

This guide has been designed to help you identify some of the butterflies you might see in your Wild Space.

There is information on each butterfly's size, when to see them, and what plant their caterpillars mainly like to eat.

On the back page, there are some useful links to further identification tips and more detailed information about each type of butterfly (or 'species').

Happy identifying!

What do butterflies need to thrive?

Butterflies need the following three things to thrive: **nectar**, **caterpillar foodplants** and **shelter**.

No matter how small it is, if an outdoor space provides some or all of these things, then it is a 'Wild Space' and some butterflies will likely come to visit.

Nectar, the rich, sugary liquid butterflies get from flowers, gives them all the energy they need to fly around, breed and lay their eggs.

When these eggs hatch, some very fussy eaters emerge. Most caterpillars will only eat one type of plant! The adult female makes sure she lays her eggs on the correct one, so as soon as her caterpillars hatch, they can get munching.

No matter what stage of their lifecycle they are at, butterflies and moths always need shelter to hide from cold, wet weather and predators. Long grass, leaf piles and log piles will provide this.

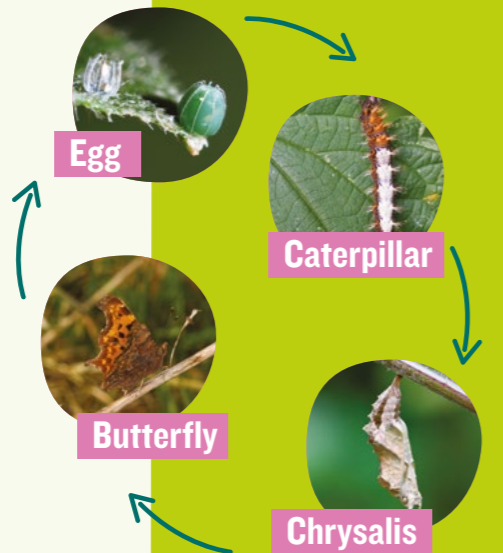
Head to the [Wild Spaces](http://www.wild-spaces.co.uk) website for tips and ideas on how to make your outdoor space more butterfly-friendly:

www.wild-spaces.co.uk



LIFECYCLE

The life cycle of butterflies and moths is truly amazing! You probably know about it already, but here's a reminder just in case.



Above images
© Peter Eeles

Want a closer look?

Visit www.nhbs.com to purchase insect observation equipment, like nets and magnifying glasses.

Want to find out more?

Visit www.wild-spaces.co.uk for information on lots of other butterflies and moths!

If you'd like to start recording the butterflies you see, Butterfly Conservation's iRecord Butterflies App can be downloaded for free on Apple and Android devices. If you're under 13, you'll need an adult to set up an account and record with you.

For help identifying wildflowers that might be caterpillar foodplants, head to www.plantlife.org.uk.

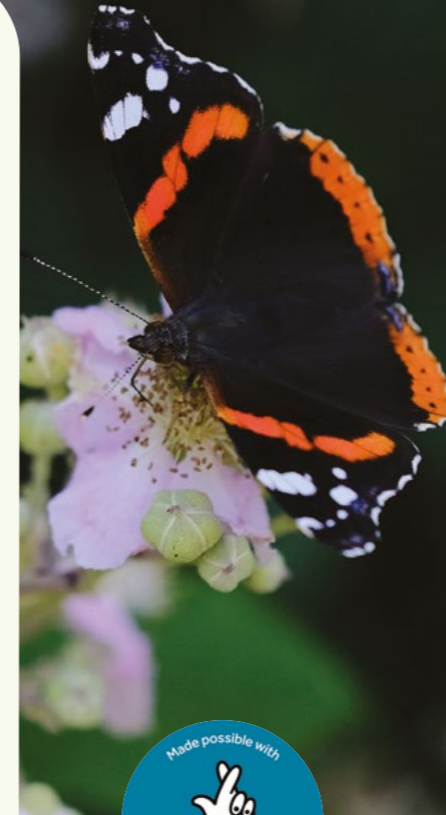
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Visit the main Butterfly Conservation website at: www.butterfly-conservation.org

Image credits

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Butterfly Conservation
WILD SPACES

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

BUTTERFLIES TO LOOK OUT FOR IN YOUR WILD SPACE



Brimstone

SIZE: 3

Some people think that butterflies originally got their name from the buttery-yellow colour of the male Brimstone's wings.

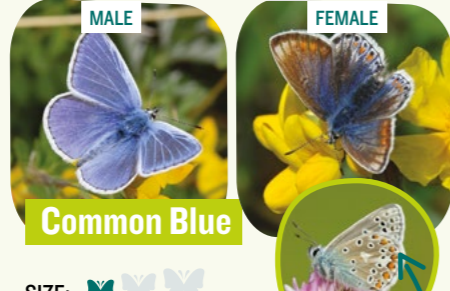
These butterflies are usually one of the first species to appear after winter and can often be seen flying along roadside verges and hedgerows.

Female Brimstones are very pale green and veiny. They blend in perfectly with the alder buckthorn leaves that their caterpillars like to eat.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Alder buckthorn



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
March - November



Common Blue

SIZE: 3

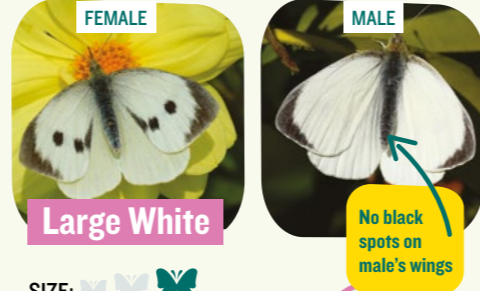
The Common Blue is the most widespread blue butterfly in Britain and is found in a variety of grassy habitats.

Males are bright blue, but females vary from almost completely brown to mainly blue. Both have a beautiful, speckled pattern on their underwings, which can help you tell them apart from the Holly Blue.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Bird's-foot-trefoil



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
May - September



Large White

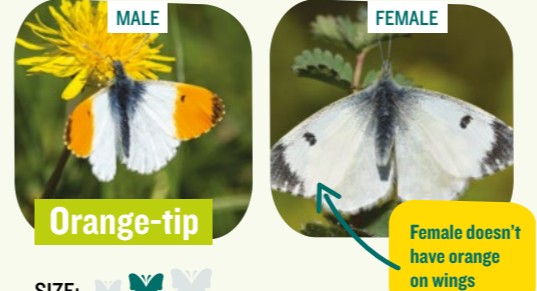
SIZE: 3

Sometimes called 'Cabbage Whites' due to their caterpillars' love of any plant in the cabbage family, Large Whites have bright white wings with black tips. Females also have two black spots on their wings.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Nasturtium



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - September



Orange-tip

SIZE: 3

A frequent visitor to parks, gardens and hedges, it's easy to see where the Orange-tip get its name - the bright orange edges of the male's wings!

These butterflies have a very striking pattern on their underwings, which distinguishes them from other white butterflies.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Garlic Mustard



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - August



Red Admiral

SIZE: 3

One of our most recognisable butterflies, the large, velvety Red Admiral is a common visitor to parks, gardens and patio pots. It particularly loves getting nectar from buddleia bushes and also can't resist a bit of rotting fruit!

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Stinging nettles



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
March - November



Small White

SIZE: 3

Also known as 'Cabbage Whites', look out for this butterfly anywhere that vegetables are growing. If its caterpillars are after your cabbages, try planting some nasturtiums nearby to tempt them away!

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Nasturtium



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - October



Comma

SIZE: 3

The Comma gets its name from the white 'comma' shape on the underside of its wings.

The ragged edges and colour of its wings are the perfect camouflage amongst dead leaves, allowing it to hide from predators.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Stinging nettles



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April-October



Holly Blue

SIZE: 3

The Holly Blue will often visit parks and gardens in search of holly leaves to lay its eggs on.

It is usually the first to emerge of all the blue butterflies, and can be seen flying from early spring.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Holly or Ivy



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - September



Painted Lady

SIZE: 3

The Painted Lady migrates to Britain every year all the way from North Africa and the Middle East! Like Red Admirals, Painted Ladies love to feed on buddleia bushes in parks and gardens.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Thistles



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - October



Peacock

SIZE: 3

The Peacock's spectacular eyespots are designed to scare away predators, and make it one of our most easily recognised and best-known butterflies.

Surprisingly given its pretty front, the Peacock's underwings are very dull! This helps it blend in among dead leaves.

This butterfly is another frequent visitor to parks, gardens, patio pots and window boxes in the summer

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Stinging nettles



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
March - September



Small Tortoiseshell

SIZE: 3

A frequent visitor to parks, gardens and patio pots, the Small Tortoiseshell is very recognisable thanks to its striking pattern and blue-fringed wings. If the weather is mild, you might even see this butterfly in very early spring.

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Stinging nettles



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
March - October



Speckled Wood

SIZE: 3

The Speckled Wood prefers to feed on honeydew in the treetops rather than getting nectar from plants. Look out for Speckled Woods perching in a sunny spot or spiralling in the air to chase each other!

CATERPILLARS LIKE TO EAT:
Meadow grasses



WHEN TO SEE FLYING:
April - September