Butterflies and day-flying moths of Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire
an identification guide

Butterflies and moths are beautiful insects and a joy to observe as well as identify. This guide will help you identify all the butterflies and some of the common day-flying moths that occur in Dumfries & Galloway, Ayrshire and Arran.

It also has a chart so you can easily see 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 listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan or 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. In Scotland some of these species might not be declining, but losses in other areas mean that they qualify for UK listing. What action is needed for each species and habitat is determined at a combination of UK, country, regional and local levels.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan co-ordinates action to conserve wildlife at the local level. Local action cannot take place without the enthusiasm of local people, and depends on partnerships between local communities, landowners, businesses, voluntary and public organisations, and the local Council.

Contact your local Council to get involved:
- [www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity)

Butterfly Conservation is a UK charity, with nearly 15,000 members and almost 1000 in Scotland. We work closely with the 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.

Join us!
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, the exclusive 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](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org). To find out what is going on in your area, go to [www.SouthWestScotland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.SouthWestScotland-butterflies.org.uk)

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**Common Blue**

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1. Dingy Skipper
Erynnis tages
27-34mm
UK Biodiversity Action
Plan Species (*see back page)
This moth-like butterfly is perhaps the rarest and most threatened in Scotland. Most of its sites have plenty of bare ground and Common Bird’s-foot Trefoil, such as on coastal grassland or forestry tracks. Some sites however are in tall, damp grassland, where the caterpillar food plant is Greater Bird’s-foot Trefoil. It flies in May and June.

2. Small Skipper
Thymelicus sylvestris
26-30mm
A recent arrival, which probably colonised naturally from northern England. This is a butterfly of rough, grassy places, such as field margins, roadside verges and disused railway lines. First recorded in the Lochmaben area in 2006, it could spread quickly along such ‘habitat corridors’ in response to the warming climate, and can be seen on the wing throughout July and August.

3. Essex Skipper
Thymelicus lineola
26-30mm
This butterfly is very similar to the Small Skipper (you need to check the colour of the undersides of the antennae!) and was first recorded in the Dalton/Lockerbie area at Birkshaw Forest in 2007. It seems likely that this was an accidental introduction, perhaps in hay, as the nearest colonies are in the Midlands. It can be seen on the wing throughout July and August.

4. Large Skipper
Ochlodes sylvanus
33-35mm
The Large Skipper is found in areas of tall grassland and is on the wing earlier than the Small Skipper - from early June until late July. The caterpillars feed on tussock-forming grasses such as Cock’s-foot.

5. 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 is known for its mass migrations when it arrives in large numbers. It is most frequently seen between May and September along the coast.

6. 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. Flies June to September.

7. 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.

8. Green-veined White
Pieris napi
40-52mm
Generally this is the most common species of white 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.

9. 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.
10. **Green Hairstreak**  
*Callophrys rubi*  
27-34 mm  
Despite the bright green appearance of this small butterfly, which always 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 and bogs where its caterpillars feed on Blueberry (Bilberry), Gorse and Ling (Heather). The Green Hairstreak flies from mid April to June.

11. **Purple Hairstreak**  
*Neozephyrus quercus*  
37-39 mm  
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 late May to late June. A re-introduction project is being considered.

12. **Small Copper**  
*Lycaena phlaeas*  
32-35 mm  
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.

13. **Small Blue**  
*Cupido minimus*  
20-30 mm  
**UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species**  
The smallest butterfly in the UK, this dusky-coloured species is thought to have become extinct in the area in the 1980s. Former colonies were on the coast at Rockcliffe and Prestwick, where the sole caterpillar food plant, Kidney Vetch, still grows in abundance. 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 mid-May to late June. There is an introduction project.

14. **Northern Brown Argus**  
*Plebeius artaxerxes*  
26-35 mm  
**UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species**  
When newly-emerged this small butterfly has 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. Colonies can also be found by searching for its conspicuous white eggs laid on the upper side of the leaves of its food plant, Common Rock-rose. It occurs mostly on the coast and along steep, open burn sides where there is plenty of bare ground. Adults fly from early June to August.

15. **Common Blue**  
*Polyommatus icarus*  
29-36 mm  
A widespread butterfly found in a variety of grassy habitats almost anywhere that its caterpillar’s foodplant, Common 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.

16. **Holly Blue**  
*Celastrina argiolus*  
30-35 mm  
This species has been recorded sporadically along the north Solway coast for many years. Check its silvery-blue underwings for identification. Of the blue butterflies it is the most likely one 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 again in August. In early spring the caterpillars feed on Holly, while in the summer Ivy is the main foodplant.

### HAIRSTREAKS AND BLUES
17. Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta
67-72mm
A familiar and distinctive ‘garden’ butterfly which 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 Common Nettle.

18. 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. They 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.

19. Small Tortoiseshell
Aglais urticeae
50-56mm
This well-known butterfly can be seen in most months of the year in almost any habitat. The caterpillars feed on the fresh young leaves of Common Nettle that are growing in sunny conditions. 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 scarcer in recent years, the reasons for which are being researched.

20. Peacock
Inachis io
63-69mm
An unmistakable butterfly and a regular garden visitor, the Peacock is a very common butterfly. Often one of the first butterflies to be seen in the spring having overwintered as adults, its summer brood can be seen from July to September, in much larger numbers. Its caterpillars feed on the young leaves of Common Nettle.

21. Comma
Polygonia c-album
55-60mm
An unmistakable butterfly with ragged wings. It has spread north from England in recent years and is a distinctive new addition to the butterfly fauna of south west Scotland. The caterpillars feed on Elm, Common Nettle and Hop. The adults hibernate and emerge in early spring, producing a second generation from July to early October.

22. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Boloria selene
41-44mm
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
This species is very similar to the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and the only sure way of telling them apart is to get a good look at their undersides. The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary occurs in a wider range of habitats, including damp, flower-rich grassland, woodland clearings and the edges of bogs and moorlands. The caterpillars feed on Marsh Violet and dog violets, and the adults fly from May to August.

23. Dark Green Fritillary
Argynnis aglaja
63-69mm
This is a large butterfly that feeds on dog 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, is much larger, and has a green background to the underside of its hind wing.
1 ARRAN
Arran has amazing scenery and many great walks with butterflies and moths that may be seen include Green Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Scotch Argus, Graying, Large Heath, Six-spot Burnet, Cinnabar.

2 STEVENSON DUNES, SALTCOATS
The best sand dune system in North Ayrshire. Park by the dunes at NS267690. By bus, alight at Stevenson Cross, then head down New Street/Station Road/Shore Road. By train, alight at Stevenson Station and head down Shore Road to the car park. The Cunninghame Cycleway runs past the dunes. Common Blue, Small Copper, Graying, Six-spot Burnet. More information at www.fssbirding.org.uk/ butterflylocationsayrshire.htm

3 GAILLES MARSH, IRVINE
Herb-rich, sandy, grassland and well-vegetated pond sheltered by conifers. Adjacent to the golf courses to the south of Irvine and reached via Marine Drive. Park beside the track by the field gate at NS322060 and enter by the reserve sign 250m along the cycle-path. Common Blue, Small Copper, Dark Green Fritillary, Graying, Cinnabar, Six-spot Burnet, Speckled Wood. More information at www.fssbirding.org.uk/ butterflylocationsayrshire.htm

4 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COAST
A very rich stretch of coastline between Glen App and Girvan. Steep-sided gullies, limestone grassland and cliffs providing cover. Dingy and Large Skipper, Northern Brown Argus, Wall Brown, Graying, Six-spot Burnet, Cinnabar, Speckled Wood. Good sites are Shallochreoch Burn/Currarie Port (park beside the farm track at NX063770); Bennane Lea (park on the old A77 at NX009289); and Pinbin Burn (park at NX359160, buses run between Girvan and Glen App. More information at www.fssbirding.org.uk/ butterflylocationsayrshire.htm

5 FEOCH MEADOWS
Herb-rich meadow, 1.5 miles (2.5 km) east of Barrhill village. Take the A714, take the rough track marked ‘Killantrigan’ for 500m. There is small car park at NX363815. The meadow lies 500m to the north at NX59821. Waterproof footwear recommended. Dingy Skipper, Large Skipper, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Scotch Argus, Large Heath. Also good for dragonflies. More information at www.swt.org.uk

6 TORR WARREN AND THE RHINS COAST
Torr Warren is a coastal plantation and dune system south east of Stranraer. Parking is at NX143563 off the B7084. Follow forest track eastward to Ringdoo Point. The nearby military training area should not be entered if the red flag is flying. Many parts of the Rhins coast support a range of butterflies and moths, and have good access, e.g. Portpatrick (NX000653), Mull of Galloway (NX155303). Dingy Skipper, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary, Large Skipper, Northern Brown Argus, Graying, Wall Brown, Six-spot Burnet, Mother Shipton, Cinnabar, Speckled Wood. More information at www.forestry.gov.uk (Tors Warren)

7 CREVE VALLEY WOODLANDS AND GLEN TROOL
Upland glen with a mix of conifer plantations and ancient oak woods. North of Newton Stewart and east of Glentrool Village. Several car parks: Glen Trool visitor centre (NX727268); Knockman Wood (NX086763); Wood of C Cree (NX381708); Buchan and Glenhead woods (NX415504). Purple Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries. More information at www.creevalley.com

8 KNOWETOP LOCHS
Two lochs with surrounding birch woodland, wetland and moorland. Near Balmaclellan, park beside the A712 at NX706788. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Scotch Argus, Large Heath, Also good for dragonflies. More information at www.swn.org.uk

9 ROCKCLIFFE TO PORT O’WARREN

10 MABIE AND 11 DALBEATTIE FORESTS
(see page across)

11 KIRKCONNELL FLOW NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
Raised bog and pine/birch woodland, 5 miles (8 km) south of Dumfries, signed off the A710 road NX637102. Bus runs hourly from Dumfries to New Abbey but infrequent on Sundays. Green Hairstreak and Large Heath, with Wall Brown frequenting the car park. More information at www.snh.org.uk

12 ERSHAIG TO MOSSHOPE
Car park at Ershaig (NT005004) on the road west of Beattock. This walk leads through a conifer plantation, but the ride is wide due to a gas pipeline. Large Skipper, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary. Scotch Argus. More information at www.southernuplandway.gov.uk

13 EARTAIGH TO MOSSHOPE
Car park at Eartshaig (NT050024) on the road east of Beattock. This walk leads through a conifer plantation, but the ride is wide due to a gas pipeline. Large Skipper, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary. Scotch Argus. More information at www.southernuplandway.gov.uk

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

10 MABIE FOREST
Mabie Forest near Dumfries is but Scotland’s best sites for butterflies, with over 20 species being recorded. It is home to three of the most endangered butterflies and moths in the UK: the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dingy Skipper and the Forester moth. Other species include Large Skipper, Green and Purple Hairstreak, Northern Brown Argus, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary and Wall Brown.

In 2007 the Forestry Commission and Butterfly Conservation joined forces to create the charity’s largest nature reserve, and their second in Scotland. The nature reserve lies in the centre of Mabie Forest, its 100 hectares comprising ancient oak wood, wetland and grassland. Interpretation boards through the reserve help visitors to get the most from their visit. The reserve is also a haven for other wildlife such as dragonflies, bats and red squirrels.

Car park, toilets and a picnic area are located at the entrance off the A710 south west of Dumfries (NX950710).

11 DALBEATTIE FOREST
also has a good variety of wildlife, including some important butterflies. It has a good colony of Dingy Skipper on the forest tracks where Common Birds’-foot Trefol grows (NX655659). Leave Dalbeattie on the A710, heading south towards Colvend. All forest walks start from the ‘Town Wood’ car park at NX837600 (which is the first car park on the left).

Dingy and Large Skipper, Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary, Wall Brown.

More information on both sites is at www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland (search on Mabie or Dalbeattie), or contact Forestry Commission Scotland on 01387 860247.

Access
Please follow the Outdoor Access Code when visiting sites www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Forestry Commission
Scotland
BROWNS

25. Speckled Wood
Pararge aegeria
47-50mm
A butterfly of woodlands, this species is spreading within the region. It has been found at sites on and near the Solway coast, along the Ayrshire coast around Culzean, and on Arran. Males are often seen perched in sunlit spots ready to defend their territory or intercept females, and they are on the wing from late April to late October. The caterpillars feed on various grasses.

26. Wall Brown
Lasiomymata megera
44-46mm
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
Found along the Solway and Ayrshire coasts, this is a species which requires grasslands with patches of bare ground for breeding. It is quite common where it occurs, but has recently undergone massive declines over most of England. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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 cliffs, dunes and heaths, but it has been able to colonise many ‘brownfield’ sites, such as old quarries and railway lines. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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 massive 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.

31. Large Heath
Coenonympha tullia
35-40mm
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
The Large Heath is restricted to wet, boggy habitats where Hart’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. It often has prominent spots on the hindwing, but they are not always present. Flies from early June to mid-August.

32. 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. It flies, even in dull conditions, from late June to August, and can be very common.
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.

33. **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.

34. **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 Common Ragwort. The adults fly from mid-May to August in dry, grassy habitats, and occur widely in Dumfries & Galloway, and along the Ayrshire coast. The caterpillars are also conspicuous, having yellow and black stripes.

35. **Forester**
   *Adscita statices*
   22–30mm
   **UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species**
   This striking metallic green moth is probably over-looked. Current records are only from the Solway coast and Mabie Forest. The caterpillar’s foodplant, Common Sorrel is not scarce, so we do not know why this moth is so rare.

36. **Chimney Sweeper**
   *Odezia atrata*
   24–30mm
   This little moth is sometimes mistaken for the Small Blue butterfly (see above). 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.

37. **Speckled Yellow**
   *Pseudopanthera macularia*
   25–30mm
   A common and widespread moth in the region, often disturbed from long grass on sunny days. The caterpillars feed on Wood Sage. On the wing May to June.

38. **Mother Shipton**
   *Callistega 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 and various legumes, such as White Clover and Common Bird’s-foot Trefoil. The adults are on the wing from early May through to early July, and found in sunny habitats with flowery grasslands.

39. **Emperor Moth**
   *Saturnia pavonia*
   55–85mm
   Perhaps the most spectacular of our day-flying moths - and the caterpillars are pretty distinctive as well! This is a common species of moorland, found throughout the area. The caterpillars feed on heathers, bramble and other woody plants. The adults fly in spring, the males often seen speeding across the moors in search of females. Although strikingly-coloured, the caterpillars can be difficult to see, having superb camouflage against the flowering heather.
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 conservation of wildlife 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, capable of detecting changes due to new 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 more 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, digital camera 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 look for them on National Moth Night?

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 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!

Our records are co-ordinated regionally by volunteers. Butterfly records go to: butterfly-recorder@southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk

Moth records go to:
Keith Naylor, 4 James Ewart Avenue, Dalbeattie DG5 4UN keith.naylor@talk21.com
Ayrshire: Neil Gregory, 32 Oldhall Drive, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde, PA13 4RF droitwich@btinternet.com

Want to know more?
The following books are recommended:

Please note flight periods will vary depending on the weather.