

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



WHITE BUTTERFLIES



OPTIONAL - BRING ALONG A RULER TO GET AN IDEA OF BUTTERFLY SPECIES SIZES



Green-veined white

Average wingspan: 50mm

Pronounced markings along veins on their undersides – on their forewings, they have broken patches of black.



Large white

Average wingspan: 67mm

Black marks at the wing tips, with black colour continuing along the outer edge of the wings.



Marbled white

Average wingspan: 55mm

Black and white checked pattern across the wings.

Small white

Average wingspan: 48mm

Less grey or black marks at the wing tips, with colour only extending slightly along the outer edge of the wing.



Orange-tip

Average wingspan: 47mm

Males are white with bold orange patches on the forewings and light grey wingtips. Females are white with grey-black wingtips.

YELLOW/GREEN BUTTERFLIES



Brimstone

Average wingspan: 60mm

Large butterfly with a greyish body and veined leaf-like pointed wings. Males are lemon-yellow, while females are greenish-white with orange spots in the middle of each wing.

BLUE BUTTERFLIES



Holly blue

Average wingspan: 35mm

Chequered fringe on the wing edge (white with black stripes on the upper wing).



Common blue

Average wingspan: 35mm

A plain white fringe on the edges of the wings.

BROWN BUTTERFLIES



Meadow brown

Average wingspan: 53mm

Brown with orange stains and a single black eyespot on forewings.



Gatekeeper

Average wingspan: 44mm

Brown with distinct orange patches and black eyespots with white dots on each forewing.



Wall brown

Average wingspan: 45mm

Mainly pale orange with greyish-brown markings and multiple black eyespots.

Ringlet

Average wingspan: 50mm

Multiple small circles on the underwings which vary in number, size and shape. Sometimes they are just white spots without the black ring.



Speckled wood

Average wingspan: 49mm

Dark brown with creamy yellow spots. Three small, cream-ringed eyespots on each hindwing and one on each forewing.

ORANGE BUTTERFLIES



Small tortoiseshell

Average wingspan:

male 55mm, female 62mm

Orange with black and yellow markings on the forewings and blue marks on the wing edges.



Red admiral

Average wingspan: 64–78mm

Black with broad, red stripes on the hindwings and forewings, and white spots near the tips of the forewings.



Comma

Average wingspan:

50–64mm

Orange with black spots and scalloped wing edges.



Peacock

Average wingspan: 66mm

Deep red with black marks and blue eye spots on the forewings and hindwings.



Painted lady

Average wingspan: 58–74mm

Orange with black and white tips on forewings and black spots on both forewings and hindwings.



Small heath

Average wingspan:

36mm

Small, light orange with one eyespot on each forewing. The underside of hindwings are brown-grey. Always rests with wings closed.



Skipper species

Average wingspan: 28–34mm

Skippers hold their forewings angled above the hind wings. They have a triangular shape.



Small copper

Average wingspan: 34mm

Orange with dark brown spots and a thick brown edge on forewings, and dark brown hindwings with orange bands.