

Butterflies of Wychwood Forest

These are the 34 butterfly species you could find in the Wychwood Forest area.
Some butterflies only fly at specific times of year.
Check <https://butterfly-conservation.org/uk-butterflies/a-to-z> for flight times.

COMMON & WIDESPREAD 'WHITES'

ORANGE-TIP on Ladies Smock, Garlic Mustard



Wing-tips are rounded - orange for the male, grey for the female. Both have blotchy green 'camouflage' underside.

SMALL WHITE
Various Crucifers



Grey/black marks/smudges at the wing tips, don't extend along outer edge.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE
Garlic & Hedge Mustard



Damp, lush areas. Similar to other whites but has streaked, greeny-grey lines on underside.

LARGE WHITE
Various Crucifers



Largest black marks at wing tips, continuing along the outer edge. in an unbroken, L shape

BRIMSTONE
Purging/Alder Buckthorn



Buttery or greeny-yellow colour. Pointy wing-tips. No black. Female is paler.

The white butterflies can be tricky to identify. If in doubt, don't record it, ...you'll see another one! You can also find ID guides online.

GRASSLANDS

MEADOW BROWN
Grasses, bents, fescues



Medium. Dusty brown with orange 1 white dot in black circle.

DINGY SKIPPER
Vetches and trefoils



Very rare. Small, brown, indistinct markings

COMMON BLUE
Bird's-foot Trefoil



Blue, clear white border. Often near its foodplant. Female is brown not blue.

BROWN ARGUS
Common Rock-rose



Small, Brown with strong orange 'lozenges' on all wing edges

MARBLED WHITE
Red fescue



Large butterfly. Black & white chequerboard pattern

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY Dog-violet



Large, orange & black, white dots on underside, On chalk grass w/scrub. Unusual to find in this landscape.

CLOUDED YELLOW
Clovers, nectar-sources



Uncommon migrant. Looks golden in flight with black wing tips.

SMALL HEATH
Fine grasses, fescues



Very small. Dusty, orange w/ rounded wings. Always rests with wings closed and short white streak always visible.

ESSEX SKIPPER
Cock's-foot



Tiny, orange, triangular Very similar to Small Skipper. Underside of Antennae tips are **jet black**

SMALL SKIPPER
Yorkshire-fog



Tiny, orange, triangular. Very similar to Essex Skipper. Underside of antennae tips are **orange**

Tick-off the butterflies you see.
Please enter your sightings using the free **iRecord Butterflies app** from iTunes or the Google store

These Skippers are almost identical. To learn, Google "skipper identification"



SCRUB, HEDGEROWS & GARDENS

RED ADMIRAL
Nettle



Big, bold, dark butterfly with orange or red marks

GREEN HAIRSTREAK
Rockrose, Gorse, Broom



Our only green butterfly. Perches with wings closed on shrubs

HOLLY BLUE
Holly, Ivy



Pale blue. In gardens, parks, churchyards. No orange on underside

COMMA
Nettle and currants



Our only butterfly with a wavy edge. On scrub woodland edges.

RINGLET
Lush Grasses



Dark with white border. Underneath it has white ringed eyes. On scrub.

PAINTED LADY
Thistles and Nettle



Migrant. Big, orange w/black and white tips. Grey-ish underside

PEACOCK
Nettle



Only butterfly with big colourful eye-spots

SM. TORTOISESHELL
Nettle



Anywher with nectar. Rich Orange and black markings. Plus blue dots

GATEKEEPER
Grasses, bents, fescues



Orange with brown. 2 white dots in black circle.

WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK - Elm



Grey-brown. Black line inside orange edge. Flits around elms. More orange/brown than Purple Hairstreak.

WOODLANDS, RIDES & CLEARINGS

WHITE ADMIRAL
Honeysuckle



Big. On woodland and clearing edges

PURPLE EMPEROR
Sallows in sun



Vey big. Flies at top of canopy. Mud-puddles.

SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY - Violets



Large & orange. Usually in sunny oak woods & rides. Glides in flight.

PURPLE HAIRSTREAK
Oak



Small, grey triangle at top of sunny oaks. Look on sunny evenings.

SPECKLED WOOD
Grasses



In sun-speckled wooded clearings with grasses

ROUGH, SHRUBBY GRASSLAND

SMALL COPPER
Sorrel and Dock



Small & striking. Orange forewing, brown hindwing

LARGE SKIPPER
Cock's-foot



Orange w/lighter squares. Roosts on tall scrub & twigs.

BROWN HAIRSTREAK
Blackthorn



Medium, brown but looks orangey in flight around uncut blackthorn. More likely closer to Oxford.

BROWN HAIRSTREAK
Egg on Blackthorn



Tiny white egg, usually at join with new growth or thorn. Search Blackthorn in winter.

BLACK HAIRSTREAK
Blackthorn



Rare. Small. Black dots in orange border. Woodland edges, hedgerows & thickets.

SHRUBBY BLACKTHORN



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

To find out more about us visit:

www.butterfly-conservation.org



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