

Spotting Butterflies

Here are some popular Welsh butterflies you may spot!

1.



Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

These small butterflies can be found in dry habitats between April and October.

What do they eat?

Adult Small Coppers feed on ragwort and thistles, while caterpillars feed on sheep's sorrel.

Interesting Fact

An early description was 'the small golden black-spotted meadow butterfly'.

2.



Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

Adult Brimstones hibernate over winter and can be found in parks, gardens, woodland and hedgerows on warm spring days.

What do they eat?

Adults feed on nectar from flowers, and caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn.

Interesting Fact

Brimstones always settle with their wings closed and this helps them disguise among leaves.

3.



Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)

This orange-brown butterfly with a 'comma' shape on the underwing and can be spotted all year round!

What do they eat?

Caterpillars feed on stinging nettle, while adults feed on the nectar of wild flowers like thistle.

Interesting Fact

The caterpillars are perfectly disguised to look like bird poo!

4.



Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

The Holly Blue is light silver blue in colour with black borders on their upper wings.

What do they eat?

Adults feed on nectar, tree sap and juice from rotting fruit and carrion, and caterpillars feed on the flower buds of holly and ivy.

Interesting Fact

The Holly Blue is recognised as the national butterfly of Finland.