

LEPIDOPTERA

UK 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.

LYCAENIDAE



Adonis Blue



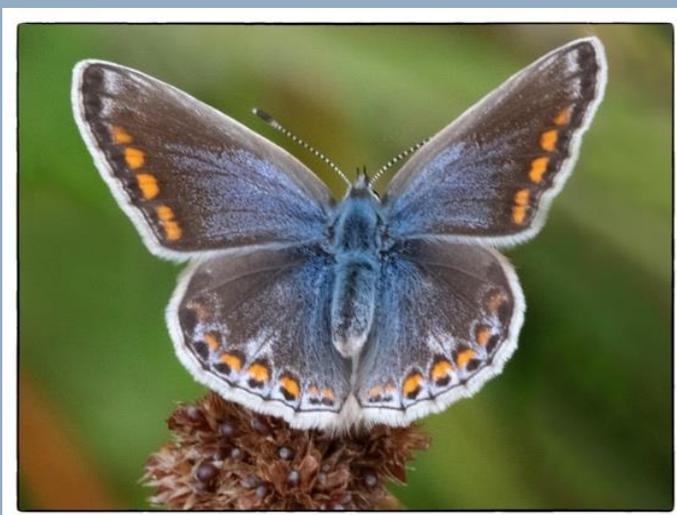
Silver-studded Blue



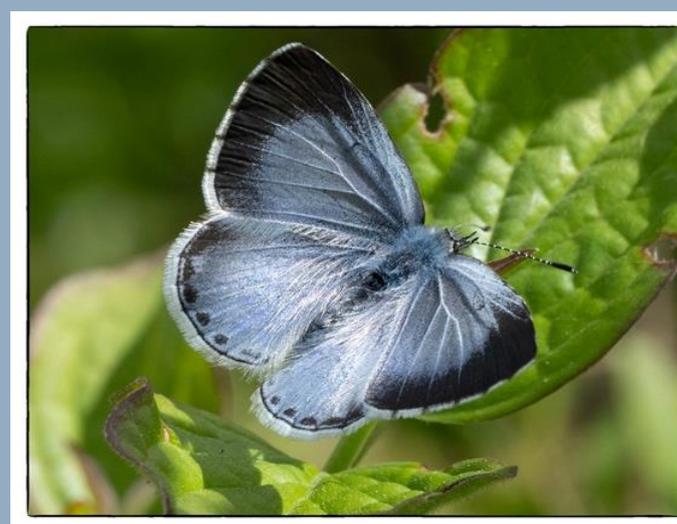
Chalkhill Blue



Large Blue



Common Blue



Holly Blue



Small Blue



Brown Argus



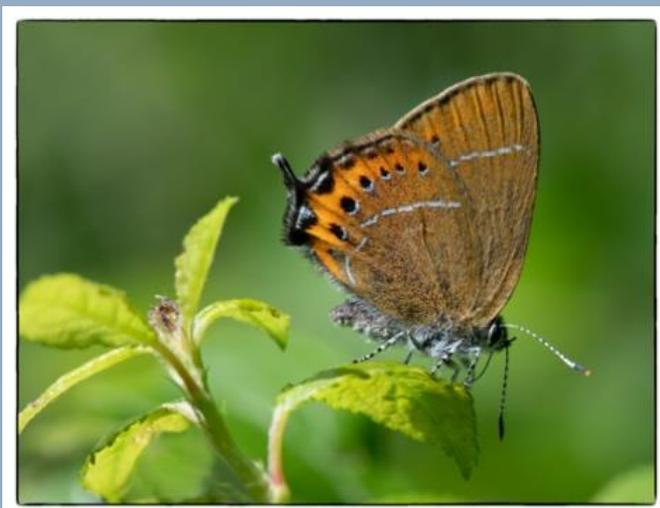
Northern Brown Argus



Brown Hairstreak



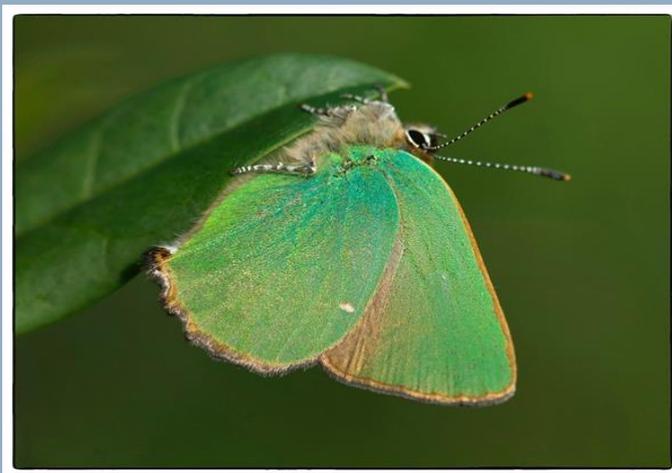
Purple Hairstreak



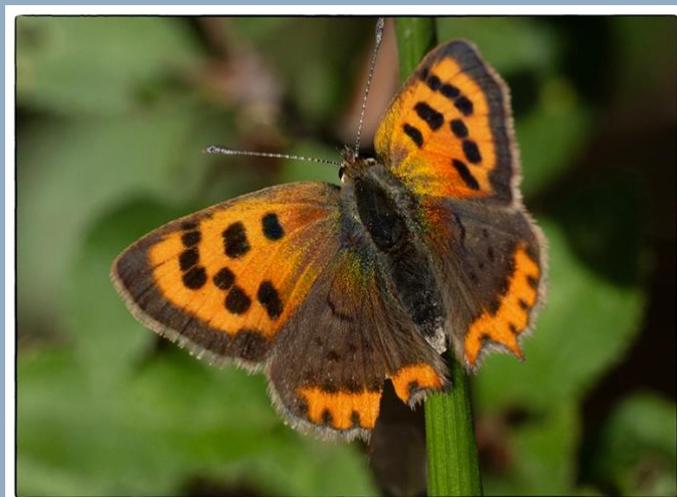
Black Hairstreak



White-letter Hairstreak



Green Hairstreak



Small Copper

PIERIDAE



Wood White



Cryptic Wood



Orange Tip



Large White



Small White



Green-veined White



Clouded Yellow



Brimstone

NYMPHALIDAE



Wall



Speckled Wood



Large Heath



Small Heath



Mountain Ringlet



Scotch Argus



Ringlet



Meadown Brown



Gatekeeper



Marbled White



Grayling



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



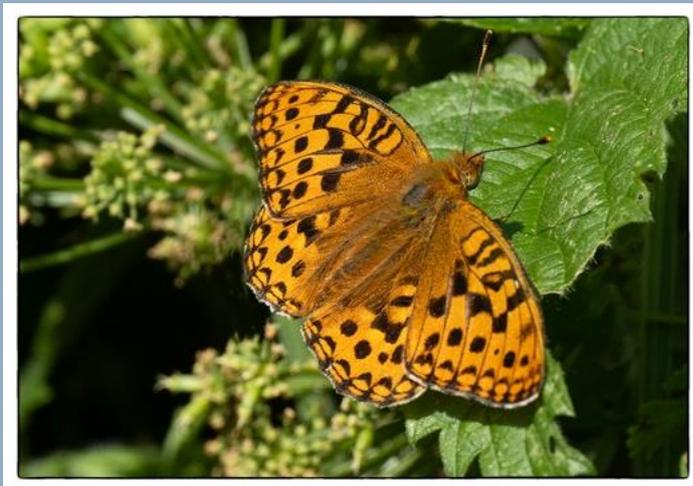
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Silver-Washed Fritillary



Dark-green Fritillary



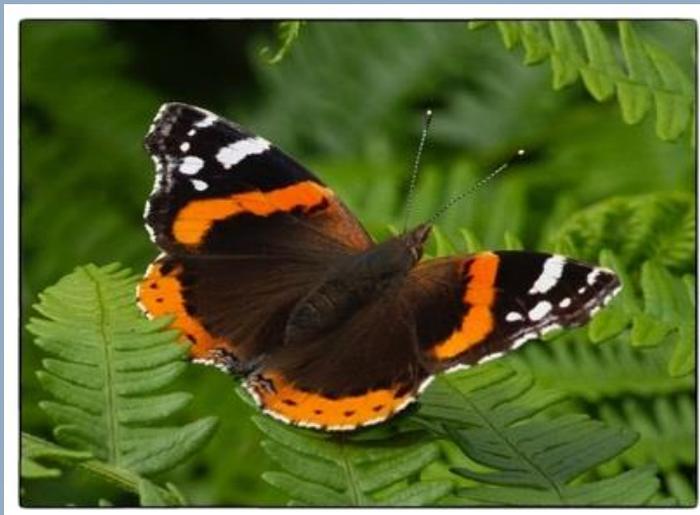
High Brown Fritillary



White Admiral



Purple Emperor



Red Admiral



Painted Lady



Peacock



Small Tortoiseshell



Large Tortoiseshell



Comma



Marsh Fritillary

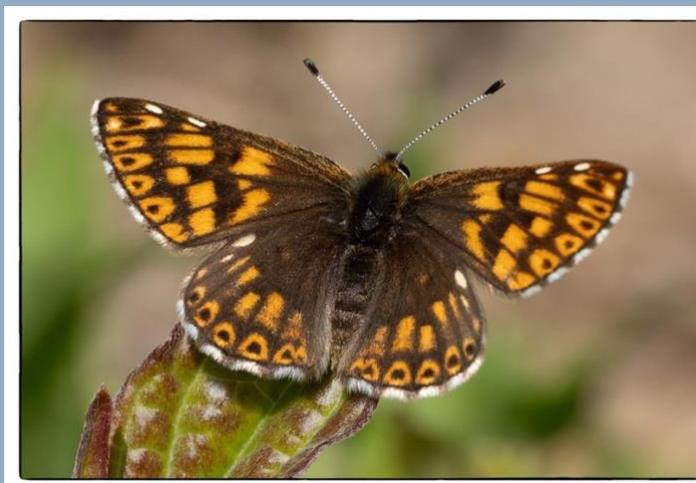


Glanville Fritillary



Heath Fritillary

RIODINIDAE



Duke of Burgundy

HESPERIIDAE



Dingy Skipper



Grizzled Skipper



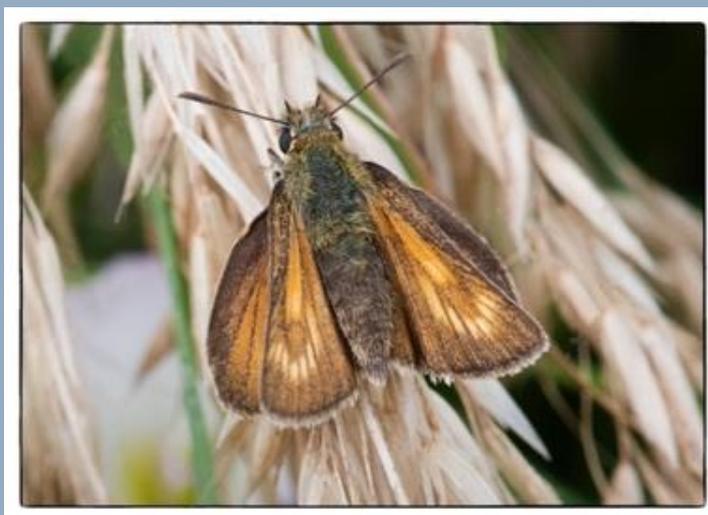
Chequered Skipper



Essex Skipper



Small Skipper



Lulworth Skipper



Silver-spotted Skipper



Large Skipper

PAPILIONADA E



Swallowtail