

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

Butterflies were far more abundant in my childhood than they are today. In order to see our rarest species one has to visit a Nature Reserve. Ranging in size from the smallest pocket of land to much larger areas stretching across county borders. These designated areas are protecting some of our most important habitats and their flora and fauna from the impact of developers, pollution and pesticides.

The gradual decline in the UK's butterflies has hastened since the nineteen seventies, meaning that several species have become dependent on this protection for which thankfully there is a greater understanding. Something the charity Butterfly Conservation is devoted to. Without their expertise and the support they receive along with the work of thousands of volunteers and that of other conservation groups several species would be much closer to extinction in the UK. Two species suffered that fate in the 1970s, the Large Blue and Chequered Skipper. After painstaking work the Large Blue has been successfully reintroduced and there is hope that the Chequered Skipper can once again become re-established in England. Even though most of our resident species do well on the continent it would be a great tragedy to permanently lose any of our butterfly and moth fauna.

In his book *The Last Butterflies* Nick Haddad refers to these beautiful creatures as 'ambassadors for nature'. Emphasizing in his conclusion that disturbances both natural and human-caused are necessary for the ecosystems that support butterfly populations to thrive.



Adonis Blue



Silver-studded Blue



Chalkhill Blue



Large Blue



Common Blue



Scotch Argus



Holly Blue



Small Blue



Brown Argus



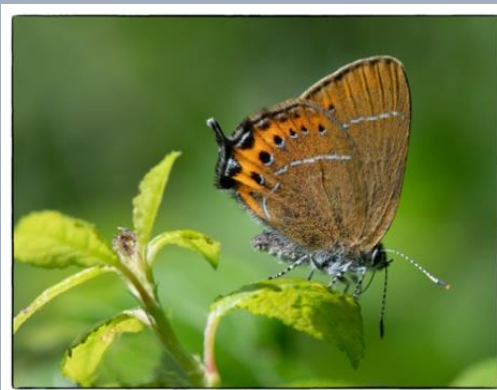
Northern Brown Argus



Brown Hairstreak



Purple Hairstreak



Black Hairstreak



White -letter Hairstreak



Brown Hairstreak



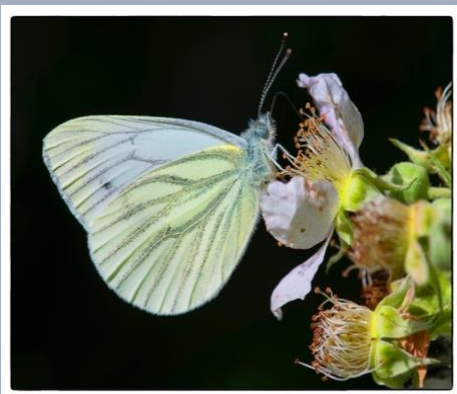
Small Copper



Wood White



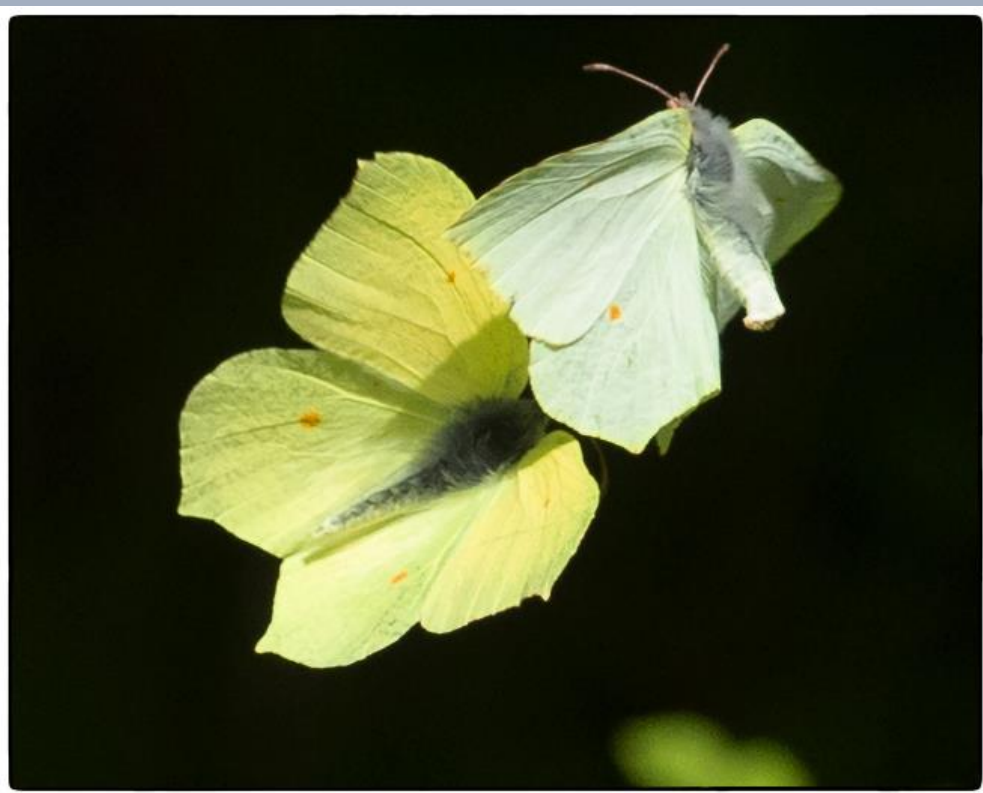
Large White



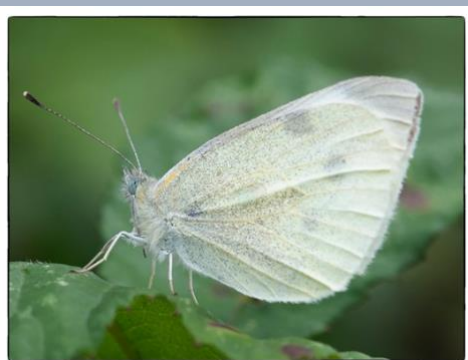
Green-veined White



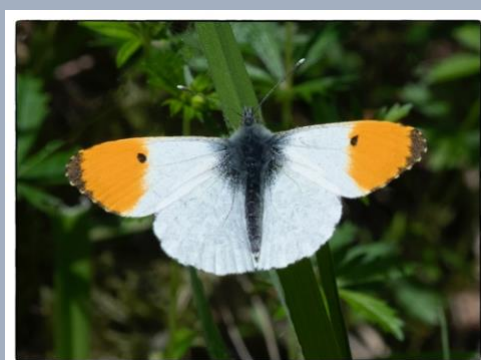
Cryptic Wood White



Brimstone



Small White



Orange Tip



Clouded Yellow



Marbled White



Meadow Brown



Gatekeeper



Wall



Speckled Wood



Grayling



Ringlet



Mountain Ringlet



Large Heath



Small Heath



Large Skipper



Silver-spotted Skipper



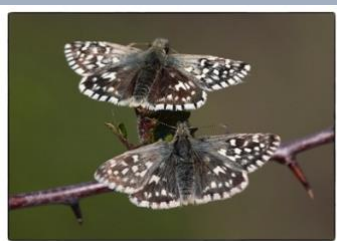
Dingy Skipper



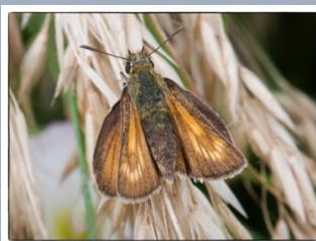
Chequered Skipper



Essex Skipper



Grizzled Skipper



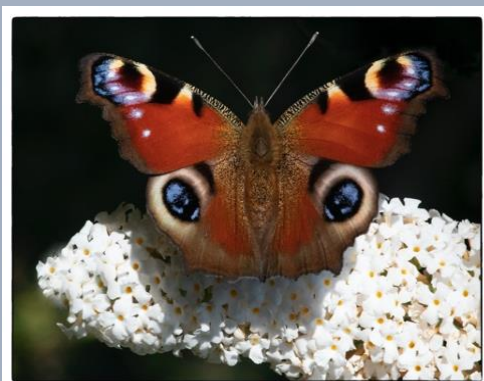
Lulworth Skipper



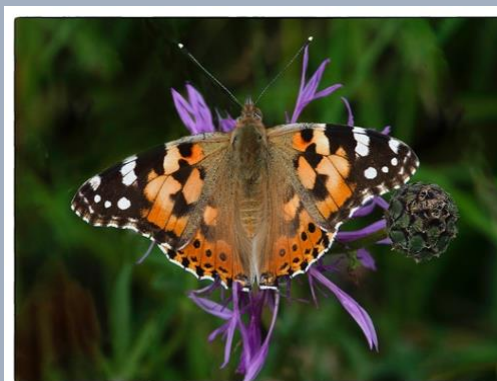
Small Skipper



Comma



Peacock



Painted Lady



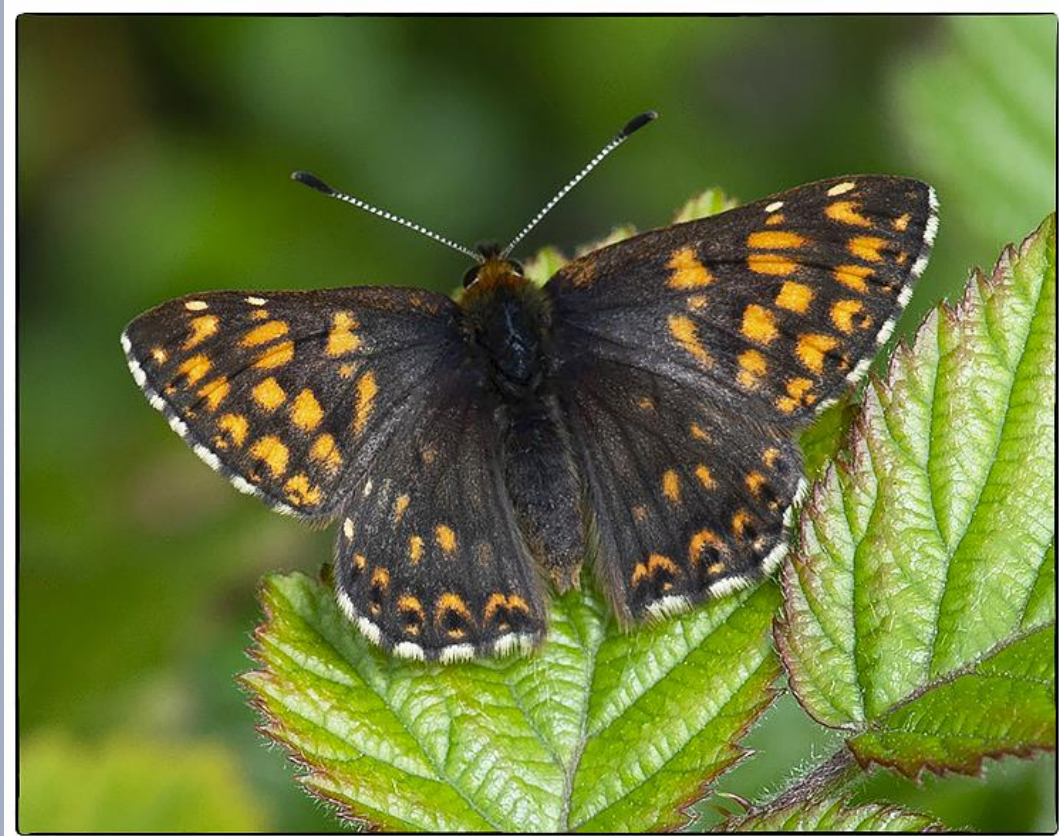
Red Admiral



Small Tortoiseshell



Large Tortoiseshell



Duke of Burgundy



Dark-green Fritillary



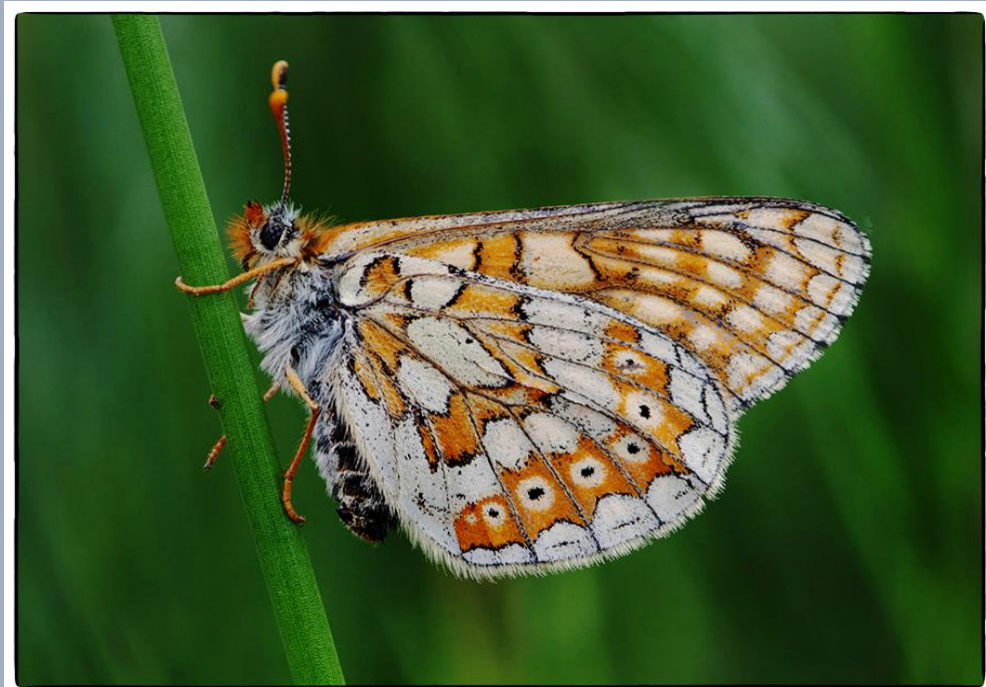
Glanville Fritillary



Heath Fritillary



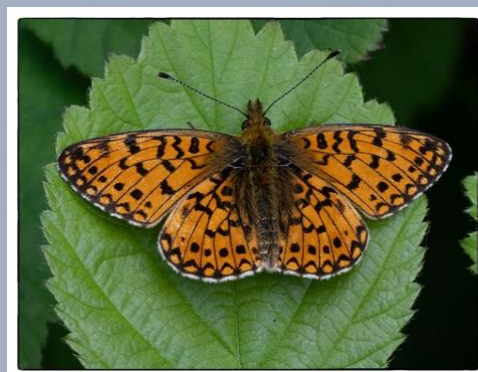
High Brown Fritillary



Marsh Fritillary



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Swallowtail



White Admiral



Purple Emperor