

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 03-Apr-19 01:27 PM GMT

David M, for you –

Elm in Wales:

Lots of wych elm at Penllergare Valley Woods a few years ago – it's just off Gower, by Junction 47 of the M4.

A line of elms at SS62393 97982.

Also in survey areas with central grid refs SS625 984, SS625 0983, SS623 980, SS623978.

Dutch elm is common around Bridgend, there is supposedly a lot of *Ulmus minor* in Pembrokeshire, there's some in South East Wales, and there's a fair amount of English elm, there, too.

I learnt only last week of the occurrence of some mature *Ulmus laevis* in Carmarthenshire. Whether they host WLH has not been ascertained. There are 4 equidistant trees along the east side of the A4069 about 1km south of Llangadog, at the start of an 's' bend, between the hamlets of Brynheillog and Pont Goch. Another moribund *laevis* struggles on in a park at Llandeilo. Further north near Aberystwyth, two trees are found in a wood at Rhydyfelin. OS Landranger refs below:

Carmarthenshire

Llandeilo, Dinefwr Park , aged, moribund tree SN617225

Llangadog, 4 trees along A4069 SN709268

Ceredigion

Aberystwyth, Rhydyfelin, 2 trees + numerous suckers SN593793

Wish you all the best if you do go and search any of these area!

Jamie

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 03-Apr-19 03:17 PM GMT

David, in addition to the above records, please send me a DM with your email address, as I'll be able to put you in contact with someone who can send you further grid references to the location of elms within the Gower!

Re: Jamie Burston

by David M, 05-Apr-19 06:30 AM GMT

Jamie, many thanks for this priceless information. I shall be doing some research on the grid references you provided and will certainly be heading out to them to check them out.

I shall PM you shortly.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 06-Apr-19 04:50 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Jamie, many thanks for this priceless information. I shall be doing some research on the grid references you provided and will certainly be heading out to them to check them out.

I shall PM you shortly.

You're most welcome David. Fantastic, really pleased to hear.
I'll await your PM.

Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 06-Apr-19 05:21 PM GMT

Purple

During the winter I marked up the location of 7 Purple Hairstreak eggs on a local Oak tree in Brighton.

Visiting the Oak on the 28th March I found that eggs 2, 4 and 6 (of the 7) had already hatched and egg 3 appeared to be in the process of hatching, with a small opening hole in the micropyle.

The following day on the 29th March when I returned, egg 3 had now hatched, the caterpillar appearing to have emerged during the night or early morning whilst I wasn't there. Now egg 5 was also in the process of hatching, again having noted a small opening hole in the micropyle.

By 6:32pm the next day (30th March), when I had the chance to visit, looking at egg 5, it was clear that the caterpillar had hatched, however I was unable to locate the caterpillar, much the same with the others that had already emerged.

On the 31st March, visiting the Oak at 8:03pm I noted that egg 7 was in the hatching process, with the distinctive small opening hole in the micropyle, visible in the fading light.

On the 1st April at around 6:55pm, upon my arrival, I had confirmation that egg 7 had indeed hatched.

The last egg, egg 1, is the last to hatch, though due to its clear grey discolouration it may prove to not be viable. (As of 5th April, egg 1 still hasn't hatched).

Purple Hairstreak Egg: The Hatching Process



The middle, pre-emergence stage is only something I've managed to observe this year. You can make out the shiny black head of the caterpillar through the small opening in the micropyle: notice this, caterpillars are due to emerge the same night / early next morning!

Re: Jamie Burston

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-19 07:17 PM GMT

Very interesting information Jamie, especially the tip about the head being visible through the micropyle 😊 How high up are eggs in the Oak Tree – I have visions of you balancing up a step ladder 😏😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Jamie Burston

by David M, 06-Apr-19 08:47 PM GMT

Superb observations, Jamie, particularly the middle image where the larva is still in the egg case.