

SCOTIA SEEDS
Wildflowers of Scotland



Butterflies and day-flying moths of Tayside & Fife an identification guide

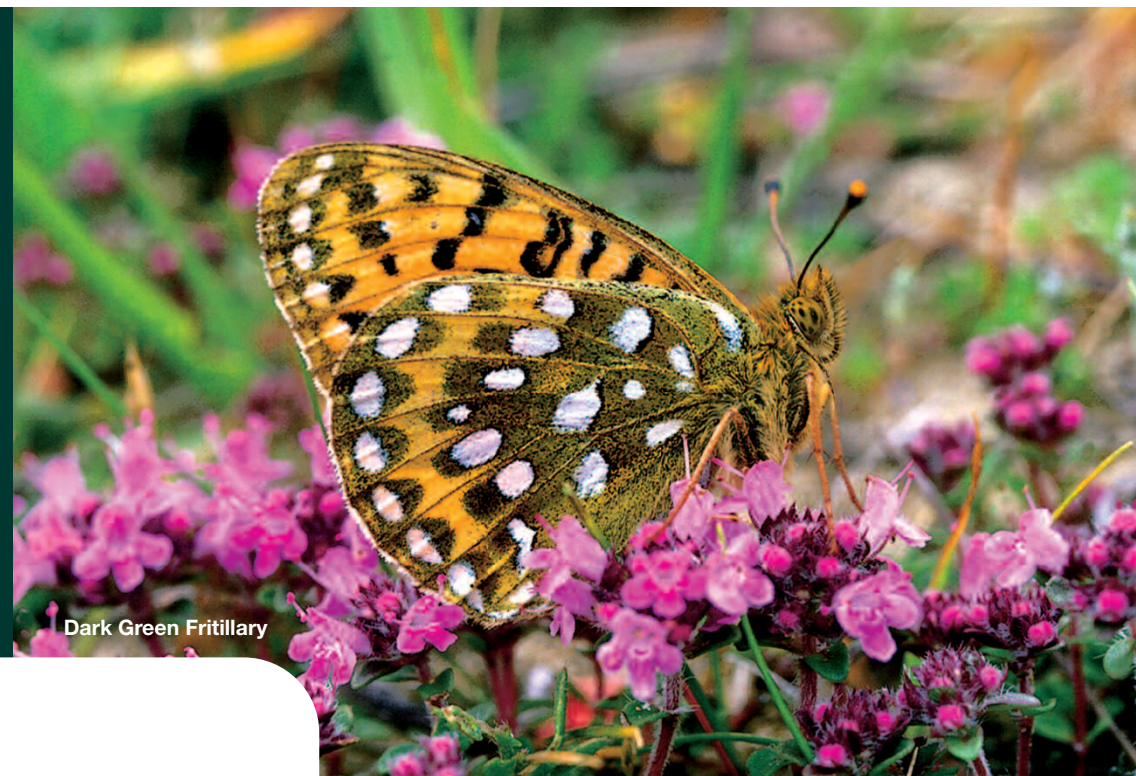
Butterfly Conservation is a UK charity, with 15,000 members (over 1000 in Scotland). We work closely with local communities, landowners, the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and other conservation partners to safeguard Scotland's butterflies and moths and their habitats, by:

- ◆ Advising landowners on managing land for butterflies and moths.
- ◆ Carrying out surveys, monitoring and research on our most threatened species.
- ◆ Training volunteers to enable them to take action for butterflies and moths.
- ◆ Making recommendations to the Scottish Government on its environmental policies.
- ◆ Encouraging everyone to cherish and enjoy butterflies and moths.

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You can support us in this vital work by joining Butterfly Conservation. With an annual membership you will receive an interesting and informative welcome pack, a colourful magazine **Butterfly** three times a year and membership of your local branch of Butterfly Conservation. Our local branches run public butterfly and moth events throughout the year. To join on-line or for further information, please go to www.butterfly-conservation.org. To find out what is going on in your area, go to www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk

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Dark Green Fritillary



**Butterfly
Conservation
Scotland**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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Butterflies and moths are beautiful insects and a joy to observe. This guide will help you identify all the butterflies and some of the common day-flying moths that occur in Perthshire and Angus (outside of the Cairngorms National Park), Fife and Dundee.

The chart inside shows which species are on the wing at a given time, and suggests some of the best and most easily accessible places in the region for you to see them. We hope this leaflet will encourage you to learn more about these beautiful insects, and to send us your records.



'UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species' are those listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). These are the most threatened species in the UK, and are either undergoing rapid declines, or have UK populations of European or international importance. What action is needed for each species and habitat is determined at a combination of UK, country, regional and local levels.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans co-ordinate action to conserve wildlife at the local level. Action on the ground cannot take place without the enthusiasm of local people, and often depends on partnerships between communities, landowners, businesses, voluntary and public organisations, and the Council. www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk or www.fife.coastandcountryside.co.uk/biodiversity_1_2_25.html

YELLOWS & WHITES

1. Clouded Yellow

Colias croceus

57-62mm

A migrant to the UK from the Continent, this butterfly is seen in low numbers in most years, but occasionally it arrives in very large numbers. It is most frequently seen between May and September along the coast, but it cannot survive the winter.

2. Large White

Pieris brassicae

63-70mm

This is our largest white butterfly and a strong flier. The caterpillars feed on brassicas such as Cabbage and Broccoli, and are therefore disliked by gardeners. It is distinguishable from the Small White by its larger size, darker black wing-tips extending further down the wing edge, and bolder spots. It can be seen on the wing from June to September, when local populations are supplemented by migrants from further south and the Continent.

3. Small White

Pieris rapae

38-57mm

The caterpillars feed on brassicas, but they cause less damage than those of the Large White. Easily confused with the Green-veined White which is similar in size, but the upperside has dark tips to the forewings, and it lacks the green veins on the underside of the wing. It is one of the first butterflies to be seen in spring and flies all summer.

4. Green-veined White

Pieris napi

40-52mm

Generally this is the most common species of the whites to be seen in the countryside. Unlike the two "cabbage whites" above, the Green-veined White feeds on wild crucifers and is not a garden pest. The green veins on the underside of the wing distinguish this from other white butterflies and moths, but they can fade with wear and are less distinct in second generation butterflies. One of the first butterflies of spring, it flies all summer.

5. Orange-tip

Anthocharis cardamines

45-50mm

Males are unmistakable with their bright orange wing-tips, but females have no orange so could be confused with Small or Green-veined Whites. However, Orange-tips have more rounded wing tips and distinctive mottled green undersides that can be seen faintly through the upperwing. Their distinctive orange eggs can be found on the caterpillars' food plants - crucifers such as Cuckoo Flower, Garlic Mustard, Honesty and Dame's Violet. Flies mid-April to June.

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HAIRSTREAKS AND BLUES

6. Green Hairstreak

Callophrys rubi
27-34mm

Despite the bright green appearance of this small butterfly, which sits with its wings closed, it is often difficult to spot. It prefers warm, sheltered sites near woodland or along the scrubby edges of moorland where its caterpillars feed on Blaeberry (Bilberry), Gorse and heathers. The Green Hairstreak flies from mid-April to June.

7. Purple Hairstreak

Favonius (=Neozephyrus) quercus
37-39mm

A striking butterfly, but very difficult to see as it feeds on honeydew in the canopy of oak and other trees. The adult butterflies are best looked for in late afternoon or early evening on warm days when they can be seen by scanning the tops of the oak trees with binoculars. Occasionally they fly down to nectar on bramble and other flowers. The caterpillars feed only on Oak. Flies from late July to early September. There are few records from the area, probably due to under-recording, but records show it is present near Auchterarder and Perth.

8. Small Copper

Lycaena phlaeas
32-35mm

This dainty butterfly is a widespread species found in a range of habitats, including gardens. Its caterpillars feed on Common and Sheep's Sorrel. The spring and summer broods can overlap, so adults can be seen from late April to late September, although they are rarely abundant. The butterfly can often be seen nectaring on ragwort in the late summer.

9. Small Blue

Cupido minimus
20-30mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
The smallest butterfly in the UK, this dusky-coloured species now occurs at just a few sites along the Angus coast and at just one or two remaining inland sites. It once occurred on the disused railway lines around Frickheim. It was recorded many years ago from Carlingnose but is now almost certainly extinct in Fife. The sole caterpillar foodplant is Kidney Vetch. The day-flying and much more common Chimney Sweeper moth is rather similar, but the Small Blue has a white border extending all around the wing. Flies from mid-May to late July.

10. Northern Brown Argus

Plebeius (= Aricia) artaxerxes
26-35mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
When newly-emerged this small butterfly has beautiful deep, velvety brown upper wings. It could be confused with a female Common Blue, which can occur in the same habitats, but the pattern on the undersides and the white spot on each forewing distinguish it. Adults fly from early June to August. Colonies can be found by searching for its conspicuous white eggs laid on the upper side of the leaves of its sole food plant, Common Rock-rose. It occurs widely in Perthshire and Angus wherever the food plant occurs, primarily on steep, open sunny slopes where there is plenty of bare ground. It can also be found at one or two isolated sites along Fife's south coast.

11. Common Blue

Polyommatus icarus
29-36mm

A widespread butterfly found in a variety of grassy habitats almost anywhere its caterpillar's foodplant, Bird's-foot Trefoil, occurs. The beautiful and brightly-coloured males are very conspicuous, while the females are generally blue-brown with distinctive orange spots. It usually has just one generation a year, the adults flying between June and September.

12. Holly Blue

Celastrina argiolus
30-35mm

This species has been recorded sporadically on the Fife coast in recent years, and now seems to be now well-established across the Forth in Edinburgh. The records suggest it is moving northwards, so one to look out for! Check its silvery-blue underwings for identification. Of the blue butterflies it is the one most likely to be seen in gardens or parks, as it is not dependent on flower-rich grasslands, like the Common and Small Blues. There are two generations per year and it is on the wing primarily in April/May and August. In early spring the caterpillars feed on Holly, while in the summer Ivy is the main foodplant.



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VANESSIDS AND FRITILLARIES

13. Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta

67-72mm

This is a familiar and distinctive garden butterfly that migrates to the UK every year from southern Europe and North Africa. It can breed in Scotland but rarely survives our winters. The major influx starts in late May and is reinforced until August, with adults being seen until November in good years. The caterpillars feed on Stinging Nettles.

14. Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui

64-70mm

Another migrant, this species is unable to over-winter in any part of the UK and re-colonises each year from mainland Europe and Africa, sometimes in spectacular numbers, as in 2009. Painted Ladies can often be seen congregating in areas with thistles, which serve as both a foodplant for the caterpillars and a nectar source for the adults. The peak of immigration usually occurs in June, and adults can be seen until October or November.

15. Small Tortoiseshell

Aglais urticae

50-56mm

This well-known butterfly can be seen in most months of the year in almost any habitat. The caterpillars feed on Stinging Nettles growing in sunny conditions, favouring fresh young leaves. It over-winters as an adult and is one of the first butterflies to emerge in the spring. In autumn adults are regularly found in houses, sheds and outbuildings seeking hibernation sites. It has been much less common in recent years, the reasons for which are being researched.

16. Peacock

Aglais (=Inachis) io

63-69mm

An unmistakable butterfly and a regular garden visitor, the Peacock has become a very common butterfly in recent years. Often one of the first butterflies to be seen in the spring having overwintered as an adult, its summer brood can be seen from July to September, in much larger numbers. Its caterpillars feed on the young leaves of Stinging Nettles.

17. Comma

Polygonia c-album

55-60mm

An unmistakable butterfly with ragged wings, the Comma hibernates over winter and emerges in early spring, producing a second generation from July to early October. The caterpillars feed on Elm, Nettles and Hop. The Comma has rapidly spread northwards in recent years and is a distinctive new addition to the butterfly fauna of southern Scotland.

18. Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Boloria euphrosyne

41-47mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

This butterfly is one of the most threatened in the UK, and in this region is only known from sites in Perthshire, primarily around Rannoch and Tummel, but with a few isolated colonies near Aberfeldy, Dunkeld and Comrie. It occurs in dry, flower-rich habitats in woodland or plantation clearings, or in grassy areas, often with bracken. The best sites are usually south-facing slopes with abundant Dog Violets, upon which the caterpillars feed. The adults fly from early May to mid-June.

19. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Boloria selene

41-44mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

This species is very similar in appearance to the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, but occurs in a much wider range of habitats, including damp, flower-rich grassland, woodland clearings and the edges of bogs and moorlands. The caterpillars feed on Marsh and Dog Violets, and the adults fly from late May to late August.

20. Dark Green Fritillary

Argynnis aglaja

63-69mm

This is a large butterfly that feeds on Dog and Heath Violets as a caterpillar. It is widespread and is often found in flower-rich habitats with patches of scrub, especially along the coast. It flies from June to August, at about the same time as the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, but is a more powerful flier and much larger. The green background to the underside of its hind wing can be seen when the butterfly is at rest or nectaring (see leaflet cover).

PERTH & KINROSS

1 Trinafour/Errochty

A fascinating area of upland limestone pavement and limestone grassland that grades into species-rich acid grassland, heath and bog as you head north and west. The limestone areas support Northern Brown Argus and Dark Green Fritillary, while towards Dubh Lochan you can see Mountain Ringlet and Large Heath. Parking is along the roadside at NN725 656, on the section of General Wade's Military Road that links the A9 to Trinafour.

2 Tummel, Rannoch and the Tay Forest Park

Stunning scenery and wonderful wildlife make this area worth a visit at any time of year. Limestone influenced habitats merge with acid ones and bog to support good colonies of Pearl, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries, Northern Brown Argus and, in late summer, abundant Scotch Argus. The best areas to search are the northern sides of Lochs Rannoch and Tummel, along the B8019. Excellent FC visitor centre at Queen's View, NN863 597. Buses from Pitlochry.

www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk

3 Schiehallion

One of Scotland's most recognisable mountains, Schiehallion supports a rich variety of upland habitats. Moorland on the lower slopes is interspersed with bracken, bog, base-rich flushes and limestone pavement. At higher altitudes are species-rich acid grassland and Blaeberry heath, while the summit is quartzite with much bare rock. Mountain Ringlet occurs on the acid grassland between 500 and 800m, while lower down you may see Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries. Car park and well-marked path at the Braes of Foss (NN753 557), about 8km (5 miles) from Tummel Bridge. Buses from Pitlochry.

www.jmt.org

4 Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve

Ben Lawers has the most celebrated mountain flora in Britain. Several plants are relict and isolated arctic and alpine species and a few are found only here in the UK. Restoration programmes are enhancing montane scrub, woodland, and the species-rich grassland to be found along the nature trail where grazing has been excluded. The Mountain Ringlet is abundant at Ben Lawers between about 300 and 850m, and can be seen (in warm sunshine!) above the nature trail. It is also present in good numbers on the slopes above the Loch na Lairge Reservoir with their numerous flushes and species-rich flora. Ben Lawers is 9km (6 miles) north east of Killin on the north shore of Loch Tay. There is a car park at NN608 378, 3km (2 miles) up the hill road that leads off the A827 to Glen Lyon, with more parking by the dam.

www.nts.org

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

FIFE

5 Auchtermuchty Common

A valuable remnant of species-rich grassland, managed by the local community with the help of the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. As well as supporting Grey Partridge, Skylark and Yellowhammer, the Common is home to several species of butterfly including Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries, Common Blue and Small Heath. The Green Hairstreak was recorded here for the first time in 2010. Day-flying moths include Six-spot Burnet and Chimney Sweeper. Car park and information board at NO236 134, but it is a pleasant walk from Auchtermuchty.

www.fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk

6 Cullaloe Local Nature Reserve

Cullaloe LNR contains the former reservoir for Burntisland, which has long since been drained. The reserve now has a variety of habitats including a small loch, willow scrub and grassland, and supports rare plants, woodland birds and wildfowl. Butterflies include Orange-tip, Small Copper, Common Blue and Ringlet. Six-spot Burnet moths are common and a Lunar Hornet Moth was seen on the reserve in 2010. The car park is at NT186 871, down a narrow road by Cullaloe Cottage off the B9157. Most of the site is wheelchair-accessible.

www.swt-fife.org.uk

www.fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk

7 Kincaig Point

Kincaig Point is a promontory with sea cliffs between Shell Bay and Earlsferry near Elie. The species-rich grassland supports a wide variety plant species, plus a good colony of Northern Brown Argus as well as Dark Green Fritillary, Common Blue and Small Heath. Day-flying moths include Six-spot Burnet, Latticed Heath and Cinnabar. There is car parking at NO469 004, alternatively walk the coastal path from Earlsferry taking care when passing the golf course.

www.fifecoastalpath.co.uk

8 Tentsmuir Point National Nature Reserve

Tentsmuir possesses a range of coastal habitats stretching from the beach, through the fore dunes and slacks to dune grassland and older dune heath, backed by the more recent Forestry Commission (FC) plantation. The dune slacks particularly are rich in plant species. The site is also famous for its wading birds and seals, and the pine plantation has a good Red Squirrel population. The reserve is one of the region's best butterfly sites, home to Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries, Small Copper, Common Blue, Green Hairstreak and Grayling. Day-flying moths are well-represented, with Cinnabar and Six-spot Burnet. Car park, information panels and trails, toilets and a picnic area are located at Kinshaldy (NO498 242) where entry is via a toll barrier. Access to the NNR is by foot or bicycle through about 3km (1½ miles) of forest track. Alternatively, walk along the foreshore from Tayport 2km (1½ miles) to reach Tentsmuir Point. For more info contact SNH on 01382 553704 or FC on 01350 727284

www.tentsmuir.org



East Schiehallion



Ben Lawers



Tentsmuir

DUNDEE

9 Grassy Beach

'Grassy Beach' is one of the last remaining sections of original coastal grassland left in the Dundee area, and can be followed via a pleasant 1.6 km (1 mile) path along the estuarine river front, from the Stannergate (NO438 310) at the eastern end of the port area, to the edge of Broughty Ferry at Douglas Terrace (NO454 311). Species include Common Blue and Six-spot Burnet.

www.dundee.gov.uk

ANGUS

10 Sidlaw Hills

The Auchterhouse and Craigowl Hills overlooking Dundee have a range of habitats including species-rich grassland, wet grassland, deciduous woodland, conifer plantation and moorland. Butterflies present include Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Northern Brown Argus. Access is via the Balkello Community Woodland car park on the Kirkton of Auchterhouse to Newlandhead road (NO365 383). Buses run from Dundee city centre.

www.walkscotland.com

11 Barry Buddon/Barry Links

This dune system is a Ministry of Defence site, not accessible when live firing is taking place. It exhibits a fine succession of habitats, from foredunes to dune grassland, heath and scrub. There are at least 16 species of butterfly including Small Blue, Dark Green Fritillary and Grayling. Moths include Cinnabar and Six-spot Burnet. Access to the site can be via Monifieth (NO503 324), Barry (NO541 336), or Carnoustie (NO562 340), both easily reached by public transport.

www.mod.uk

12 Coastal path, Arbroath to Montrose

A stretch of cliffs with a narrow strip of coastal grassland, running north from Arbroath to Auchmithie and beyond to Montrose. Rich in colourful plants, with some rarities such as Nottingham Catchfly and Maiden Pink. A good range of butterflies can be seen e.g. Small Blue, Grayling and Dark Green Fritillary. The coastal path is easily accessible from the car park at Arbroath (NO658 412). The section at Seaton is managed by Scottish Wildlife Trust.

www.swt.org.uk

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BROWNS

21. Speckled Wood

Pararge aegeria

47-50mm

Early naturalists recorded this woodland butterfly as a Tayside resident but for some reason it disappeared in the early 20th century. It has however, recently made a welcome return and can be seen in the Kenmore area. (It is more common to the north around the Moray Firth and to the west in Argyll). Males are often seen perched in sunlit spots ready to defend their territory or intercept females, which are on the wing, as several broods, from late April to late October. The caterpillars feed on various grasses.

22. Wall Brown

Lasiommata megera

44-46mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

The Wall Brown is steadily moving north, presumably due to climate change, and is now in East Lothian, although has not yet been reported in Fife or Tayside. Strangely, at the same time this species has undergone a massive decline over most of England - we do not know why. However it may appear in the region soon, and the best place to look for it is along the coast, as it requires warm grasslands with patches of bare ground. It is on the wing in May and June, and again, in greater numbers, in August and early September. The caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses.

23. Scotch Argus

Erebia aethiops

35-40mm

The Scotch Argus breeds in tall, damp grassland, and open, wet woodland, where the caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses. In sunshine the adult butterflies can be very active, but cloudy weather can cause them to stop flying completely. It is the last butterfly of the season to emerge, flying from late July until early September, and can be very abundant. Lowland Tayside and Fife seem to be too dry, sunny and warm for it, and the only records for the region outside of the Cairngorms National Park are in Perthshire from Glen Lyon north to Rannoch and as far east as Pitlochry.

24. Mountain Ringlet

Erebia epiphron

28-36mm

Our only true montane butterfly, this species is usually found above 350m and is associated with species-rich grassland, often with flushes. It only flies in bright sunshine, but can be disturbed while at rest in quite dull weather. The Breadalbane Mountains are one of the UK strongholds for the butterfly, and it is abundant and easy to see at Ben Lawers. It is also found on Schiehallion, and at relatively low altitude near Trinafour. It is similar to the Scotch Argus, but is smaller and does not have white eyespots. The flight periods of the two species overlap as the Mountain Ringlet is on the wing from mid-June to mid-August.

25. Grayling

Hipparchia semele

55-60mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

The Grayling needs warm, sunny sites with bare ground and fine-leaved grasses, upon which the caterpillars feed. Its natural habitats include coastal and inland cliffs (e.g. Kinnoull Hill), dunes and heaths, but in the past it has colonised many 'brownfield' sites, such as old quarries and railway lines. Many of these sites have now been lost as they are developed or scrub over. The adult butterflies can be hard to see at rest due to their superb camouflage, and are on the wing from late June to early September.

26. Meadow Brown

Maniola jurtina

50-55mm

The Meadow Brown can be seen in a variety of flower-rich grassland habitats, often in large numbers. The caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses. Males tend to be darker than females, but the amount of orange on both is variable. A strong flier, it is on the wing from late June to early September.

27. Small Heath

Coenonympha pamphilus

34-38mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

An inconspicuous butterfly that tends to fly only in bright conditions, and always keeps its wings closed at rest. It occurs mostly on grasslands where the sward is short and where there are fine-leaved grasses upon which the caterpillar feeds. Although widespread in Scotland, it has undergone substantial declines in other parts of the UK. It has one generation per year, the adults being on the wing from mid-May to early August.

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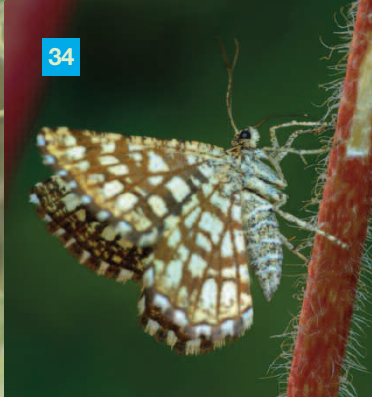
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BROWNS (continued)

28. Large Heath *Coenonympha tullia* 35-40mm

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species

The Large Heath is restricted to wet, peaty habitats (e.g. lowland raised bogs) where Hare's-tail Cottongrass, its main foodplant, grows. It always rests with its wings closed, but can be distinguished from the Small Heath by its duller colour and larger size. The Large Heath is very rare over much of this region, but becomes more common to the north and west in Highland Perthshire, e.g. Trinafour and Ben Lawers. It can have prominent spots on the hindwing, but they are not always present. It is on the wing from mid-June to mid-August.

29. Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* 48-52mm

The Ringlet has a very dark, velvety appearance and a white 'fringe' to its wings when newly emerged. The 'ringlets' on the under-wings vary in number and size and can be virtually absent. It favours tall, damp grassland, where the caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses, and has colonised much of the region in recent years. It flies, even in dull conditions, from late June to August, and can be very common.

DAY-FLYING MOTHS

The day-flying moths shown are sometimes mistaken for butterflies. There are probably several hundred species of moth that could be seen in the region, but most only fly at night.

30. Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulae* 25-40mm

The striking red and black colour of the adults mean 'predators beware' because the moth is packed with a chemical defence in the form of cyanide! The caterpillars are also poisonous and they are thought to derive these chemicals from their foodplant, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil. It flies from late June to August in sunny, grassy places, especially along the coast.

31. Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae* 34-46mm

The adult Cinnabar has similar coloration to the unrelated Six-spot Burnet, and is also poisonous to birds. In this case the poison, again obtained by the caterpillars, comes from their foodplant, Common Ragwort. The Cinnabar occurs in dry, grassy habitats, especially in coastal areas. The adults fly in June and July and can overlap with the conspicuous yellow and black caterpillars, which feed during July and August.

32. Chimney Sweeper *Odezia atrata* 24-30mm

This little moth is sometimes mistaken for the Small Blue butterfly. The Chimney Sweeper is entirely black, apart for the white edges of its wing tips. The adults are on the wing between June and early August. The caterpillars feed on the flowers and seeds of Pignut, and the moth can be found in open woodlands and flower-rich grasslands.

33. Mother Shipton *Callistege mi* 26-32mm

This moth gets its strange name from the wing pattern which is reputed to resemble an old witch. The caterpillars feed on grasses. The adults are on the wing from early May through to early July, and found in sunny habitats with flowery grasslands.

34. Latticed Heath *Chiasmia clathrata* 22-30mm

This moth rests like a butterfly, with its wings partly raised and the fine network of dark lines and veins on its wings is striking. It can be very active in sunshine and is found in grassy places, both at the coast and inland, especially where its foodplants - clovers, lucerne and trefoils - grow. It flies during June, July and early August.

This information has been provided in good faith from a variety of sources, and Butterfly Conservation Scotland cannot be responsible for errors. For information on public transport go to www.travelinescotland.com

Be aware of ticks! All visitors to the countryside should check for ticks afterwards, carefully removing them as soon as possible. www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk

'Know the Code before you go' For information on access rights and responsibilities go to www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Flight Periods												
BUTTERFLIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clouded Yellow												
Large White												
Small White												
Green-veined White												
Orange-tip												
Green Hairstreak												
Purple Hairstreak												
Small Copper												
Small Blue												
Northern Brown Argus												
Common Blue												
Holly Blue												
Red Admiral												
Painted Lady												
Small Tortoiseshell												
Peacock												
Comma												
Pearl-bordered Fritillary												
Small Pearl-b'd Fritillary												
Dark Green Fritillary												
Speckled Wood												
Wall Brown												
Scotch Argus												
Mountain Ringlet												
Grayling												
Meadow Brown												
Small Heath												
Large Heath												
Ringlet												
DAY-FLYING MOTHS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Six-spot Burnet												
Cinnabar												
Chimney Sweeper												
Mother Shipton												
Latticed Heath												

Please note flight periods will vary depending on the weather.

Get involved!

There is still much to find out about how butterfly and moth populations are changing and everyone can help - we really do need your butterfly and moth sightings.

Why?

Recording is the foundation upon which wildlife conservation is based. It helps us to identify population trends, identify important sites, and can assess the effectiveness of habitat management. Butterflies and moths can be quick to respond to changes to their environment. They therefore make excellent indicator species, reacting to new habitat management or the effects of climate change. You can record them in your garden or venture to parts of the countryside you would otherwise not visit. Above all though, it is easy, great fun, and very rewarding!

When?

Choose warm, sunny days to look for butterflies and moths, when they are most active. Always take a map. Many paths are uneven so wear footwear with good ankle support and for longer walks take warm, waterproof clothing as weather conditions can change quickly. A mobile phone, sun hat, snack and drink are good safety precautions. Let someone know where you have gone and what time you expect to be back. Remember to take a notebook and pen too, to record your sightings. Binoculars and a butterfly net can also be useful.

Where?

Most butterflies prefer sheltered sunny locations with plenty of nectar. Several are specialists and are restricted to a particular habitat. Other species are very mobile, such as Red Admiral and Painted Lady, and can be seen almost anywhere. Your local park will almost certainly have a variety of butterflies, such as Peacock, Orange-tip, and Large, Small and Green-veined White, especially if there are areas that have developed naturally, or the local Council has sown an area with native flowers and grasses. Moths will probably not be so obvious, but why not learn about them at events run by the local Butterfly Conservation Branch?

www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk

What?

Butterfly recording comprises monitoring and surveying. Monitoring is used to collect information about changes to individual populations or sites over time, normally annually. Surveying is concerned with collecting records from a number of different sites to try and gain a true picture of butterfly distributions.

To send us a record you need to provide the following information; species name, how many you saw, location name, grid reference from an Ordnance Survey map, date, and your contact details. Records should be sent to your local volunteer butterfly or moth recorder (see below) who verifies and collates them and then sends them to a national database, where they will be analysed. One day your records could appear as dots on distribution maps.

Butterfly records:

Duncan Davidson, 140 Pitcorthie Drive, Dunfermline, KY11 8BJ
duncan@dwwd.freeserve.co.uk
 (or Fife Nature Records Centre)

Moth records:

Angus & Dundee: David Lampard, 51 Johnston Avenue, Dundee DD3 8HA
dlampard@clara.co.uk

Fife: Duncan Davidson, 140 Pitcorthie Drive, Dunfermline, KY11 8BJ
duncan@dwwd.freeserve.co.uk

Mid Perthshire: Dr John Thorpe (acting recorder) Pipers Croft, Killiecrankie, Perthshire, PH16 5LW
johnthorpe@btinternet.com

Want to know more?

The following books are recommended:

Britain's Butterflies (2010) 2nd edition. Newland & Still. Wildguides.

ISBN No. 978-1-903657-30-0

Guide to Butterflies of Britain and Ireland (2007) Thomas. Excellent pocket guide. Philip's. ISBN No. 13 978-0-540-08980-2

The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland Fox *et al* (2006). Distribution maps and species accounts. Pisces. ISBN No. 1-874357-31-5

Concise Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland (2007) Townsend & Waring. British Wildlife Publishing. ISBN 978-0-9531399-6-5.