

Natural Basingstoke

BUTTERFLY ID –
An introduction



- Very good indicators of site quality
 - Some species very sensitive to habitat change
- They are the “Canary in the mine”
 - Biodiversity change
 - Habitat loss/change
 - Species loss
 - Species gain opportunities
 - Climate change
 - Species loss/GAIN

- Both are in the Order Lepidoptera (“Scaled-winged”)
- Butterflies have clubbed antennae
 - Moths have much more diversity in antennae forms
- Butterflies fly during the day
 - Some moths are day-flying
- An individual insect will typically last 2-3 weeks
 - Some will overwinter as adults
 - Some species are long lived = months
- Some species have more than one brood
 - Often determined by the weather

- 64 species in the UK
- Broadly 3 categories
 - “Generalists”
 - Widespread distribution
 - Easily move into new areas opened up by Climate Change
 - Use a range of food plants or grasses
 - “Habitat Specialists”
 - Very picky about habitats and nesting conditions
 - Often restricted to a single species of food plant
 - Some species dependent on soil disturbance and/or grazing
 - Landscape aspect/orientation
 - Woodland species may need just the right stage of coppice/succession
 - Slow to spread even if conditions are ideal
 - “Migrants”
 - Regular
 - Irregular
 - Rare
- Due to habitat fragmentation – some species are widely separated



- Butterflies undergo full metamorphosis
 - Adult
 - Egg
 - Larvae/Caterpillar
 - main growth phase – food plant
 - 6-8 instars
 - Pupae/Chrysalis
- An individual adult insect will typically last 2-3 weeks
 - Some will over-winter as adults and last many months
- Each species has their own approach to over-wintering
 - Adult
 - Egg
 - Larvae/Caterpillar
 - Pupae/Chrysalis
 - Any mix of the above
- Some species have more than one brood
- Some nest in colonies

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- Adults
 - Females - food plants for eggs
 - Males - perches to survey their domain
 - Both – nectar sources
- Egg & Larvae/Caterpillar
- Pupae/Chrysalis
 - A place to hide (sometimes in “plain sight”)

- Birds
- Parasitic Wasps
- Parasitic fungi
- Viruses/bacteria
- Us
 - Changes to habitat
 - Climate change

- **The Skippers (Hesperiidae)** – 8 species
- **Swallowtail (Papilionidae)** – 1 species
- **The Whites (Pieridae)** – 6 species + 1 regular migrant + 3 rare migrants
- **The Hairstreaks, Coppers & Blues (Lycaenidae)**
 - Hairstreaks – 5 species
 - Coppers – 1 species
 - Blues – 9 species + 4 rare migrants
- **The Metal Marks (Riodonidae)** – 1 species
- **True Nymphalidae, The Fritillaries & Satyridae (Nymphalidae)**
 - Nymphalidae – 7 species including common migrants + 2 rare migrants
 - Fritillaries – 9 species
 - Satyridae – 11 species

- **Common species that occur in the Boro'**
- Species that occur somewhere in Hampshire
- Other British species

- Small golden brown
- fly like moths
- 8 species
 - **Small Skipper**
 - **Essex Skipper**
 - **Large Skipper**
 - **Dingy Skipper**
 - Silver-spotted Skipper
 - Grizzled Skipper
 - Chequered Skipper
 - Lulworth Skipper

- Not all white butterflies are Pieridae
- Vary from Ubiquitous to very rare
- 6 species
 - **Brimstone**
 - **Large White**
 - **Small White**
 - **Green-veined White**
 - **Orange-tip**
 - **Wood White**
- 1 Regular Migrant Species
 - **Clouded Yellow**
- 3 Migrant Species
 - **Pale & Berger's Clouded Yellows**
 - **Black-veined White**
 - **Bath White**

- **Hairstreaks**
- Habitat specialists
- 5 Species
 - **Green Hairstreak**
 - **Purple Hairstreak**
 - **White-letter Hairstreak**
 - **Brown Hairstreak**
 - **Black Hairstreak**

- **Coppers & Blues**

- Coppers: 1 species - **Small Copper**

- Blues: 9 Species

- **Small Blue**
- **Brown Argus**
- **Common Blue**
- **Holly Blue**
- **Chalkhill Blue**
- **Silver-studded Blue**
- **Adonis Blue**
- **Northern Brown Argus**
- **Large Blue**

4 Migrant Species

- **Long-tailed Blue**
- **Geranium Bronze**
- **Short-tailed Blue**
- **Mazarine Blue**

- Open woodland and coppices
- 1 species
 - **Duke of Burgundy**

- **Common colourful insects**

- **7 species** (Incl. common migrants)

- **White Admiral**
- **Purple Emperor**
- **Red Admiral**
- **Small Tortoiseshell**
- **Peacock**
- **Comma**

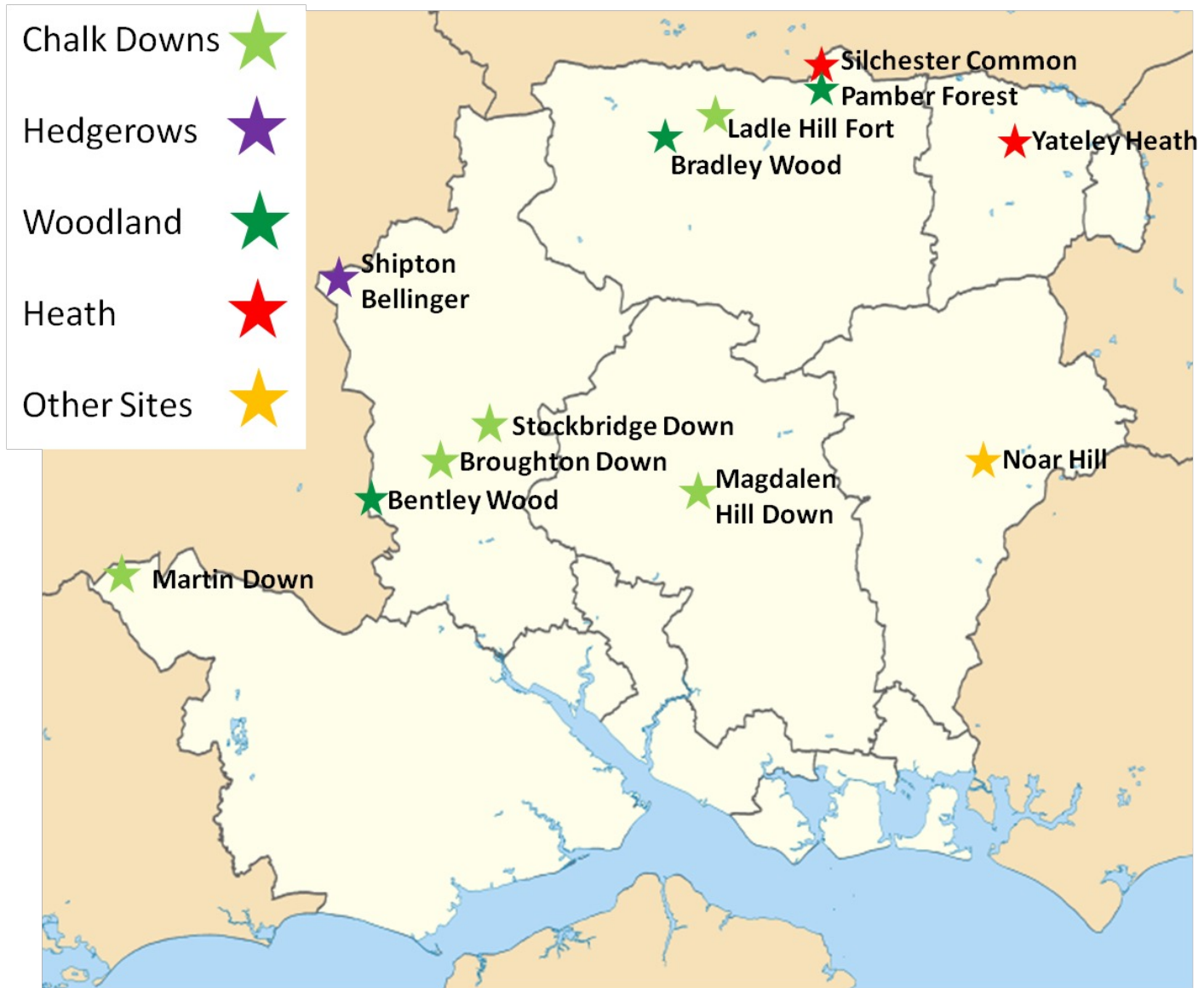
2 Migrant Species

- **Painted Lady**
- Large Tortoiseshell
- Camberwell Beauty

- **Distinctive insects**
- **9 species**
 - **Dark Green Fritillary**
 - **Silver-washed Fritillary**
 - Marsh Fritillary
 - Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
 - Pearl-bordered Fritillary
 - Glanville Fritillary
 - Queen of Spain Fritillary
 - High Brown Fritillary
 - Heath Fritillary

- **A mix of common and rarer species**
- **11 species**
 - **Speckled Wood**
 - **Marbled White**
 - **Gatekeeper**
 - **Meadow Brown**
 - **Ringlet**
 - **Small Heath**
 - Wall
 - Grayling
 - Mountain Ringlet
 - Scotch Argus
 - Large Heath

SELECTED BUTTERFLY SITES IN HAMPSHIRE



- <https://www.purple-emperor.co.uk/>
– Active Blog site
- <https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/>
– Butterfly Conservation Trust – Hampshire & IOW branch
- <https://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/>
– Check out what’s “Flying tonight”