

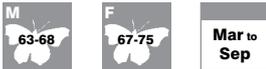
# THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW

## BUTTERFLY SURVEY



### Peacock

*Aglais io*



The larvae feed primarily on Common Nettle.

### Comma

*Polygonia c-album*



The larvae feed on Common Nettle, various Currants & Elms.

### Small Tortoiseshell

*Aglais urticae*



The larvae feed on Common Nettle and Small Nettle.

### Red Admiral

*Vanessa atalanta*



The larvae feed mainly on Common Nettle.

### Gatekeeper

*Pyronia tithonus*



The larvae feed on various grasses including Bents & Fescues.

### Painted Lady

*Vanessa cardui*



The larvae feed primarily on Thistles (also a good nectar source for adults).

### Brimstone

*Gonepteryx rhamni*



The larvae feed on Alder Buckthorn and Buckthorn.

### Speckled Wood

*Pararge aegeria*



Larvae feed on grasses e.g. Cock's-foot, Common Couch & False Brome.



**Ringlet**  
*Aphantopus hyperantus*

**Meadow Brown**  
*Maniola jurtina*

The Gatekeeper is often seen flying with...

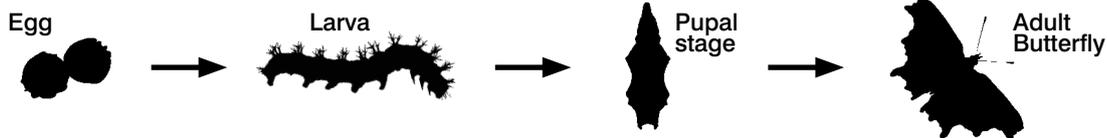
There is a view that the word "butterfly" may have come from "butter-coloured fly" which refers to the yellow colour of the male Brimstone butterfly.

### Key to symbols

- Wing span (mm)  
M=Male F=Female
- Adult in flight

# THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Name	Description	Habitat & Ecology	Distribution
 <b>Peacock</b> <i>Aglais io</i>	The <b>Peacock</b> is unmistakable, with quite spectacular eyespots on the upperside of the hindwings that give this butterfly its common name.	They may be seen almost anywhere, in search of suitable sites for feeding and laying their eggs. Peacocks emerge from hibernation at the end of March beginning of April, mate and give rise to the next generation which emerges in July. Familiar summer visitor to gardens.	This is a widespread butterfly that occurs throughout England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Comma</b> <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	The <b>Comma</b> gets its name from the only white marking on its underside, which looks like a comma. When resting with wings closed this butterfly has excellent camouflage, the jagged outline of the wings gives it the appearance of a dead leaf.	Open woodland and wood edges are the main habitats for breeding and hibernation though they can be seen in gardens and other habitats in search of nectar sources. It can be seen at any time of the year, occasionally awakening on warm winter days. The butterfly emerges from hibernation in March, giving rise to the next generation which appear at the end of June and start of July.	After a severe decline in the twentieth century and subsequent comeback. It is now widespread in southern Britain, with its range expanding northwards. so it can be found throughout England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Small Tortoiseshell</b> <i>Aglais urticae</i>	The <b>Small Tortoiseshell</b> is one of Britain's most-familiar butterflies, frequently appearing in gardens. The adult has a distinctive patterning with bright orange and black wings with a white spot on the forewing.	The adult butterflies can be seen almost anywhere and at any time of the year, even in the winter if the temperature is high enough to wake them from hibernation. It normally emerges from hibernation at the end of March, beginning of April.	The Small Tortoiseshell is one of the most widespread UK species and occurs throughout England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Red Admiral</b> <i>Vanessa atlantica</i>	The adult is unmistakable, with velvety black wings and striking red bands.	Being regular migrants each spring and continuing through the summer, these butterflies migrate northwards. On arrival the females lay eggs and there is an emergence of fresh butterflies from about July onwards. Some individuals remain over the winter in the south of England. Can be seen almost anywhere.	Red Admirals can be found throughout England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Gatekeeper</b> <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Orange and brown with a black eyespot on forewing tip. The Eyespots have two white pupils, not one, as in the Meadow Brown. It spends much of its time basking with its wings open.	This species can be found wherever shrubs grow close to grassland. Often found in grassland where tall grasses grow close to hedges, trees, or scrub. They avoid open grassland with short vegetation. The adults emerge in July, peaking in early August.	The Gatekeeper is widespread and common throughout England, though scarcer in the north.  Distribution in England
 <b>Painted Lady</b> <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	The adult butterfly has orange-brown wings with black and white spots on the forewing.	This is a migrant to our shores from north Africa. Adults are first seen in late March as they start to arrive and numbers build up in May and June as more arrive. Because it is a wide-ranging migrant, the Painted Lady may be seen in any habitat. Adults tend to congregate in open areas with plenty of thistles.	The Painted Lady is a strong flier and can be found throughout England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Brimstone</b> <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	<b>Brimstones</b> have leaf-shaped wings and always rest with their wings closed. The males have yellow-green underwings and yellow upperwings. The females have pale yellow-green wings, looking almost white in flight.	The Brimstone is a great wanderer and can be found in almost any habitat, wherever foodplants are available in sunny positions. The single-brooded butterfly can be found in most months of the year, although peak flight times are in April and May.	The Brimstone has spread in recent years, mainly in northern England.  Distribution in England
 <b>Speckled Wood</b> <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	The adult butterfly is dark brown with creamy white patches on the wings.	As its name suggests, it is primarily found in woodland as well as shaded scrub areas such as hedgerows and gardens. Males usually perch in a small pool of sunlight. Both sexes feed on honeydew in the tree tops and are rarely seen feeding on flowers, except early and late in the year when aphid activity is low.	It is found throughout England though it is scarcer in the north. It has spread over the past two decades, it has recolonised many areas in eastern and northern England.  Distribution in England

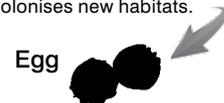


The egg is a tiny, round, oval, or cylindrical object, usually with fine ribs and other microscopic structures. The female attaches the egg to leaves, stems, or other objects, usually on or near the intended larval food.

The larva (or caterpillar) is the long, worm-like stage of the butterfly. It often has an interesting pattern of stripes or patches, and it may have spine-like hairs. As it grows, it sheds its skin four or more times so as to enclose its rapidly growing body.

The pupa (or chrysalis) is the transformation stage within which the caterpillar is transformed into the adult insect. The chrysalis of most species is brown or green and blends into the background. Many species spend the winter in this stage.

The adult (or imago) is the reproductive and mobile stage. The adults undergo courtship, mating, and egg-laying. The adult butterfly is also the stage that migrates or colonises new habitats.



**Information sources:** <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>; [ukbutterflies.co.uk](http://ukbutterflies.co.uk); [kidsbutterfly.org](http://kidsbutterfly.org)

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