

## 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**



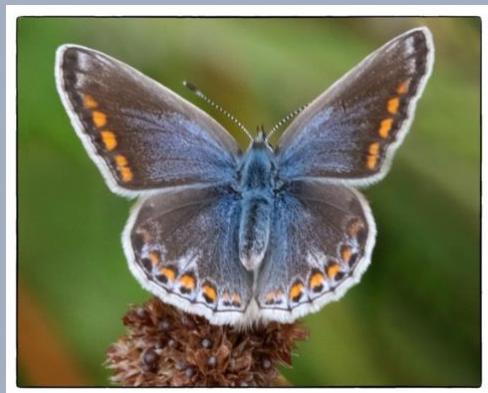
**Silver-studded Blue**



**Chalkhill Blue**



**Large Blue**



**Common Blue**



**Scotch Argus**



**Holly Blue**



**Small Blue**



**Brown Argus**



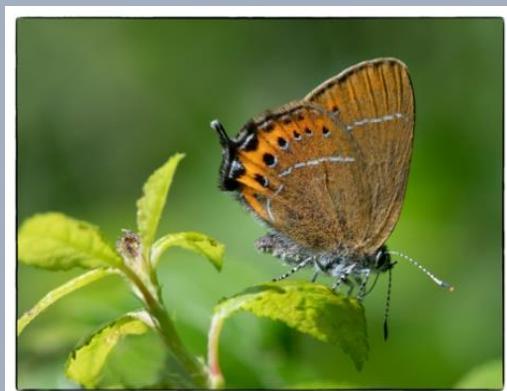
**Northern Brown Argus**



**Brown Hairstreak**



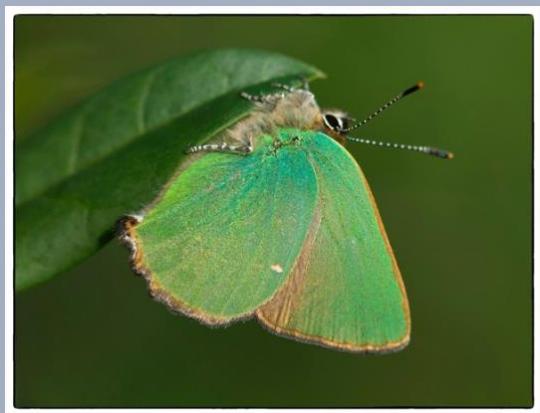
**Purple Hairstreak**



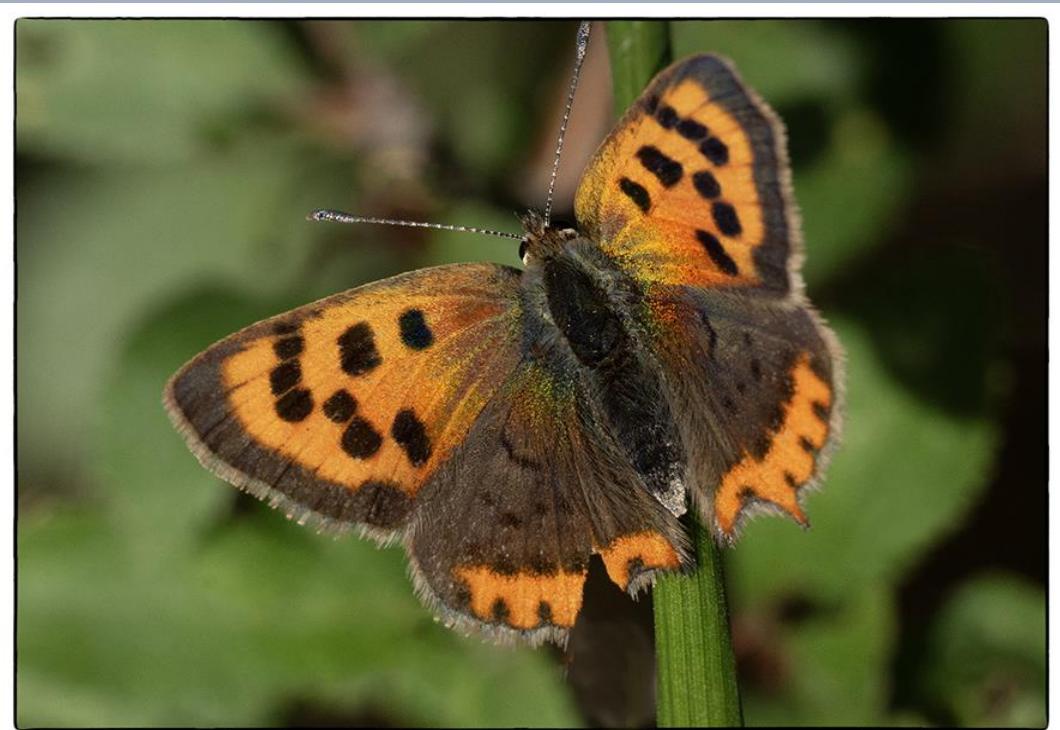
**Black Hairstreak**



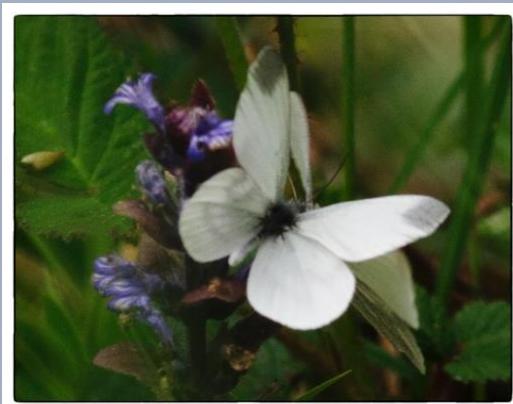
**White -letter Hairstreak**



**Brown Hairstreak**



**Small Copper**



**Wood White**



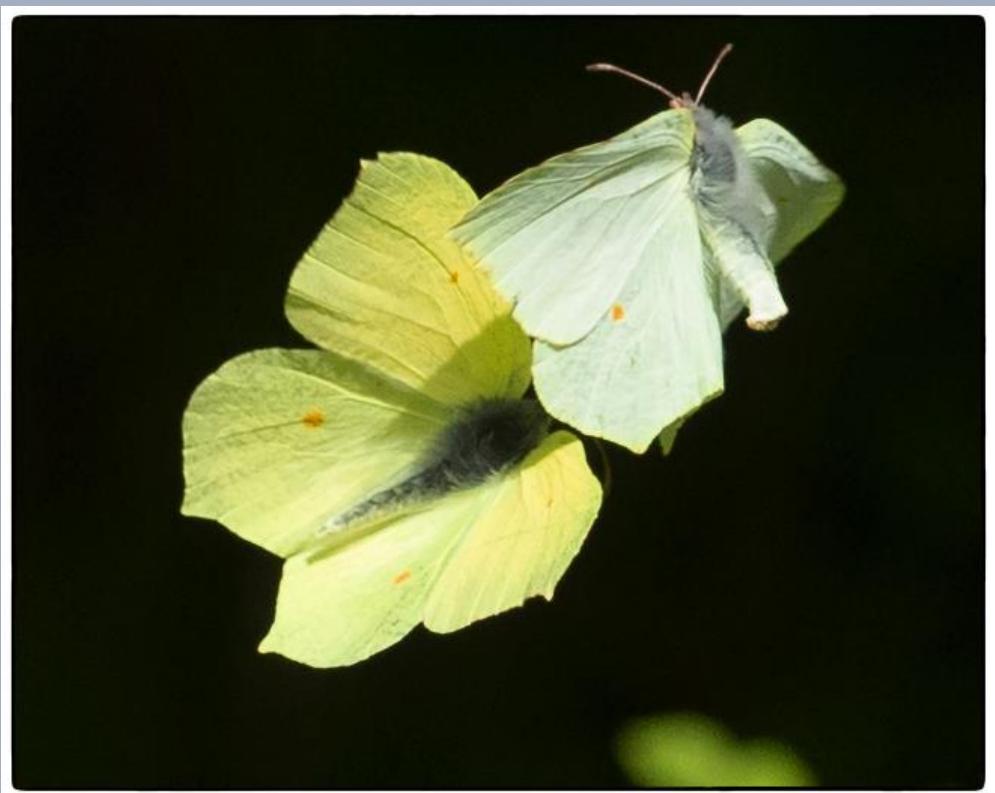
**Large White**



**Green-veined White**



**Cryptic Wood White**



**Brimstone**



**Small White**



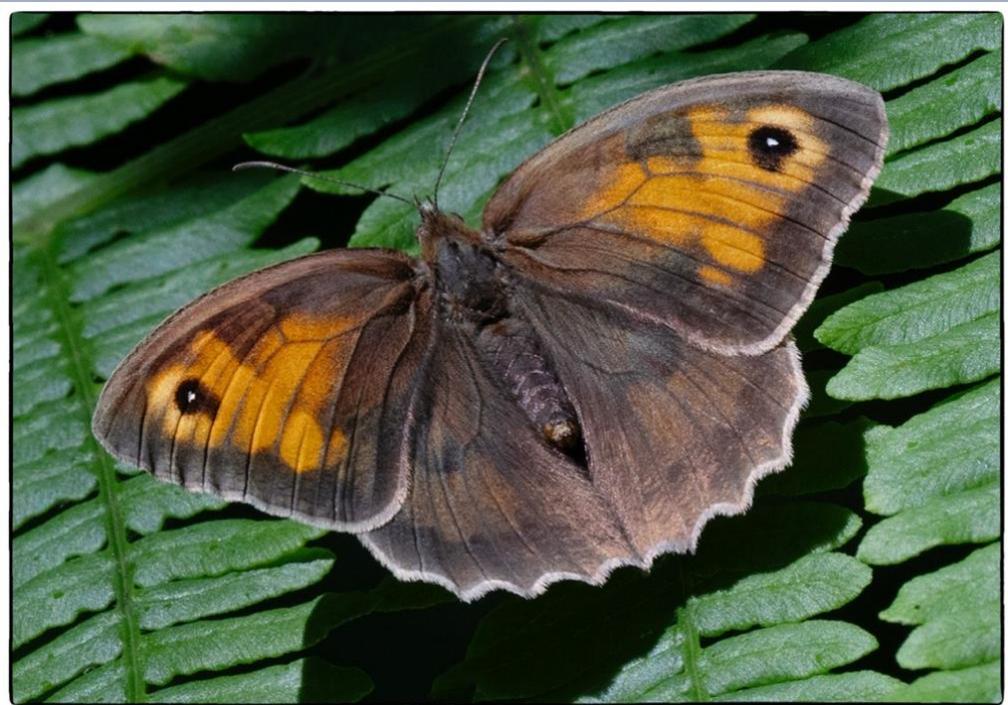
**Orange Tip**



**Clouded Yellow**



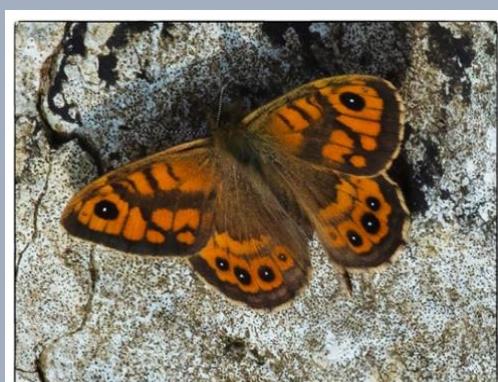
**Marbled White**



**Meadow Brown**



**Gatekeeper**



**Wall**



**Speckled Wood**



**Grayling**



**Ringlet**



**Mountain Ringlet**



**Large Heath**



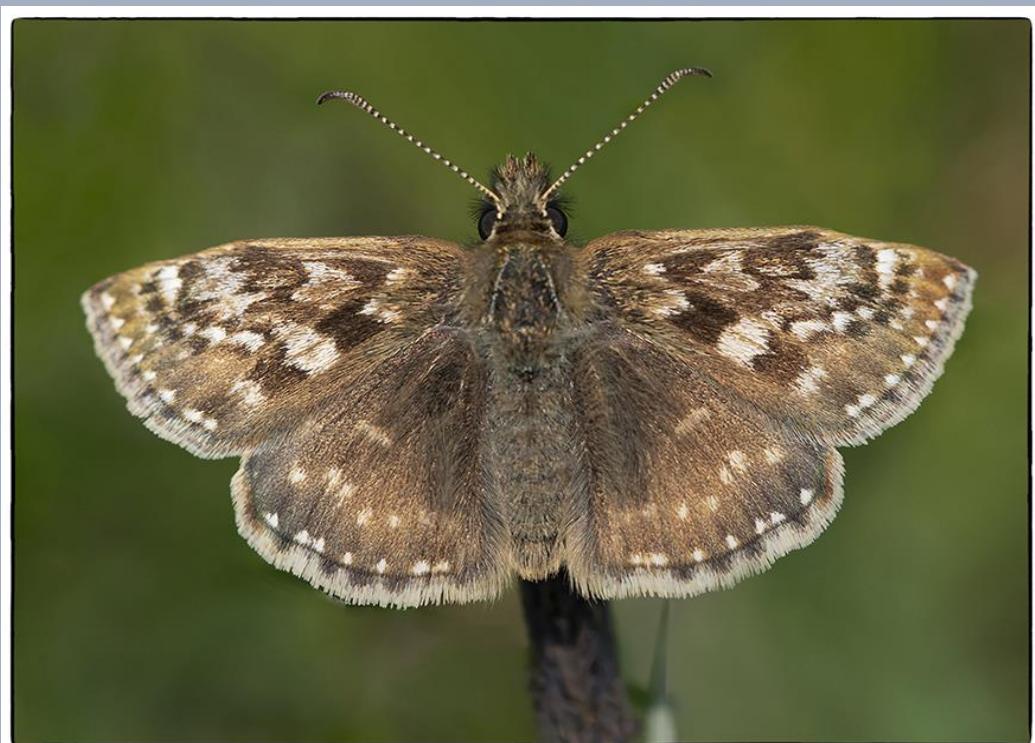
**Small Heath**



**Large Skipper**



**Silver-spotted Skipper**



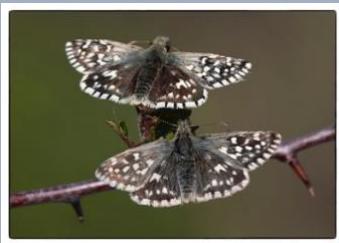
**Dingy Skipper**



**Chequered Skipper**



**Essex Skipper**



Grizzled Skipper



Lulworth Skipper



Small Skipper



Comma



Peacock



Painted Lady



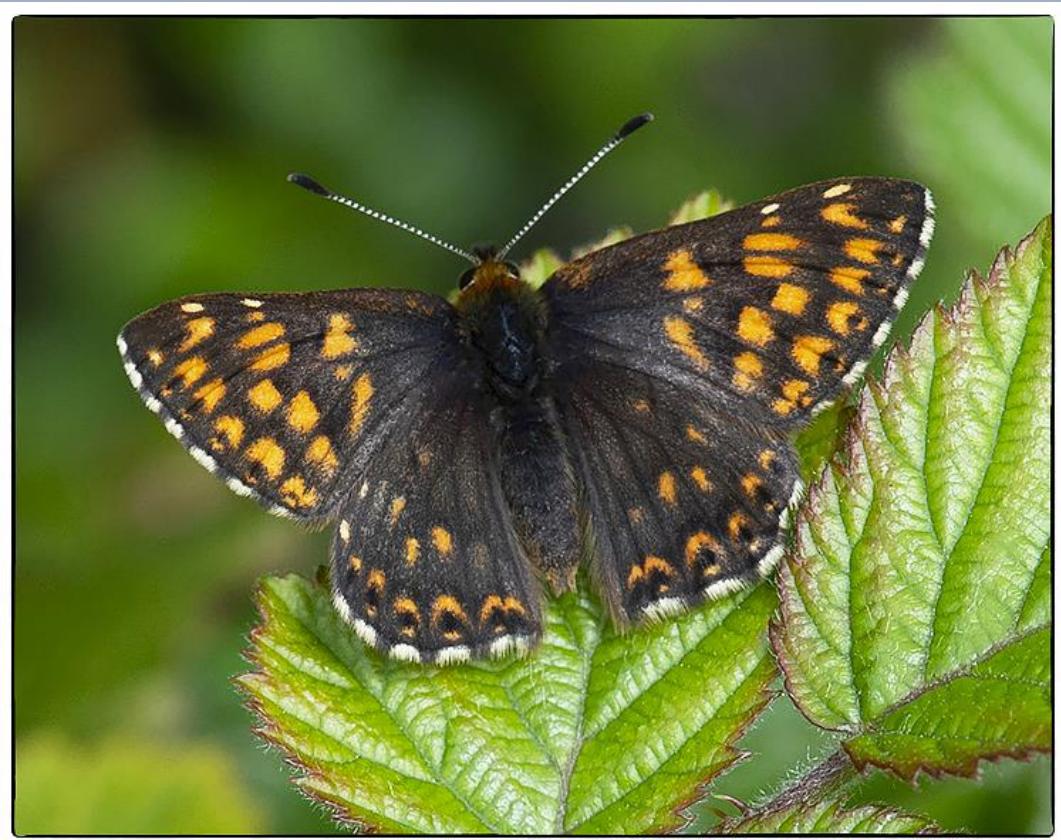
**Red Admiral**



**Small Tortoiseshell**



**Large Tortoiseshell**



**Duke of Burgundy**



**Dark-green Fritillary**



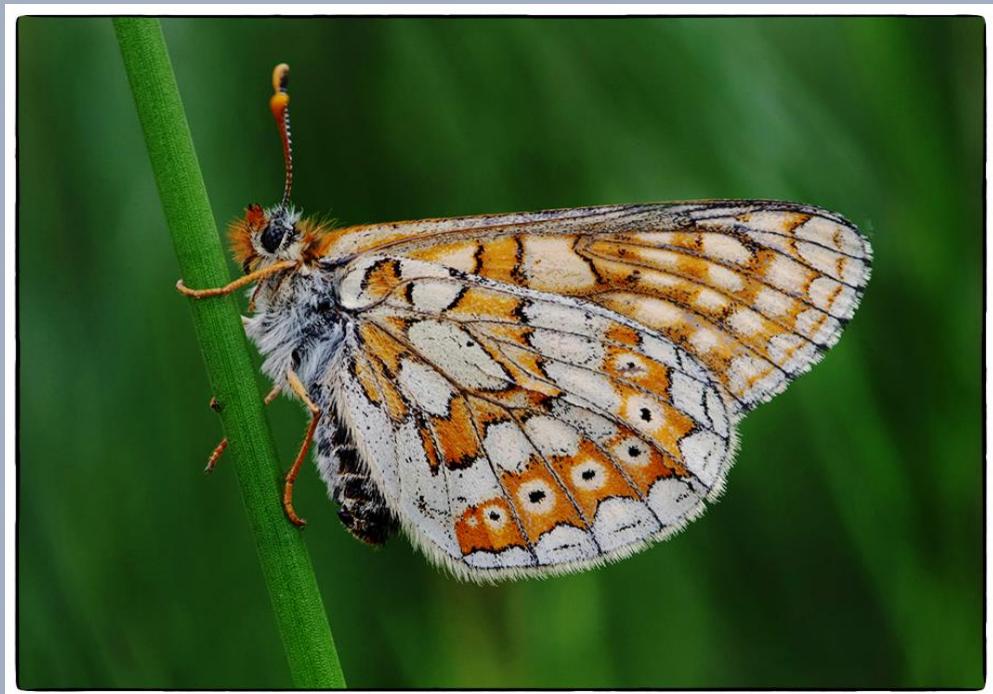
**Glanville Fritillary**



**Heath Fritillary**



**High Brown Fritillary**



**Marsh Fritillary**



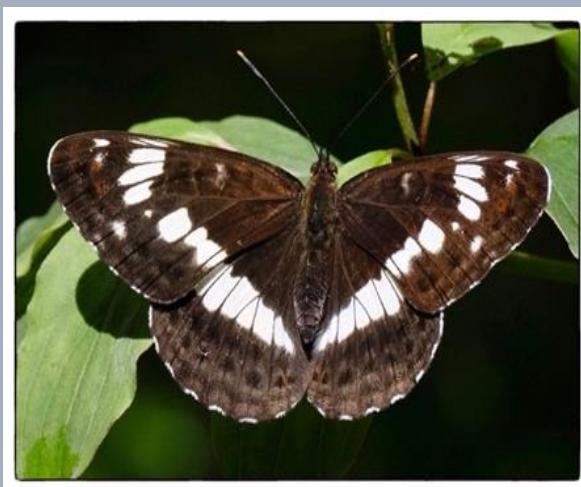
**Pearl-bordered Fritillary**



**Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**



**Swallowtail**



**White Admiral**



**Purple Emperor**