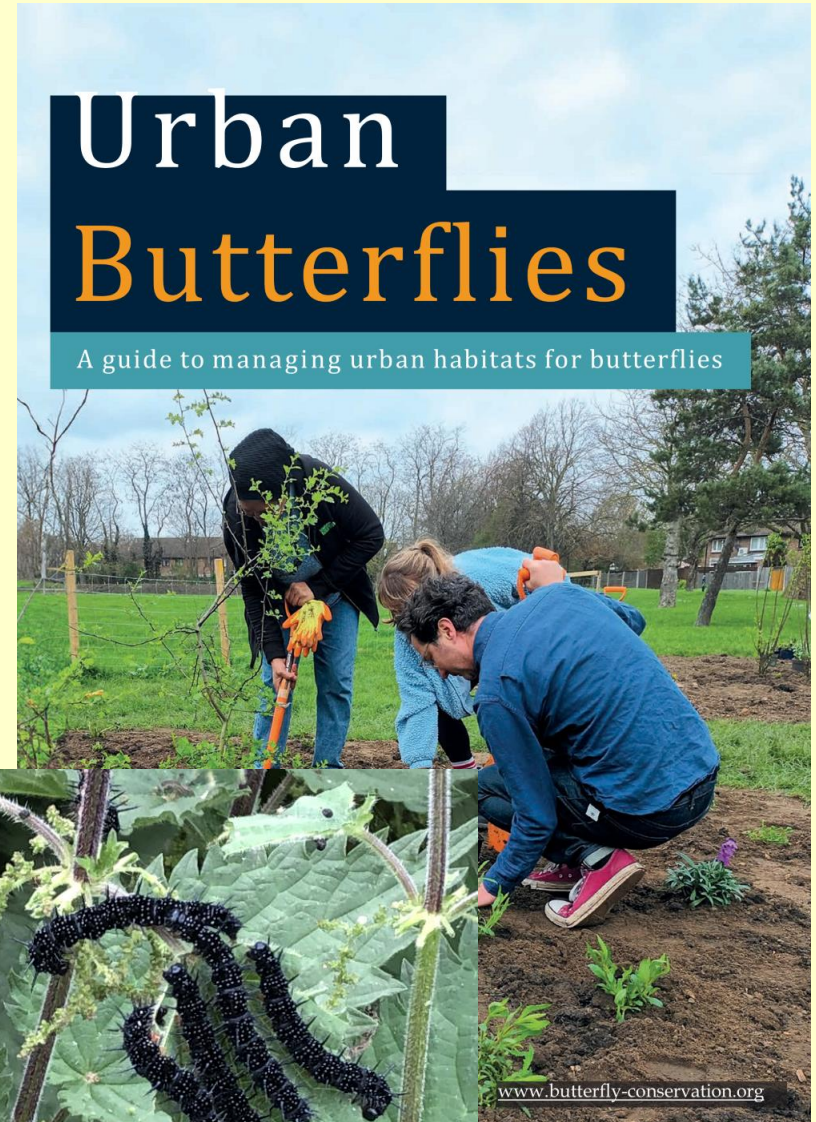
Habitat creation advice

Caterpillar foodplants are vital

Wildflowers providing nectar through the year

Hedges, trees and shrubs

Sunshine and shelter



Priorities

- Create more species rich grasslands
- Improved management of woods and hedge
- Reduce pesticide use
- Work with developers - new homes for wildlife
- Better engagement with people



Thank you for listening

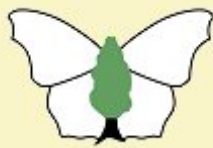
Find out more on our
website

[Herts & Middx
Butterfly Conservation](#)

Join the

Big Butterfly Count

*Thanks to all the
photographers whose
work I have used in
this presentation*



Butterfly
Conservation