

May 2011

Despite the persistent and chilly easterly breeze, 3 Wall Browns were seen on the 1st and the 3rd brought our first **Common Blue** of the year. As the wind turned to the south and warm sunshine began to return, numbers began to increase. 3 Brown Argus, 9 Orange Tips, 7 Small Coppers and 2 mating Wall Browns were seen on the 5th and the following day produced notable totals of 10 Brown Argus, 8 Orange Tips and 7 Common Blues. On the 10th, a circuit of the scrubby hawthorn-dominated bund that encircles the river edge of the Sampher produced a second **Green Hairstreak** of the spring, 34 Common Blues, a male Orange Tip and 7 Brown Argus, which are clearly enjoying this spell of unusually warm weather. This female Common Blue showing characters of the aberrant form *P.i.*

flavescens

was found in the Whitehouse on the 12th (photo on the right by Ian Hodgson).



The transect walk on a rather breezy but warm 13th produced 85 butterflies, including a very high total of 15 Brown Argus, reflecting an excellent second half of last year, 39 Common Blues and 14 Small Coppers. However, by the 20th the effects of the long, dry spell were becoming ever more apparent and butterflies were strikingly absent from the more exposed parts of the route. Still, the day was not without its

compensations and a third **Green Hairstreak** of the spring was found on brambles adjacent to the Delf Stream. The effects of the dry weather were increasingly evident on the 30th when only 36 butterflies were recorded on the transect, though they did include the first **Large Skipper** to have been recorded at the Bay in May.