

Why record butterflies?

Recording butterflies is an enjoyable activity that encourages you to slow down and enjoy time outside in green spaces. Your efforts directly support our work to create a world where butterflies and moths thrive and can be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere.

The state of the UK's butterflies

There are 59 species of butterfly in the UK. Five species have become extinct in the past 150 years. Half of Britain's remaining butterfly species are listed as Threatened or Near Threatened on the new Red List. Butterfly recording creates a picture of how different species are faring. This information influences conservation action.

In England several species have expanded their range, potentially as a result of climate change. The more records we have from volunteers the more accurately we can track changes in butterfly populations and distributions.

Taking nature's pulse

Butterflies are sensitive to changes in the environment. By studying them closely, we can discover what is happening in the wider environment and what pressures are being faced by other wildlife.

Begin with butterflies

Taking time out in a green space feels good. Immersing yourself in the world of butterflies gives a deeper appreciation of the richness and beauty of the wildlife around you. Begin with butterflies and you'll soon become aware of all of the wildflowers, bees and other pollinating insects that make their home in your neighbourhood.

Did you know?

The Marbled White butterfly has spread widely in London in recent years. A remarkable 2,225 were counted during monitoring surveys in 2020, second only to the Meadow Brown. This butterfly is benefiting from greater areas of relaxed mowing where fine grasses are allowed to grow tall.

How to record butterflies

On the go

If you prefer the flexibility to record butterflies 'as and when' with no particular commitment, and in many different places, then we recommend using the free iRecord Butterflies App (available for Android and Apple devices). The app makes submitting your sightings really easy. Once you've identified the butterfly using the built-in tool and useful ID tips, enter a few simple pieces of information, such as the number that you saw and a place name and submit.

Regular recording

If you have a garden, allotment or community green space that you visit regularly throughout the year, we'd love you to take part in the Garden Butterfly Survey. By counting and identifying the butterflies that visit your garden throughout the year, you are sharing essential data that helps us understand how they are faring in gardens in London. Your records will enable us to provide better advice on how to manage gardens to benefit butterflies throughout their life-cycle from egg to adult. Please visit www.gardenbutterflysurvey.org to register your survey site.

Big City Butterflies is a Butterfly Conservation project which aims to inspire Londoners to discover butterflies and moths, and connect them with nature and their local green spaces. Find out more, and sign up to our newsletter to hear about the latest news and opportunities at www.butterfly-conservation.org/BCB



Images by Iain Leach

Follow us on social media: [@BigCButterflies](https://twitter.com/BigCButterflies) [@bigcitybutterflies](https://www.instagram.com/bigcitybutterflies)

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468) Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

Designed and produced by www.nectarcreative.com

Discover Butterflies



Identify and record butterflies in London's green spaces



Discover London's Beautiful Butterflies

London is home to an amazing variety of butterflies. Parks, gardens, allotments and other urban green spaces are real havens for these beautiful insects. We need your help to discover which species are using these places so we can plan conservation work to help the butterflies that are struggling.

Use this guide to help identify the species you see and read on to find out about how you can submit your records.

KEY:

Woodland and Trees

Gardens and Parks

Grassland and Scrub

Migrants



Female



Male

Images approximately 75% of actual size



Speckled Wood



Brimstone ♂



Holly Blue



Small Skipper



Meadow Brown ♂



Purple Hairstreak



Large White ♀



Small Tortoiseshell



Common Blue ♂



Small Heath



White-letter Hairstreak



Small White



Peacock



Brown Argus



Ringlet



Brown Hairstreak ♀



Green-veined White



Gatekeeper



Large Skipper



Comma



Orange Tip ♂



Red Admiral



Marbled White



Painted Lady