

Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Mar-14 09:52 PM GMT

Today in the beautiful weather I went to Southwick Canal. On the way there, from the car, I saw a butterfly flying alongside the road ?a Tortoiseshell. I was rewarded there by my first Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Small White of the year. There were 2 Peacocks, one Brimstone, one Small White and plenty of Tortoiseshells. There was plenty of butterfly activity with three Small Tortoiseshells spiralling high into the air multiple times and plenty of butterflies chasing each other off e.g. a Brimstone chasing off the Small White which was in turn chased off by a Small Tortoiseshell. I then met some friends and we walked up to Cissbury Ring. We saw multiple Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks and one Brimstone.





Re: Katrina

by David M, 09-Mar-14 10:01 PM GMT

Your Small White is the sighting of the day without doubt!

Re: Katrina

by Maximus, 09-Mar-14 10:23 PM GMT

Hi Katrina, I agree with David, yes it is an amazing sighting.

Mike

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Mar-14 10:28 PM GMT

I was surprised to find it but some have been reported even earlier on the Sussex Butterfly Conservation website.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-14 11:49 PM GMT

I'm with the others the Small White is the sighting of the day - it may be the first photo of the species for 2014 on UKB 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 10-Mar-14 01:05 AM GMT

Great spot Katrina! A nice surprise to see a Small White this early, not long now before the Orange Tips arrive 😊

B'saurus

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 19-Mar-14 11:33 PM GMT

Today I went to the work party at Heyshott. It was another lovely day. On the way up I passed a bank of primroses and, although I had a lot to do this afternoon, I managed to stop for 5 minutes on the way down. I found one brimstone, 2 tortoiseshells and a peacock.



Re: Katrina

by Susie, 20-Mar-14 08:23 AM GMT

I love your photos of the peacock in the primroses, Katrina 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 20-Mar-14 11:29 PM GMT

Thank you - the photos could be better but I really liked seeing the butterflies on the primroses as it made me feel that spring has really arrived.

Re: Katrina

by Neil Freeman, 21-Mar-14 09:09 PM GMT

Hi Katrina,

Nice Peacocks on Primroses, I also like the Peacock on the stones in your first post.

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 24-Mar-14 12:00 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Peacocks Katrina especially the last one, it's lush 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 30-Mar-14 03:16 PM GMT

Today I went early to Pulborough Brooks and saw one peacock. Then on to Rackham Woods where I saw my first red admiral of the year, one small tortoiseshell, two Brimstones and at least 2 peacocks. The onwards to Mill Hill where they are now grazing cattle. It had clouded over by the time I got there but I found one small tortoiseshell and 2 peacocks.





Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 03-Apr-14 10:03 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Mill Hill and saw Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks and a single Brimstone but no sign of the Grizzled Skipper. I also saw the back of a grass snake disappearing into the undergrowth. I found a brown moth which someone kindly identified for me on ispot as a Straw-barred Pearl (*pyrausta despicata*) which is a new one for me.



Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 06-Apr-14 07:24 PM GMT

Today I went to Pulborough Brooks. No butterflies but I saw 4 Avocets and my first Swallow of the year.

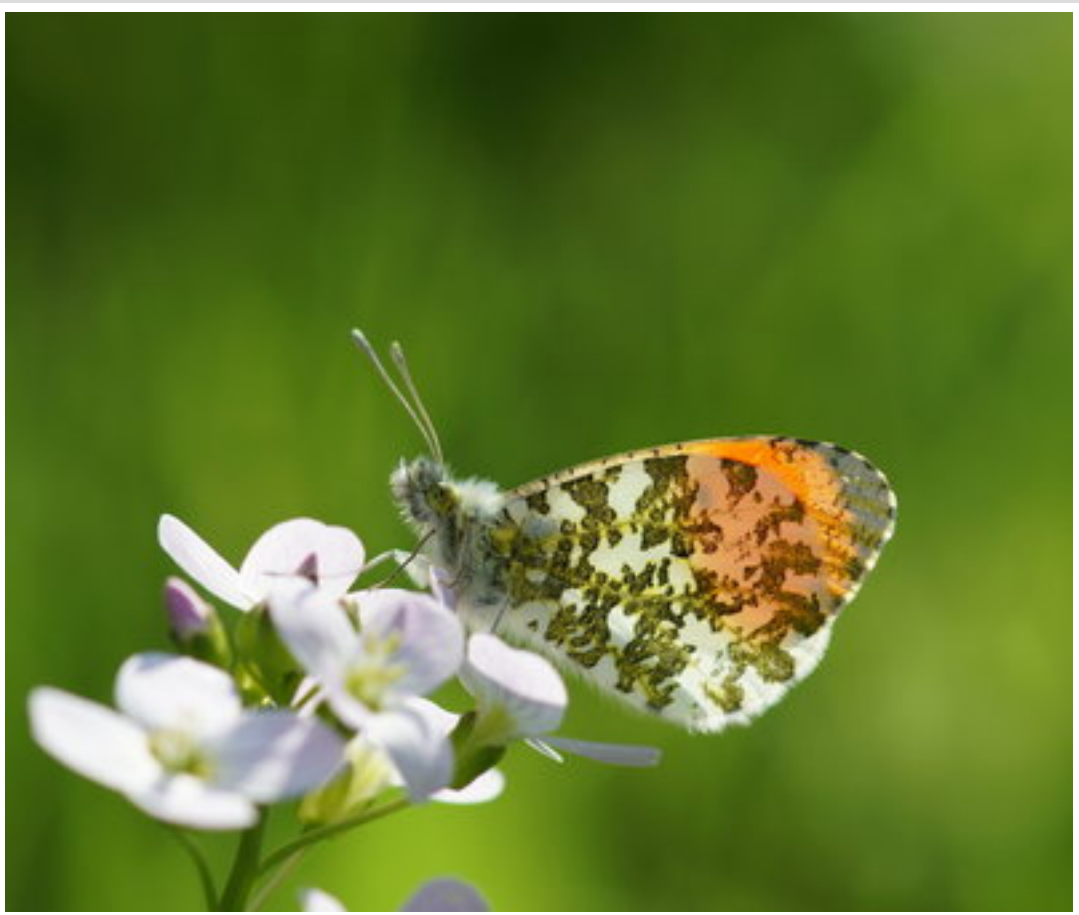
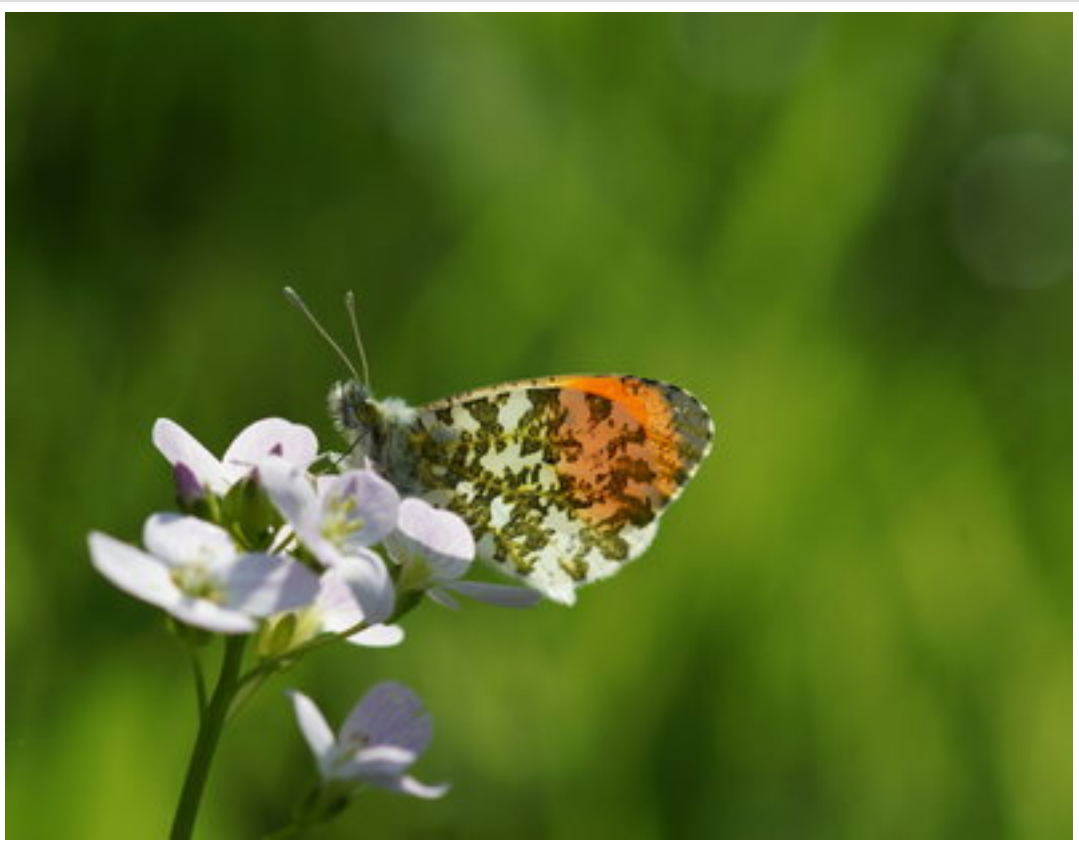




Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Apr-14 11:06 PM GMT

Today I saw my first orange tips, commas, green veined white and speckled wood of the year.





Re: Katrina

by robpartridge, 10-Apr-14 11:32 AM GMT

Nice detail on the head of that Orange Tip. May I ask my usual question – camera and lens?

Rob

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 11-Apr-14 07:13 AM GMT

Thank you! Camera is a Sony SLT-A77. The lens is a Sony 2.8/100 macro (the only macro lens in the shop which would fit). I don't know much about photography so I leave it on auto all the time. The detail is good but it does seem to be noisy compared to other peoples cameras which can disturb the butterflies. I am not sure if it is the camera or lens which is noisy. Hope that is helpful!

Re: Katrina

by robpartridge, 11-Apr-14 08:17 AM GMT

Thanks, Katrina – I'm always looking at cameras and lenses, and wondering but the old Lumix FZ38 still manages some good pictures. I don't know enough about photography to justify the expense of a proper camera I fear, and some people seem to spend more time fiddling with settings than they do looking at butterflies!

Rob

Re: Katrina

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Apr-14 07:04 PM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

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Hi Katrina, The noise is almost definitely the lens, have a look at this Sigma lens for your Sony <http://www.ephotozine.com/article/sigma...-fit-19238> I think it's around £400 new.

It should be a lot quieter than your Sony Macro lens which I believe is a re badged Minolta. I have used the Sigma and it's a great Macro lens. Everything works internally so the lens does not extend in use, this can also scare off some of the more "flighty" insects. The downside is it's a bit heavy to carry around all day. If you're able to it would be good to take your Sony SLT-A77 to a local camera shop (with the Sigma lens in stock) and ask to try it on your Sony. I'm certain you'll find it's a lot quieter. Other than that I believe that Amazon lets you "try and return" for free if it's not to your liking.

I hope this is helpful 😊

Best wishes

B'saurus

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 11-Apr-14 07:18 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

"Katrina" wrote:

Thank you! Camera is a Sony SLT-A77. The lens is a Sony 2.8/100 macro (the only macro lens in the shop which would fit). I don't know much about photography so I leave it on auto all the time. The detail is good but it does seem to be noisy compared to other peoples cameras which can disturb the butterflies. I am not sure if it is the camera or lens which is noisy. Hope that is helpful!

Hi Katrina, The noise is almost definitely the lens, have a look at this Sigma lens for your Sony [http://www.ephotozine.com/article/sigma ... -fit-19238](http://www.ephotozine.com/article/sigma...-fit-19238) I think it's around £400 new.

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I hope this is helpful 😊

Best wishes

B'saurus

Thank you – very helpful info. I have been thinking of trying a new lens.

Re: Katrina

by MikeOxon, 11-Apr-14 07:23 PM GMT

Remember that you always have the option to focus manually! I think it is better to do that with macro photography, as you can be sure that you focus on the right bit! It's often a good idea to pre-focus the lens at the magnification you want and then rock yourself back and forwards until the subject is in focus, rather than changing the lens setting. I use a monopod to keep things steady, while still allowing me some freedom of movement.

The Sony/ex-Minolta lens is excellent – see <http://www.kenrockwell.com/minolta/maxxum/100mm-f28.htm> for a review – and I certainly wouldn't change it on image quality grounds!

mike

Re: Katrina

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Apr-14 07:54 PM GMT

Mike is spot on of course the Minolta is a excellent Macro lens – as your lovely photos illustrate. I use manual focus a lot but I also find that I have to use my camera 'one handed' reasonably often making it impossible to focus manually. Many of the places and situations some of us find ourselves in trying to get a perfect butterfly shot can only be made possible by holding onto something with one hand and taking a photo with the other 😊 On occasion I also need to hold an obstacle out of the way with one hand and take the shot with the other.

A lot depends on your style of photography, some butterflies rarely sit still for long and auto focus can be a lot faster – making the difference between getting the shot or not. Ideally we would be able to use manual focus all of the time. If you really need auto focus for the reasons I've mentioned then it's worth checking out the Sigma. If you're able to use manual focus most of the time then there's definitely no reason to change anything.

FWIW on auto or not, your photos look very good to me.

B'saurus

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 12-Apr-14 03:48 PM GMT

Today I went to Malling Down early and mainly stayed in the lane. I saw 2 Holly Blues (my first of the year), 2 Orange Tips, 2 Brimstones, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood and my first damselfly of the year. I then went to Pulborough Brooks and saw a Bank Vole.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-14 10:06 PM GMT

I love the female Orange-tip shot a very different perspective 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by David M, 13-Apr-14 12:04 AM GMT

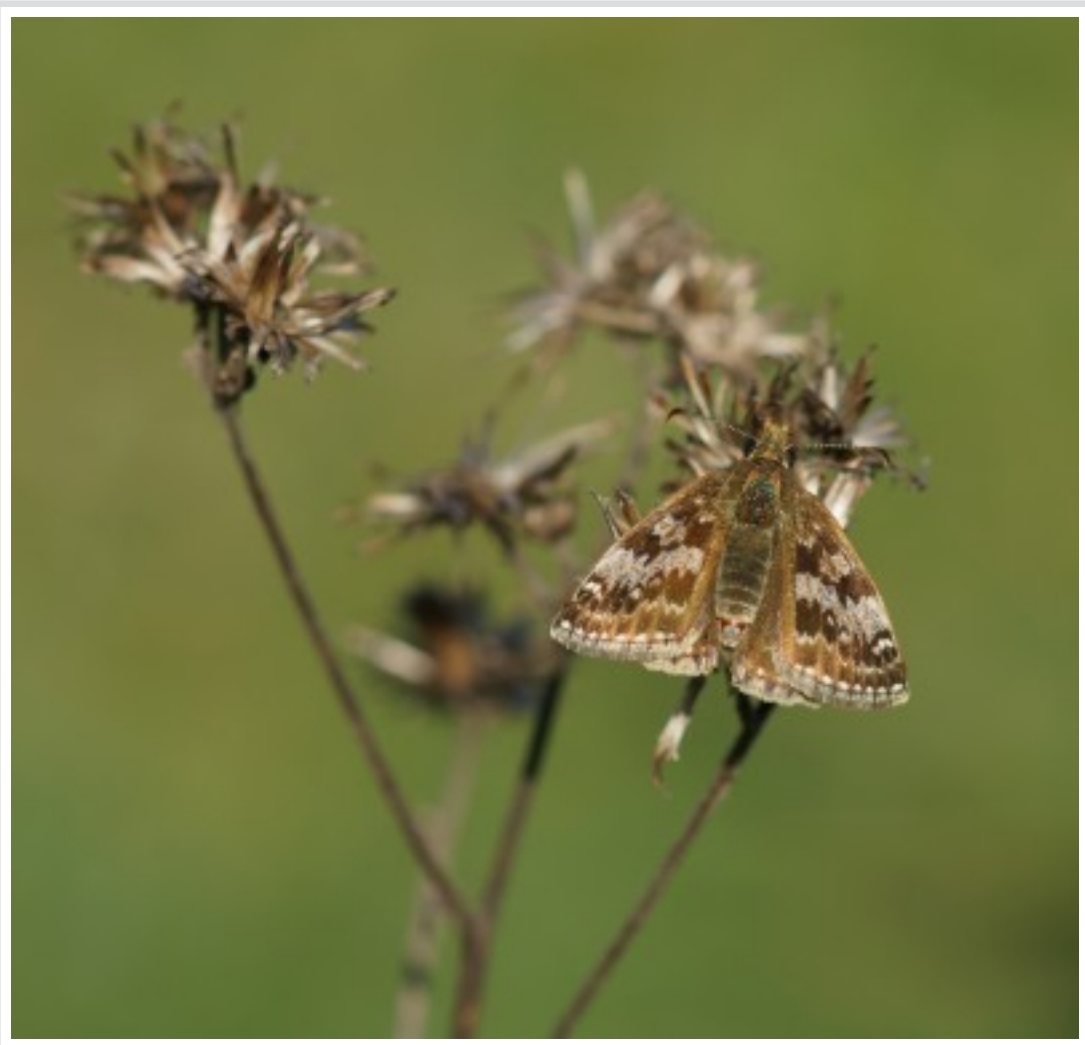
Aaah!! Holly Blue.

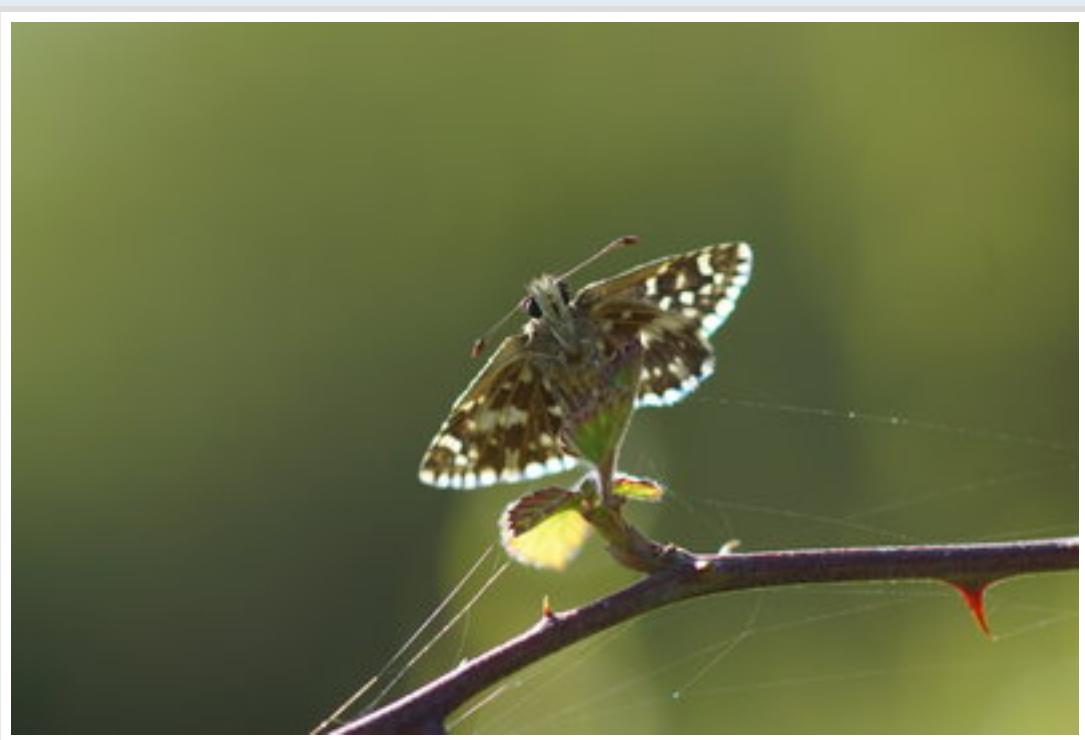
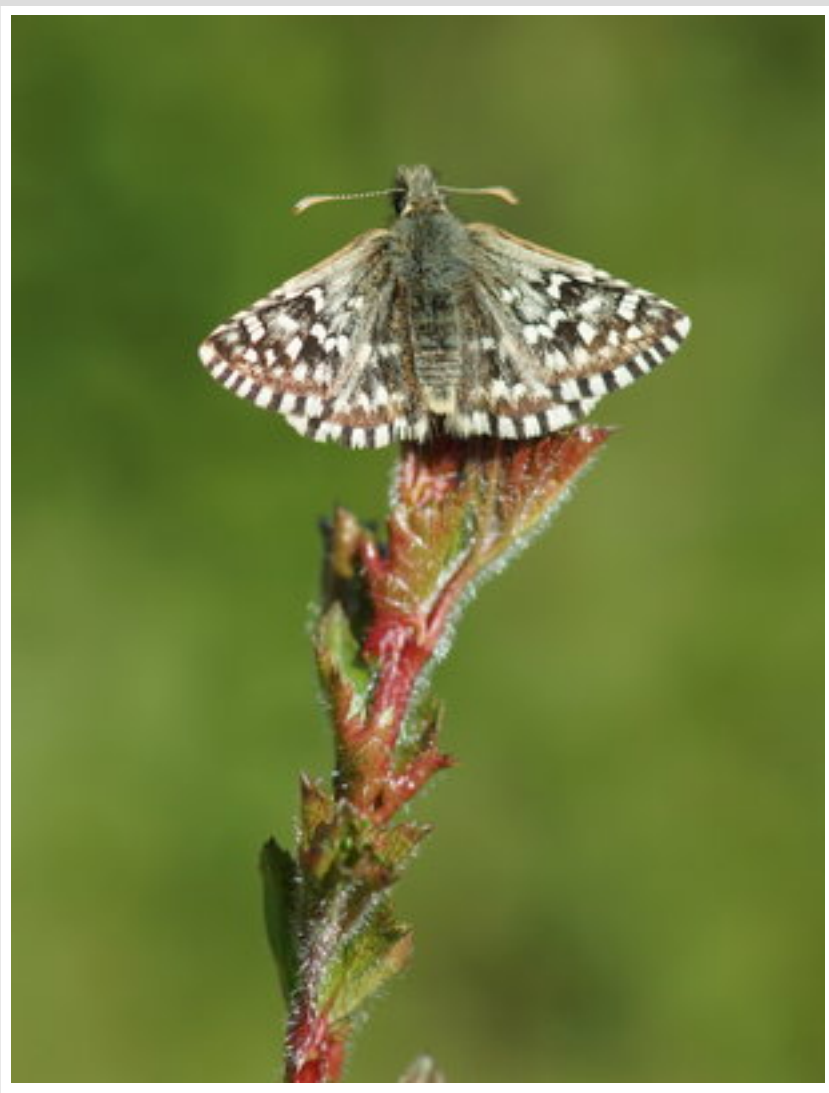
You're making me jealous.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Apr-14 09:41 PM GMT

Today following other reports of sightings I went to Mill Hill and saw at least 2 Grizzled Skippers and at least one Dingy Skipper and 2 Peacocks.





Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Apr-14 09:48 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Aaah!! Holly Blue.

You're making me jealous.

If it makes you feel better the Holly Blues weren't being helpful at all. They kept flying where I couldn't reach them and I pretty much had to stand in brambles to get the photo!

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-14 10:01 PM GMT

Loving the Skipper shots – especially the last one 😊🍷 It's all kicking off now!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Apr-14 10:20 PM GMT

Thank you! It is definitely kicking off now and harder to choose where to go looking for butterflies.

Re: Katrina

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Apr-14 01:56 PM GMT

Love the last Grizzled shot – fantastic.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Apr-14 07:11 PM GMT

Today I saw my first Green Hairstreaks of the year up on the Downs.



Re: Katrina

by William, 16-Apr-14 08:02 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Loving the Skipper shots – especially the last one 😊👍 It's all kicking off now!

Seconded 😊 – and that Green Hairstreak is stunning 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Apr-14 08:40 PM GMT

Thank you! Just a shame the antennae weren't pointing up. When are you going to put us of our misery waiting for news re the pupa William? A boy or a girl OT?

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Apr-14 09:16 PM GMT

Another photo of the Green Hairstreak



Re: Katrina

by Susie, 16-Apr-14 09:23 PM GMT

Beautiful green hairstreak 😊

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-14 11:09 PM GMT

Lovely Greenstreak shots Katrina 😊🍷 I need to get me some of those 😊

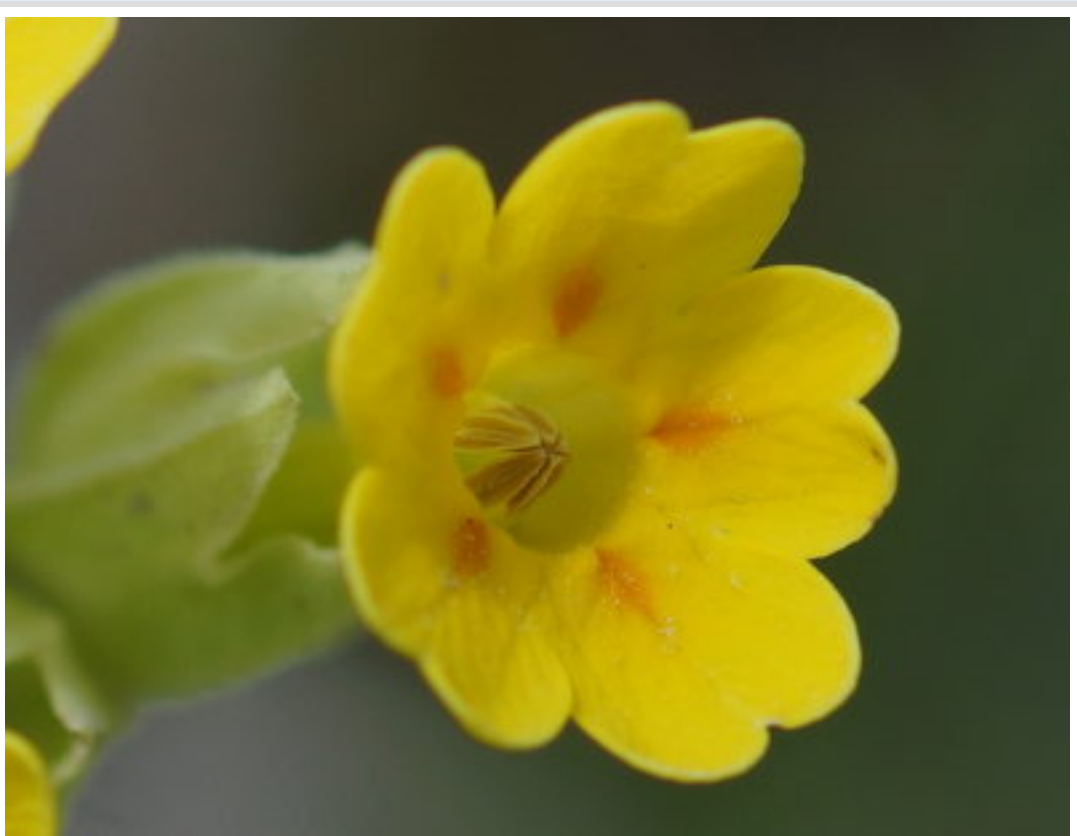
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 18-Apr-14 10:19 PM GMT

Today me and my sister, who is visiting for a couple of days, went to Mill Hill early. We saw several Grizzled and Dingy Skippers one Green Hairstreak and one Small Tortoiseshell. We left just as butterfly activity was increasing as we thought we would try our luck looking for the Dukes at Heyshott. It was not to be, the weather was mainly cloudy with the occasional sunny spell but a cool breeze. We saw 2 butterflies flying which we lost before they landed. We think one was probably a Dingy Skipper and one possibly a Grizzled. We did, however, enjoy the gorgeous flowers there at the moment including large numbers of cowslips and some orchids.





Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 19-Apr-14 10:54 PM GMT

This morning we went to Rewell Wood. We didn't see any PBFs, but did see one Speckled Wood, one rather ghostly looking moth and a Green Tiger Beetle. We then went to Arundel WWT where the highlight was seeing 3 Water Voles.



Re: Katrina

by Lee Hurrell, 20-Apr-14 09:47 AM GMT

Lovely. Not sure I've ever seen a water vole.

I read only this week that they have decreased by over 90% in the last 30 years or so...mostly due to the American mink and habitat loss.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 20-Apr-14 09:55 PM GMT

Arundel WWT is well worth a visit if you want to see water voles. I think they released them onto the reserve some years ago and have fences to protect the birds and voles. I see one approx 50% of the times I go. They can be seen anywhere but the boat ride and reed bed walks are the best bets.

Re: Katrina

by FISHiEE, 20-Apr-14 10:29 PM GMT

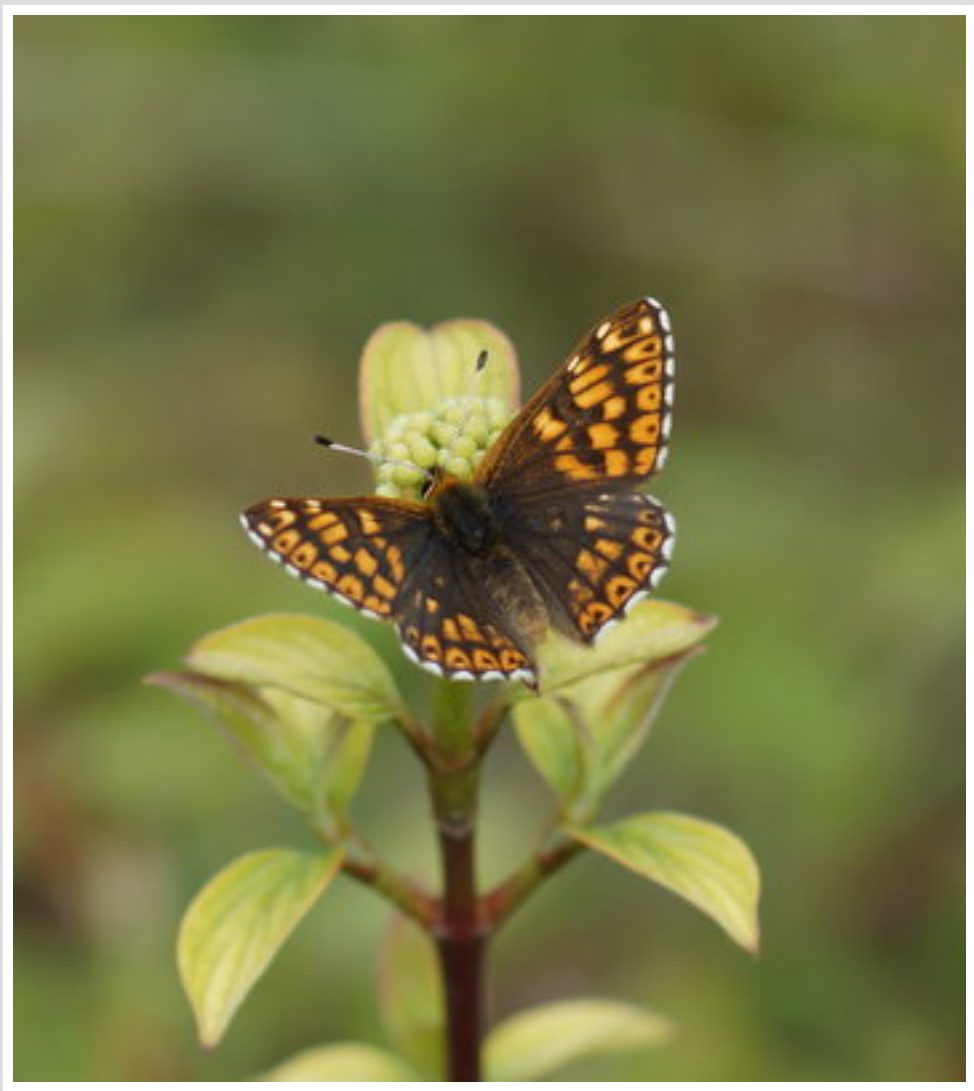
Think we bumped into you at resell wood on Saturday. We only managed a couple of peacocks and then gave up as the cloud cover came over.

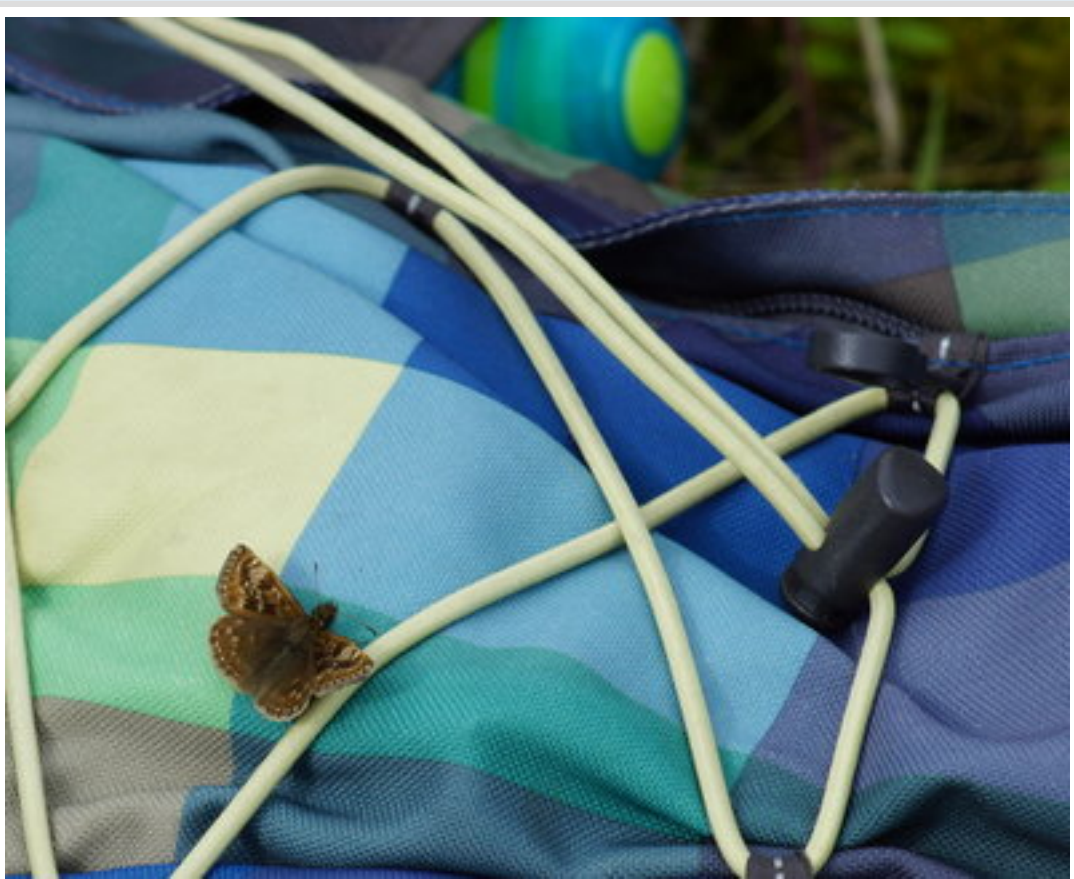
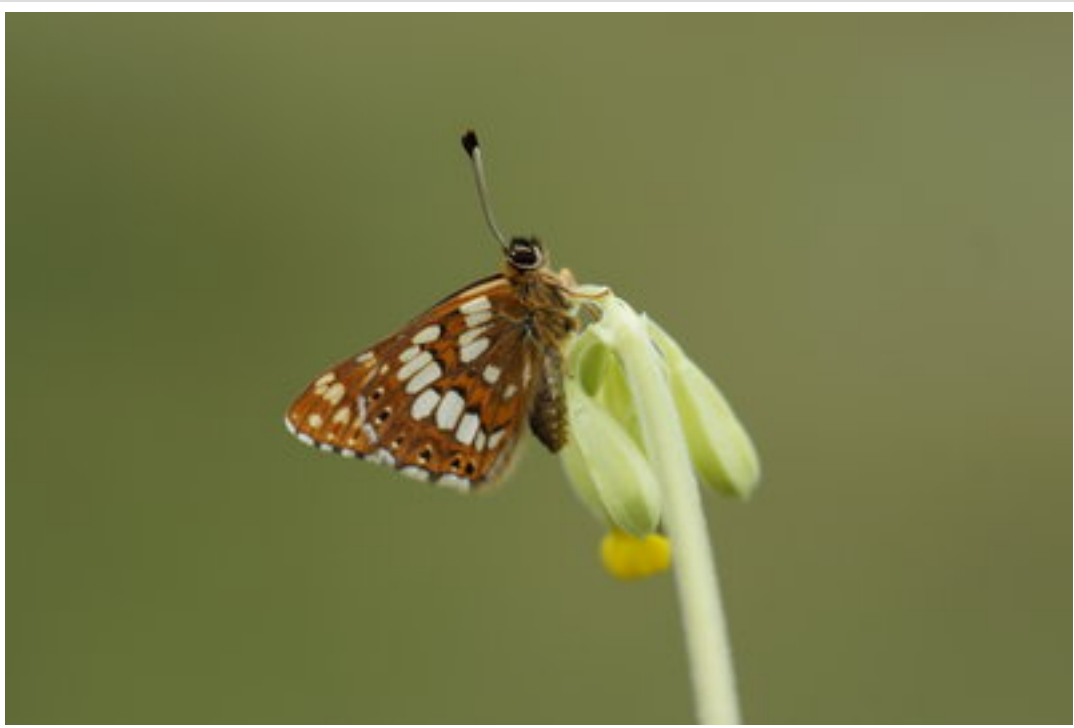
If you go to Arundel you should have a walk along the stream below the castle. There are quite a lot of water voles there and they are very used to the large number of people walking on the footpath there and can be sitting on the bank just a couple of feet from you and take no notice of you at all!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 23-Apr-14 09:04 PM GMT

Today was a good day. I went to Heyshott to look for the Duke of Burgundys. I met Susie there and later Neil. I found 2 myself, one of which was particularly easy to photograph, so much so I even had time to play with the camera and find how to adjust the aperture on the pictures. I also went for a walk to do a cursory check for other Dukes but quickly decided to head back to the one I had found previously which was still in the same spot when I returned. Neil then arrived and gave me a little help with the photography. Thank you Neil for the help and for helping protect the Dukes! We then went to look for other Dukes but in fact Neil spotted all the rest. I then pushed my luck by going to Rewell Wood but it started lightly drizzling on the way there and didn't stop. Overall, though, an excellent day.





Re: Katrina

by William, 23-Apr-14 09:05 PM GMT

Those last two, particularly the Duke are stunning, your playing with the aperture has paid off to get that lovely blurred background 😊😊

Re: Katrina

by David M, 23-Apr-14 09:49 PM GMT

Simply love the Dingy on the canvas.

Amazing how butterflies will occasionally pose unnaturally for the camera!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 23-Apr-14 09:55 PM GMT

Thank you William and David. I still get excited when a butterfly lands on my backpack.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-14 10:44 PM GMT

Like the others have said some cracking shots 🍷 , the last two being the cream of a very good crop. I really like the back pack one as it shows the scale of the butterfly – it's all too easy to forget how small they are after spending so long peering through a lens 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

PBFs

by Katrina, 26-Apr-14 07:25 PM GMT

Third attempt today to find the PBFs at Rewell Wood, and successful at last! I saw 4 PBFs , one Brimstone, a Speckled Wood and two whites which weren't stopping for an ID. Some of the PBFs I found were showing signs of wear and tear.





Re: Katrina

by Maximus, 26-Apr-14 09:02 PM GMT

Lovely Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary photos Katrina, its amazing how quickly some of the PBF are showing signs of wear.

Mike

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-14 09:46 AM GMT

Excellent news about the PBF's - I really need to get soem but they still haven't emerged over our way yet 🍀

Have a goodun

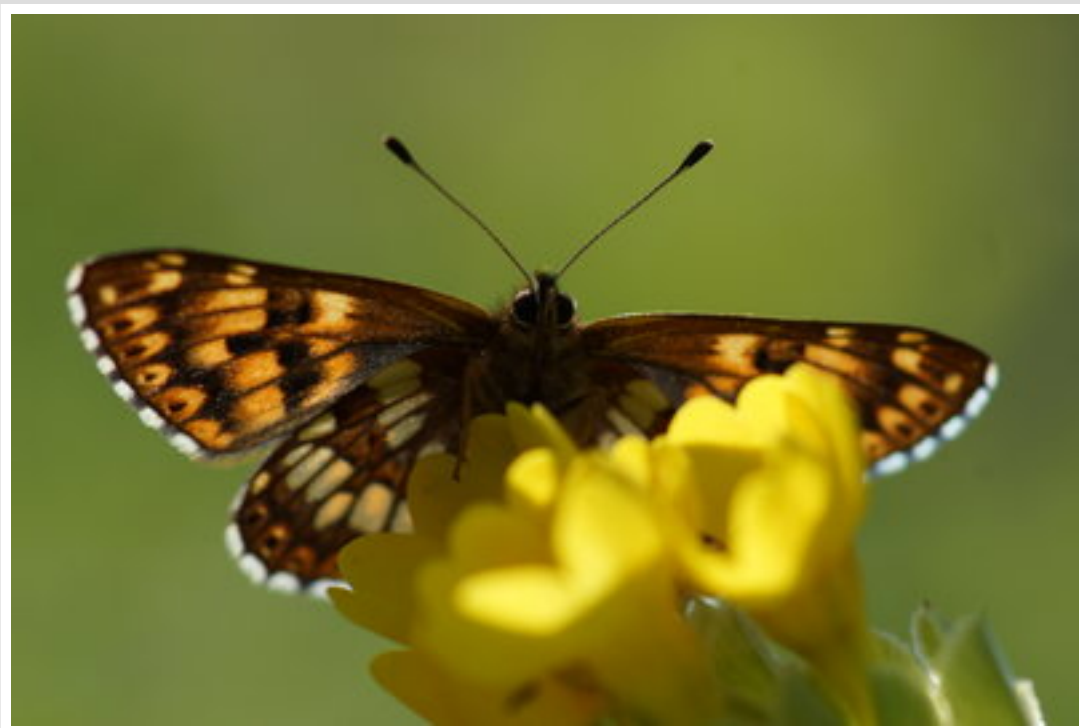
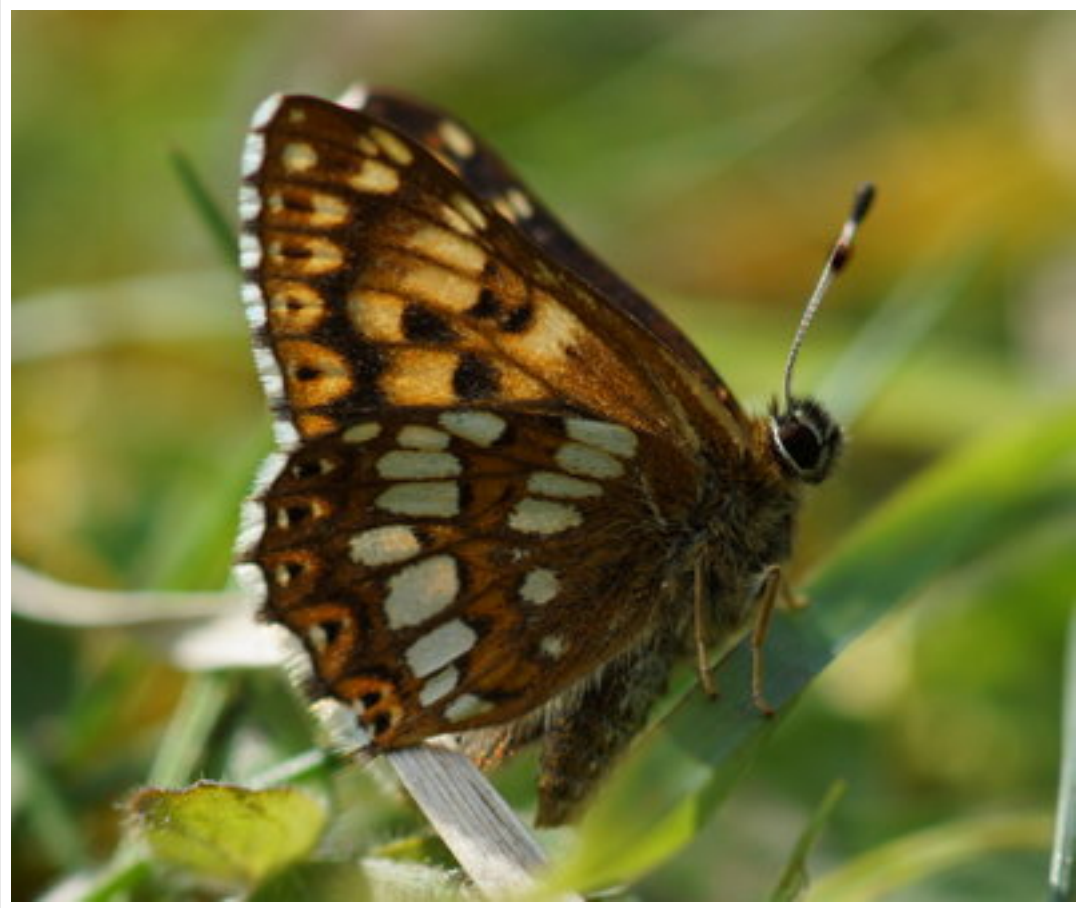
Wurzel

Feisty Dukes and Sleeping Grizzlies

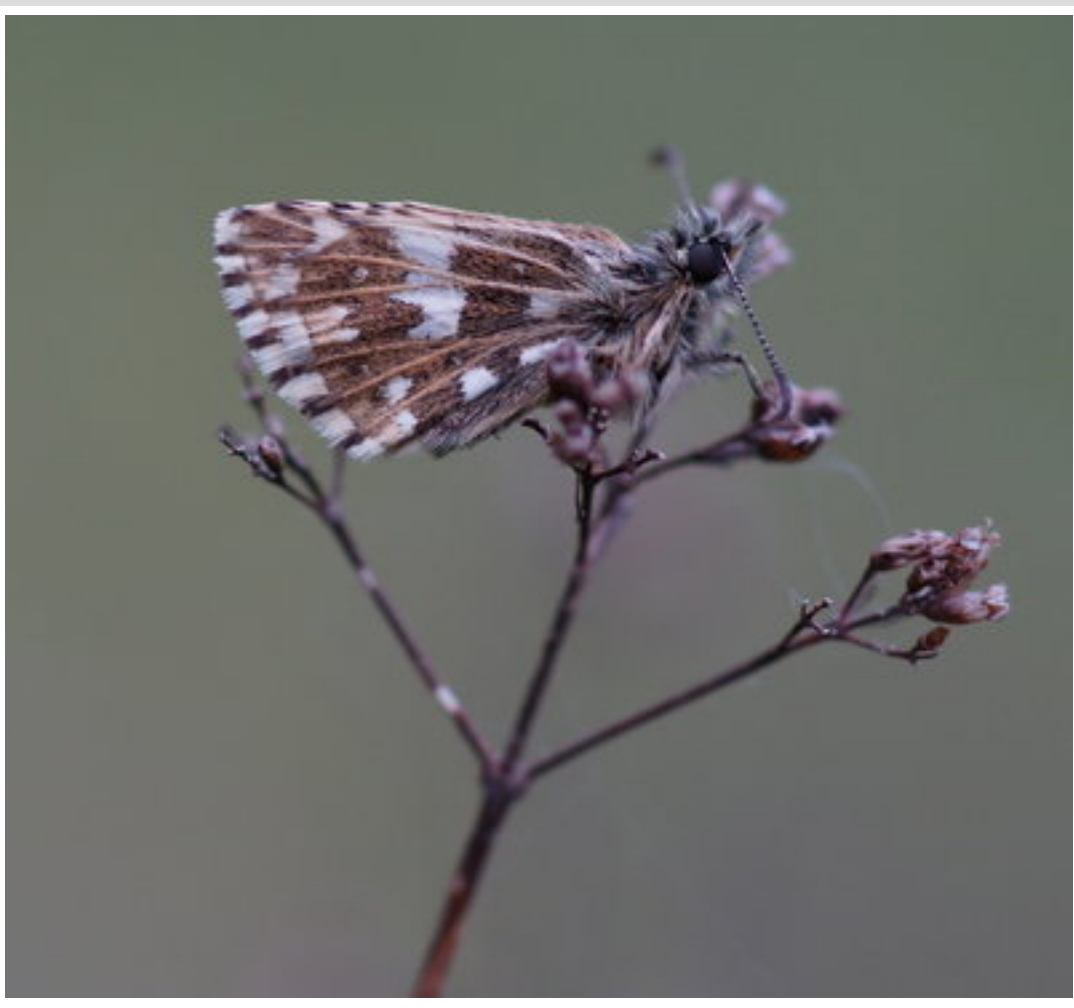
by Katrina, 30-Apr-14 11:47 PM GMT

On the way to Heyshott the sun began to shine and I stopped at the meadow at Kithurst where I saw 3 Dingy Skippers, 3 Brimstones, 3 definite and

possible 4 Duke of Burgundys, one Green-Veined White and one Orange-Tip. I then went on to Heyshott and saw plenty of Duke of Burgundys and Dingy Skippers, some Brimstones and a Speckled Wood. On the way home I stopped off at the Downs, I didn't find much but just as I was leaving luckily for me I bumped into Mud-puddling. He found 2 roosting Grizzled Skippers and one Small Copper (my first of the year) and I eventually found one Grizzled Skipper. (thank you Mud-puddling!)







Duke or Duchess

by Katrina, 01-May-14 10:11 AM GMT

Not the best photo but can anyone tell me if this is a Duke or a Duchess?



Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 01-May-14 10:40 AM GMT

Smashing Brimstone shot Katrina and like the Small Copper too 🍷

Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 01-May-14 10:59 AM GMT

Hi Katrina,
That's a Duchess. Good find!
BWs, Neil

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 01-May-14 11:24 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline – the Small Copper was thanks to Mud-puddling.
Thanks Neil, I didn't notice it was a Duchess at the time but thought the abdomen looked a bit fatter when looking at the photos. Duchess was at Heyshott yesterday.

Re: Katrina

by NickMorgan, 01-May-14 02:02 PM GMT

Great pictures Katrina. You must be very south! We don't get most of those species up here, but those that we do will not be around for another month

or so!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 01-May-14 02:28 PM GMT

Thank you Nick. I live in Sussex and we are very lucky here to have so many species. Equally lucky to have helpful local enthusiasts and experts.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 01-May-14 11:47 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Katrina 😊 I especially like the Brimstones and the Duke head shot 😊🇬🇧 Still not seen any reports of Dukes or Pearls in Wiltshire so hopefully this weekend.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

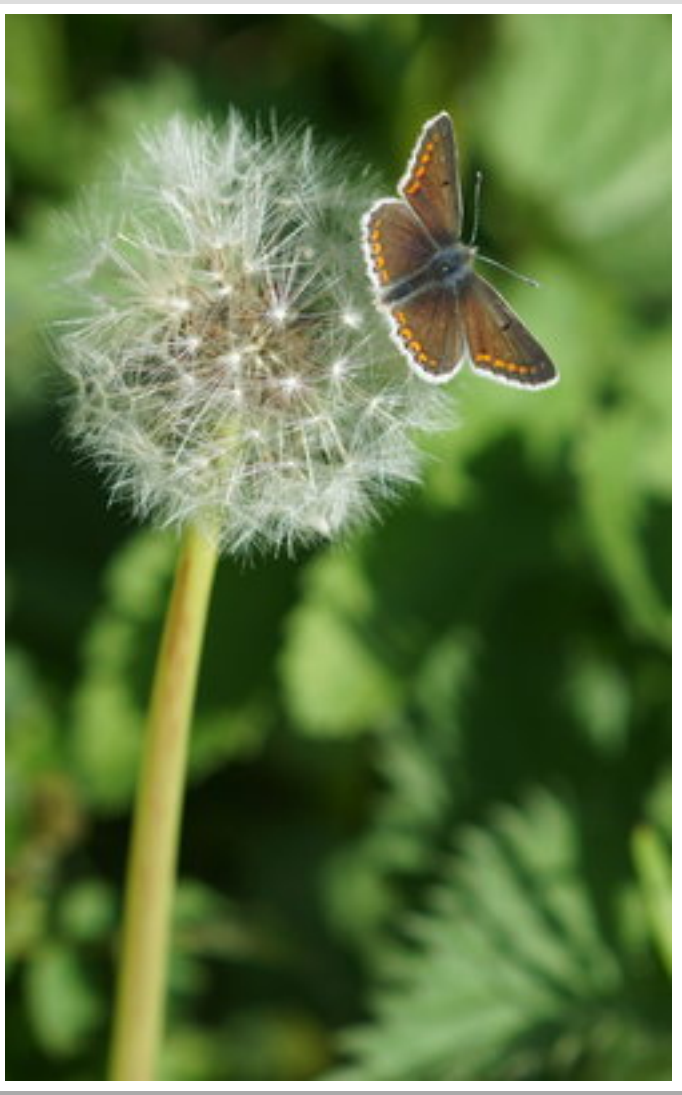
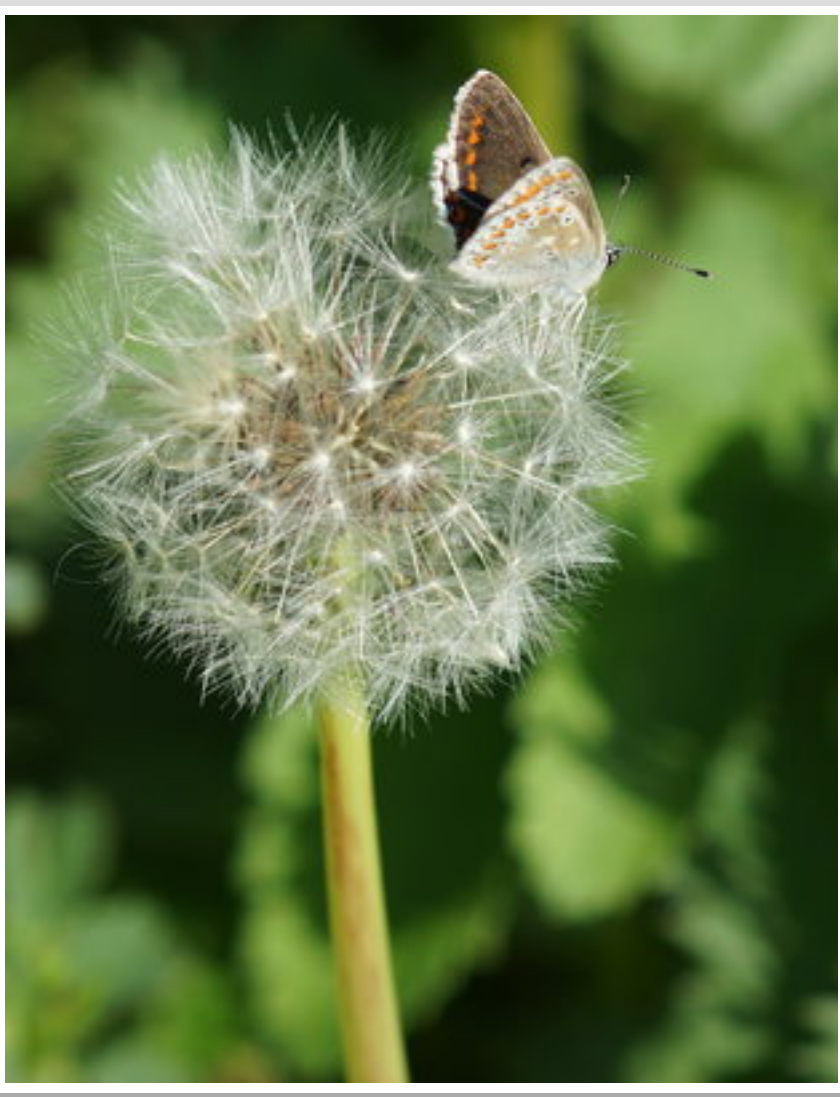
Sunny Day

by Katrina, 03-May-14 08:13 PM GMT

Today on the Downs I found 3 Small Coppers, 4 Dingy Skippers, 3 Grizzled Skippers, 2 Brown Arguses and 2 Green Hairstreaks. I then went to Pulborough Brooks and saw newts in the pond. I quickly stopped at Kithurst Hill and found 3 Dingy Skippers, 3 Brimstones 2 Duke of Burgundys and one Green-Veined White.







Re: Katrina

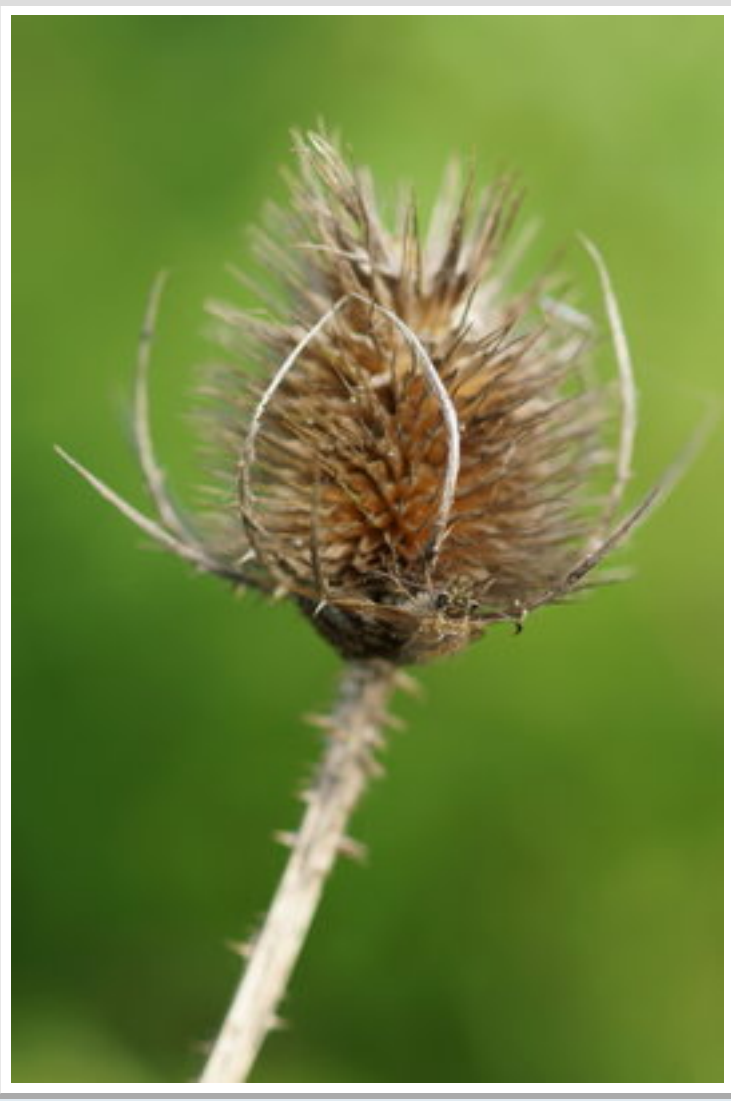
by Susie, 04-May-14 08:45 PM GMT

Your green hairstreak is sublime 😊

Roosting at Mill Hill

by Katrina, 04-May-14 09:52 PM GMT

This evening I went to Mill Hill to try and get some roosting Dingy Skipper photos, having admired others on this website. I had tried to look for roosting butterflies on Friday afternoon at Kithurst Meadow but found only a Pretty Chalk Carpet Moth and 3 spiders. This evening was much more successful and I saw 6 roosting Dingy Skippers 1 Grizzled Skipper and one spider.





Heyshott

by Katrina, 05-May-14 05:25 PM GMT

I went back to Heyshott today following Neil's report of increasing numbers of Dukes. I was surprised to have the place to myself. There were indeed a lot more Dukes. I stayed for about 2 hours and found 15 Duke of Burgundys, 4 Brimstones, 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Grizzled Skipper, 1 Orange-Tip 4 whites that weren't stopping for an ID and lost count of the Dingy Skippers. No sign of the PBF.





Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 05-May-14 05:59 PM GMT

Wow. Lovely Duchess!
BWs, Neil

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 05-May-14 10:48 PM GMT

That is a cracking Duchess indeed Katrina 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

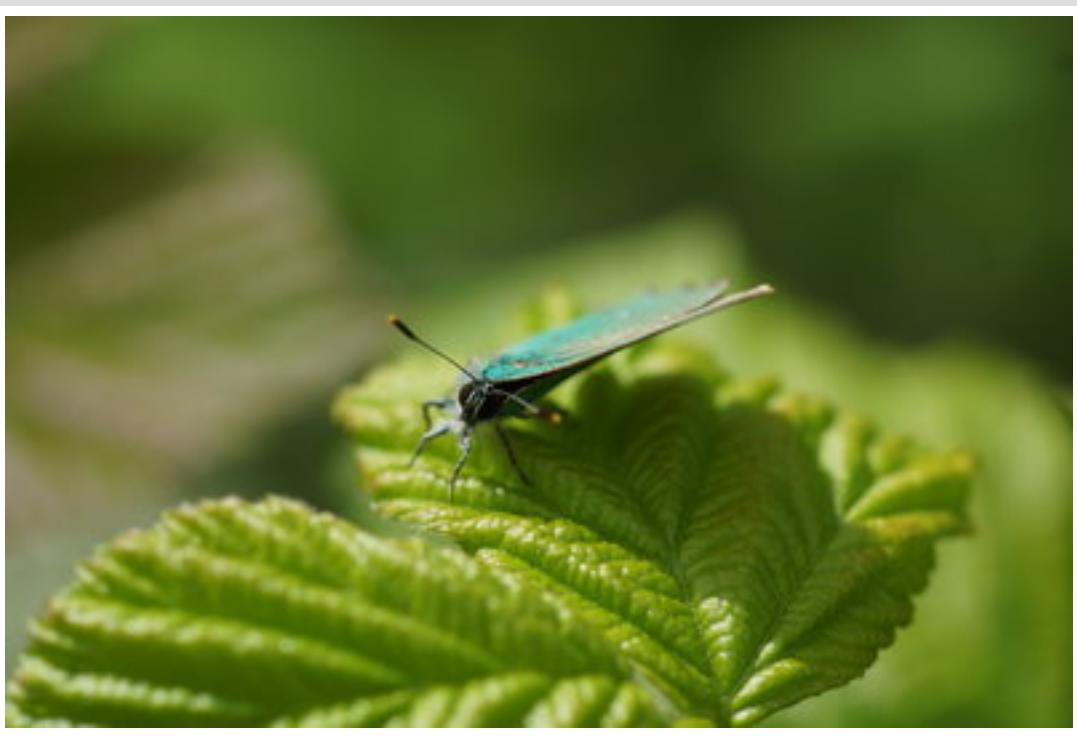
Wurzel

Slow-worm and Twists and Turns

by Katrina, 07-May-14 07:13 PM GMT

At midday today I visited Mill Hill. The weather was cloudy and windy with occasional glimpses of sun. I was looking for the Walls, Small Heaths and Blues. I quickly spotted a Wall flying past which landed. When I tried to take a photo it flew off again and then started chasing a Small Heath! Sadly while trying to keep an eye on where both were landing I lost both for a while. I found the Wall twice more and on the first of these occasions it disturbed an Adonis Blue and the second a Green Hairstreak, again giving me choices about which to keep an eye on. So I saw my first Wall, Small Heath and Adonis Blue of the year. Final count was 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Wall, 1 Small Heath, 1 Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Adonis Blues, 1 Grizzled Skipper, 3 Green Hairstreaks and about 10 Dingy Skippers. While leaving I came across a lifetime first slow-worm which was on the path. It was moving at all so I nudged it to make sure it was alive (it was). After never having seen any before I had to step over this one to get back to the car. I suppose that is part of the excitement of wildlife watching – you never know what you will come across.





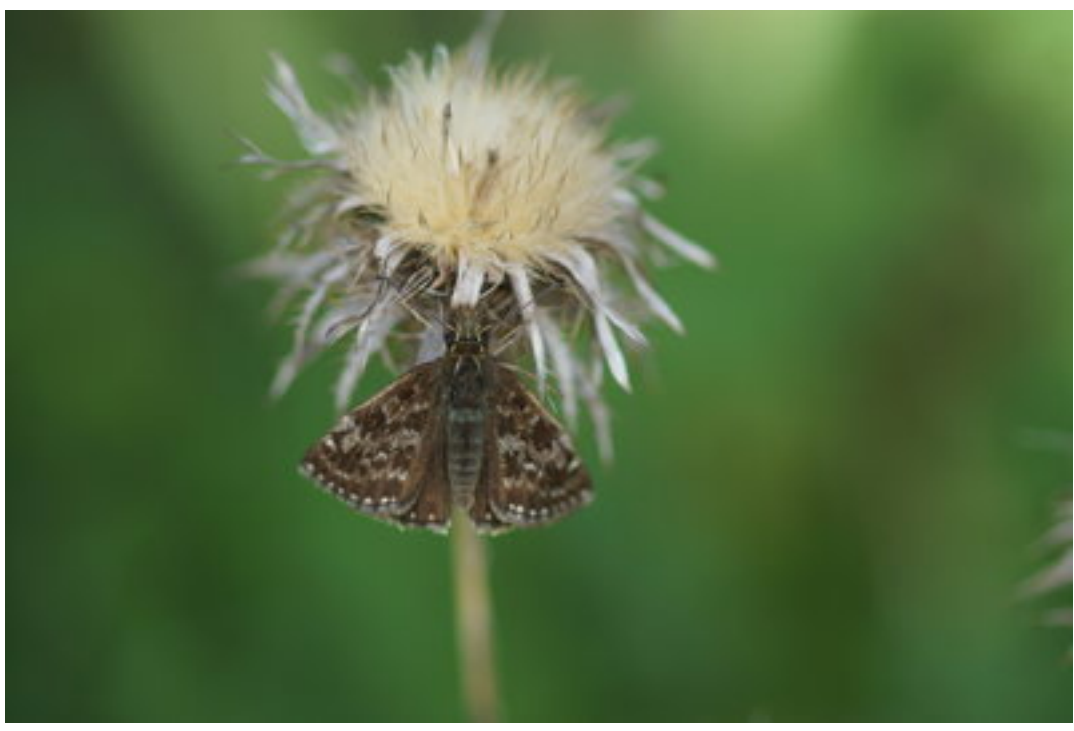


Windy Weather

by Katrina, 10-May-14 09:53 PM GMT

This afternoon I went to Kithurst Hill. I saw 3 Dukes, 2 Dingy Skippers and a dragonfly. I was going to leave when I met Mark and Susie so decided to stay for a while. Another man kindly pointed out a roosting Brown Argus to us. I stopped at Mill Hill on the way back and found 2 Adonis Blues (I think - had to check in the book re ID with closed wings) and 5 Dingy Skippers.





Re: Katrina

by Susie, 10-May-14 10:21 PM GMT

Adonis! Oooh, lucky you! 😊 nice pics. Do you know what the dragonfly was? I saw it too but couldn't get a pic and it wasn't one I recognised I should go and look it up!).

Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 10-May-14 10:39 PM GMT

Hi Katrina and Susie,

The dragonfly was almost certainly a Hairy Dragonfly, of which there are at least two males hawking over the site at present. More exciting species do occur here from time to time, including Clubtail and Scarce Chaser in recent years.

BWs, Neil

Dragonfly

by Katrina, 10-May-14 10:42 PM GMT

Was just about to post I didn't know what dragonfly but Neil has given us an answer. Did get a picture though.



Hairs On Hairy Dragonfly

by Katrina, 10-May-14 10:51 PM GMT

cropped photo



Re: Katrina

by Susie, 10-May-14 10:54 PM GMT

Yep, that's the chap! Excellent. Well done Katrina 😊 and thank you Neil.

Thank you

by Katrina, 10-May-14 11:03 PM GMT

Thank you Susie for asking – I probably wouldn't have got round to looking it up and thanks Neil for supplying the ID!

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 11-May-14 08:49 AM GMT

Love the Dingy shot 😊 I like reading your posts as it alerts me to what to look out for in a week or two's time Katrina, for instance your Common Blue looks quite worn and 'aged' and I can't recall seeing any reports of them quite in Wiltshire 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Goldie M, 11-May-14 02:15 PM GMT

I'll second that, the Dingy shot is great, It's also one BF I don't seem to be able to catch a good shot of Goldie 😊

Re: Katrina

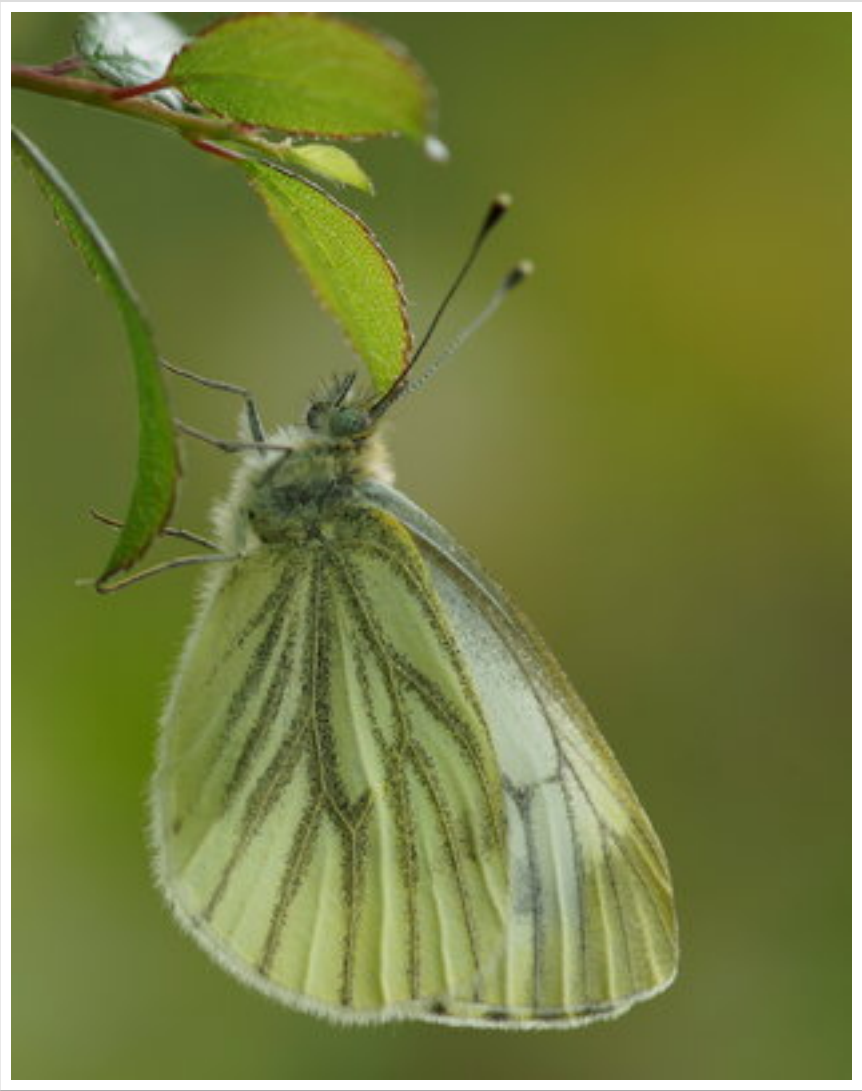
by Katrina, 11-May-14 08:58 PM GMT

Thank you for the positive feedback. I liked it a lot but wondered how I didn't manage to get the very top of the plant in the photo.

Pulborough Brooks

by Katrina, 11-May-14 09:05 PM GMT

I went for a walk round Pulborough Brooks today. I chose the wrong half of the day to go out as it seemed to brighten up just as I was leaving. I saw only one butterfly, a Green-Veined White. It was, however, a pleasure to focus on this butterfly that I often overlook if there are other species around.



Re: Katrina

by Lee Hurrell, 11-May-14 10:18 PM GMT

Well worth it Katrina - cracking GVW photo!

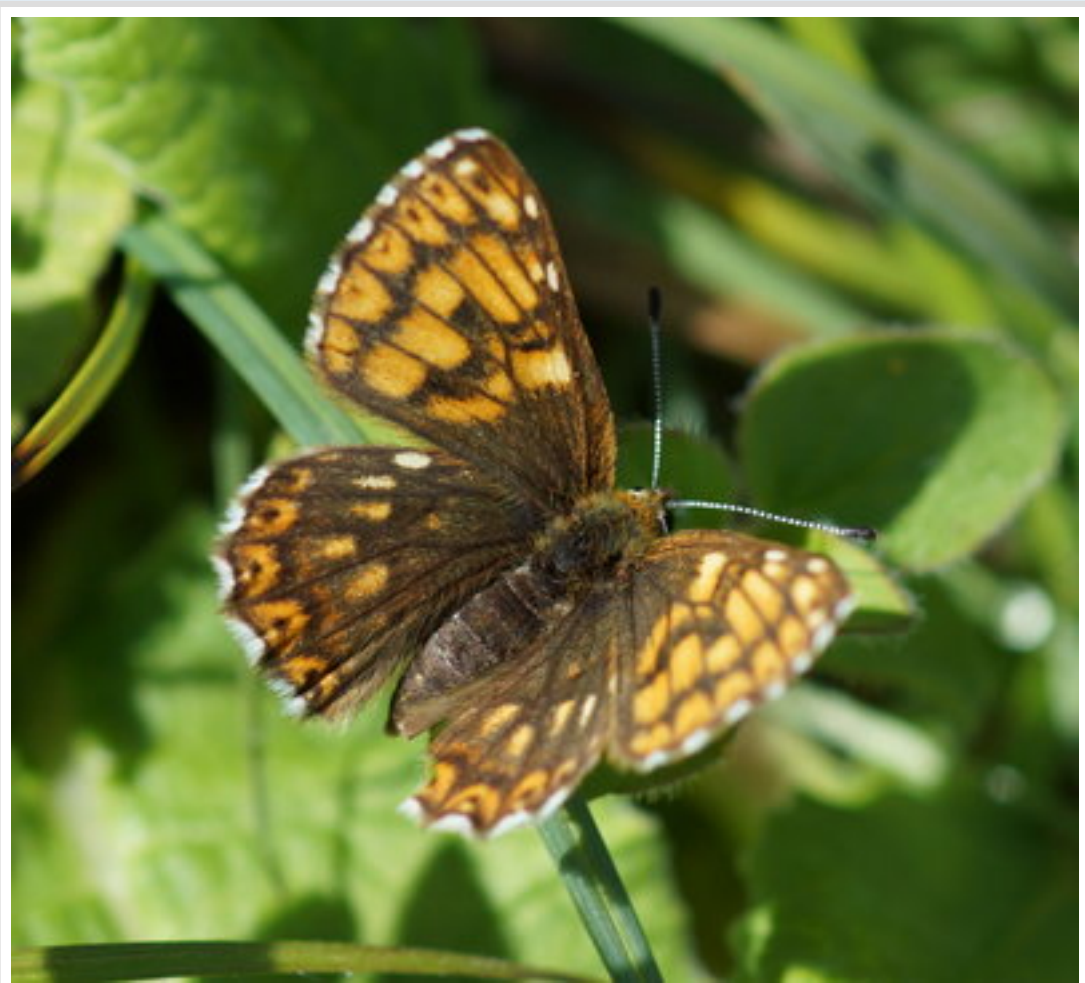
Best wishes,

Lee

Glorious Day with Sunshine and Small Blues

by Katrina, 14-May-14 07:54 PM GMT

I went to Kithurst this morning and was joined by a friend. I saw 4 Duke of Burgundys, 2 Small Blues, one Orange Tip, one Green-Veined White, 2 Brimstones and several Dingy Skippers. We then went to Pulborough Brooks and saw one Speckled Wood, one Peacock and 3 Brimstones. The weather was so good I went back to Kithurst in the afternoon and saw one further Duke of Burgundy, 3 Small Blues, one Common Blue, one Red Admiral, one Green Hairstreak, one Grizzled Skipper, one Small Heath and several Dingy Skippers. Thanks to my friend for finding the last Duke - is it a Duchess? I couldn't believe my luck when one Small Blue decided to have a nap on a cowslip allowing plenty of time for photos.











Re: Katrina

by Mark Colvin, 14-May-14 08:18 PM GMT

Hi Katrina,

"Katrina" wrote:

Thanks to my friend for finding the last Duke – is it a Duchess?

She sure is ...

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 14-May-14 08:21 PM GMT

Thanks Mark

Re: Katrina

by William, 14-May-14 08:45 PM GMT

Cracking shots of the Small Blues Katrina, and that Green Hairstreak seems to be egg-laying 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 14-May-14 08:54 PM GMT

Thank you William, I wondered when I saw the photos although didn't notice at the time – too busy trying to get the photo I expect to really look at the butterfly.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-May-14 06:13 PM GMT

Not the best photo ever but I saw, with a little help from others, a Norfolk Swallowtail today !



Norfolk Swallowtail Success Day 1

by Katrina, 18-May-14 04:49 PM GMT



Drinker Moth Caterpillar

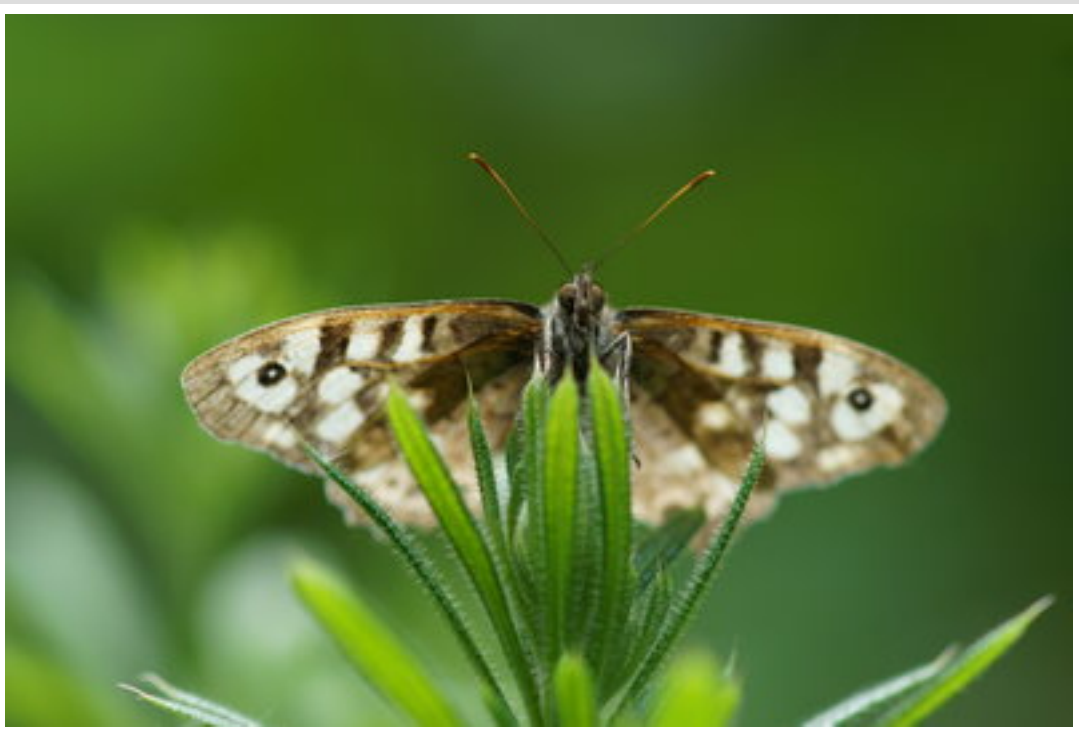


Drinker Moth Caterpillar



Small Tortoiseshell Caterpillar

On Friday me and my sister took a short trip to Norfolk. We went in the morning to the Ted Ellis nature reserve and later on to Strumpshaw fen. The sun was shining and both places were alive with wildlife. In the first reserve we saw approx 12 Peacocks, 4 orange-Tips, 8 Brimstones, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Green-Veined Whites, damselflies, dragonflies, a grass snake and about 15 caterpillars on nettles which the very helpful warden identified for us as Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars. Then onto Strumpshaw fen and the surrounding area where I saw my first ever Swallowtail. We also saw approx 15 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Green-Veined Whites, 10 Brimstones, 4 Common Blue, 1 Holly Blue, 4 Orange-Tips and 1 Speckled Wood.



Day 2 – 17th May

by Katrina, 18-May-14 10:07 PM GMT

Well really half day. Headed back to the Ted Ellis reserve for the morning. No Swallowtails but the same range of butterflies and caterpillars as the day before. We came across 3 emerging dragonflies and went back to look at them later in the morning. We think they may be scarce chasers. 2 Grass Snakes seen, 2 Cranes and 1 Kingfisher. Unfortunately I only had camera with macro lens with me. Then stopped off at Mill Road Cemetery Cambridge on the way back and saw 3 blue butterflies flying high up which I think were Holly Blues, two Speckled Woods and a few white butterflies.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 18-May-14 10:43 PM GMT

Sorry you didn't get to see more Swallowtails – but I always reckon the hardest bit is seeing the species in the first place once you have you sometimes end up tripping over them 😊 I hope that's the case for you.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 18-May-14 10:53 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, I think we were very lucky to see one at all as the first one had only just been spotted a few days earlier, and I think, up until the time we left yesterday lunchtime, none had been seen yet at the Ted Ellis reserve. Magnificent butterflies though and may be tempted to go back sometime to try and get a good photo.

Painted Lady and Caterpillar Pests

by Katrina, 21-May-14 08:23 PM GMT

This morning I went to Southwick Canal. The first butterfly I saw of the day was my first Painted Lady of the year. I also saw 3 Small Whites and 3 Common Blues. Another thing I saw was some interesting caterpillars with 2 red spots on their backs. Having done some googling I think they are Brown-Tail moth caterpillars which are apparently highly irritant if handled so be warned if you visit the site. I then went on for a quick stop in the Chantry Hill area of the Downs and saw 1 Wall Brown, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Brown Argus, 3 Small Heaths 4 Common Blues and 7 Dingy Skippers. I stopped at Mill Hill on the way home and saw a fox, 2 Red Admirals, a few Dingy Skippers and some Common Blues and Adonis Blues.







Re: Katrina

by Padfield, 21-May-14 08:42 PM GMT

Hi Katrina. I've only seen Norfolk swallowtails once, when I was a child, and I didn't get any photos – but what memories!

I'm sure that's a scarce chaser. You were very lucky to catch them emerging.

Guy

Brown-Tail Moth Caterpillar

by Katrina, 21-May-14 08:45 PM GMT

A photo.



Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 21-May-14 08:49 PM GMT

Hi Guy, yes I think we were lucky. It seems to be a good site for them there – there was even one flying round the car park.

Re: Katrina

by David M, 21-May-14 10:17 PM GMT

Red Admirals and a Painted Lady on the same day!!!

You are surely now a member of a small but elite band of people.

Re: Katrina

by andy brown, 22-May-14 07:51 AM GMT

Hi,

The cat is a Brown Tail, nice picture as well.

Andy

Re: Katrina

by andy brown, 22-May-14 07:52 AM GMT

Sorry should have read the heading 🙄

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 22-May-14 10:31 PM GMT

Andy – I probably should have written a note to go with the caterpillar photo to explain it so my fault really.

I am adding 2 photos of the first Painted Lady from yesterday. It had a large chunk out of its wing – I wonder if it lost it here or flew across the sea with it missing.



Re: Katrina

by Jack Harrison, 23-May-14 06:33 AM GMT

It is said (no personal experience) that hairs of Brown Tail moth can cause skin irritation.

I did however suffer a severe rash from a rather nice garden herb, Rue *Ruta graveolens*, so bad that I had to stop growing it. I guess not everyone reacts in the same way to particular irritants.

Neil Hulme knows all about Lyme Disease from deer ticks. There must be many other unpleasant insects that butterflies might come across.

Jack

Grey Day

by Katrina, 27-May-14 08:26 PM GMT

It was a grey and intermittently drizzly day here today but inspired by William's previous photos of OTs and raindrops I decided to go out. I spent the afternoon at Kithurst and then Chantry Hill. At Kithurst I found a Speckled Wood and 2 roosting butterflies. I am still at the looking in the book stage for identifying undersides but I think they are Brown Argus butterflies as they seem to have twin-spots. I would appreciate confirmation. Then at Chantry Hill I found 4 more of the same.



Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 27-May-14 10:21 PM GMT

The second shot is lush Katrina. As for the ID I would go with Brown Argus for the first for sure and the second. I'd also go for Brown Argus for the third

but it's one of those ones that I'd like to have seen in the field to be sure. I look for the first two spots on the hind wing if they look horizontal like an infinity sign then it's a Brown Argus but an '8' leading to a nice arc of spots makes it a Common Blue. Sexing them as male and them having brown wings is the easiest way but you don't always find them posed open winged.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

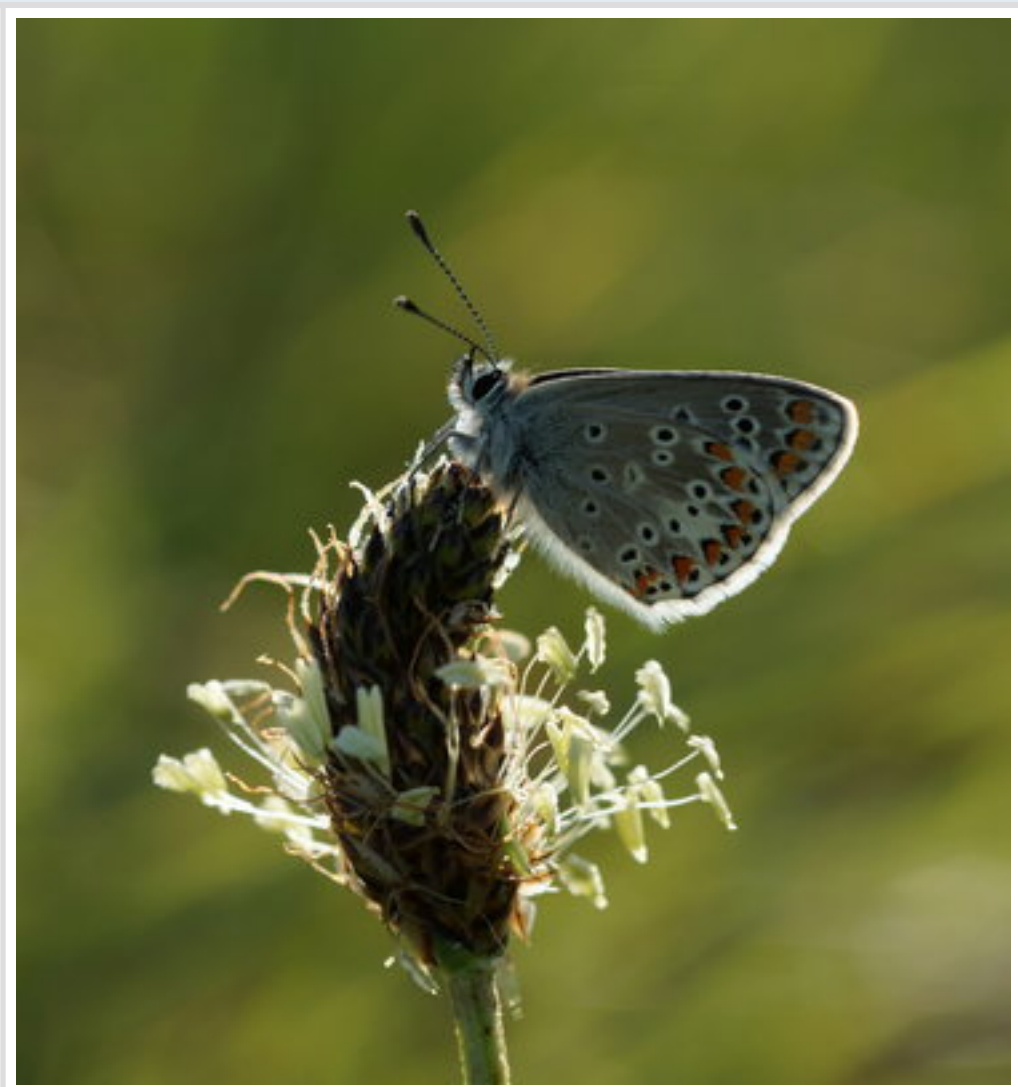
by Katrina, 28-May-14 10:52 AM GMT

Thank you Wurzel – I am glad you agree with the IDs, as even with the aid of photos and book it didn't seem that straight forward.

More of the same

by Katrina, 29-May-14 08:11 PM GMT

Headed out for a late afternoon walk on the downs and saw a few Brown Argus, Dingy Skippers, 1 Common Blue, 1 Small Heath, 1 Red Admiral and a Painted Lady.



Re: Grey Day

by William, 29-May-14 08:34 PM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

inspired by William's previous photos of OTs and raindrops

I'm flattered – superb photos Katrina 😊

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 30-May-14 09:44 AM GMT

The back lit shot of the Brown Argus is superb Katrina 😊 I'm glad no-one has contradicted the ID's, phew 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

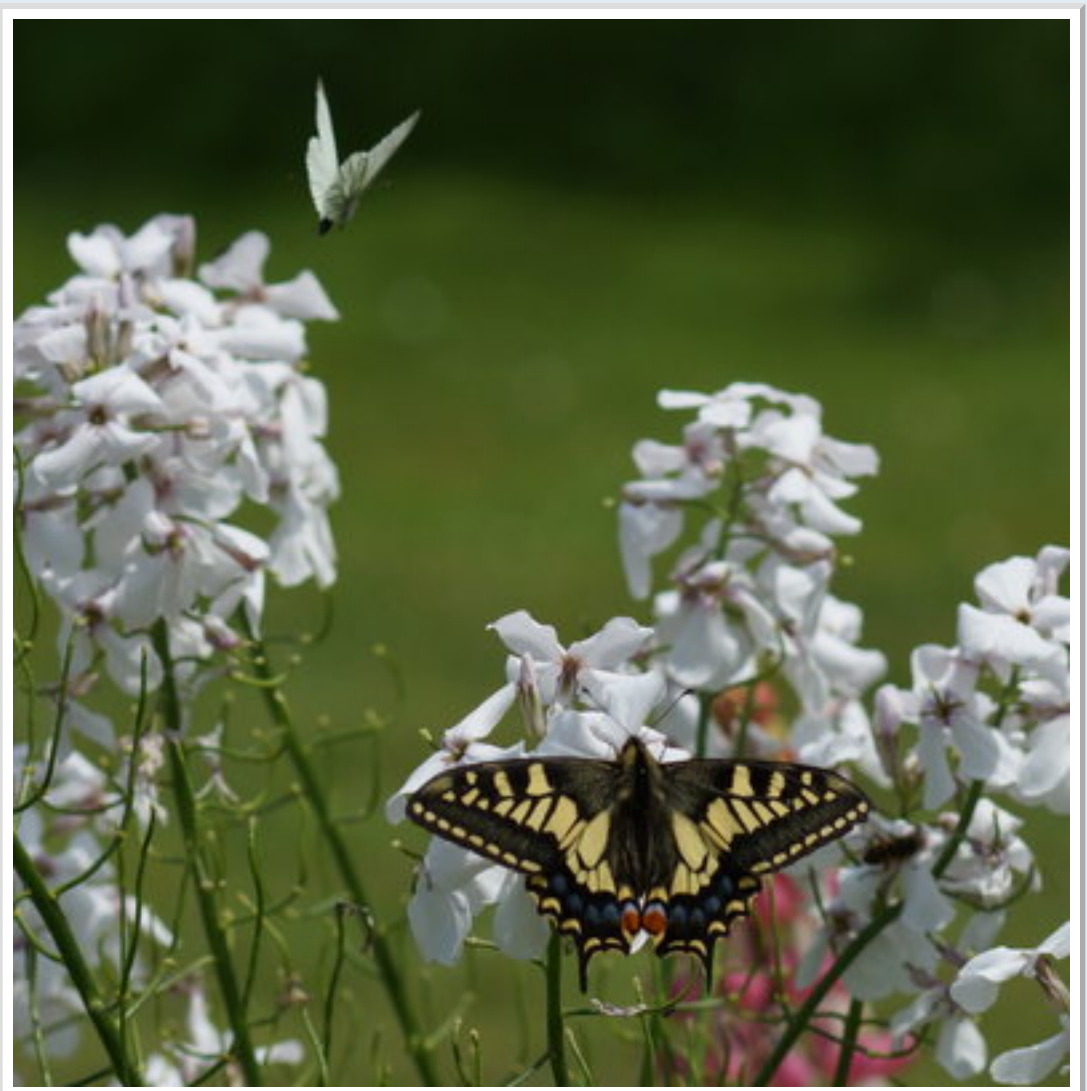
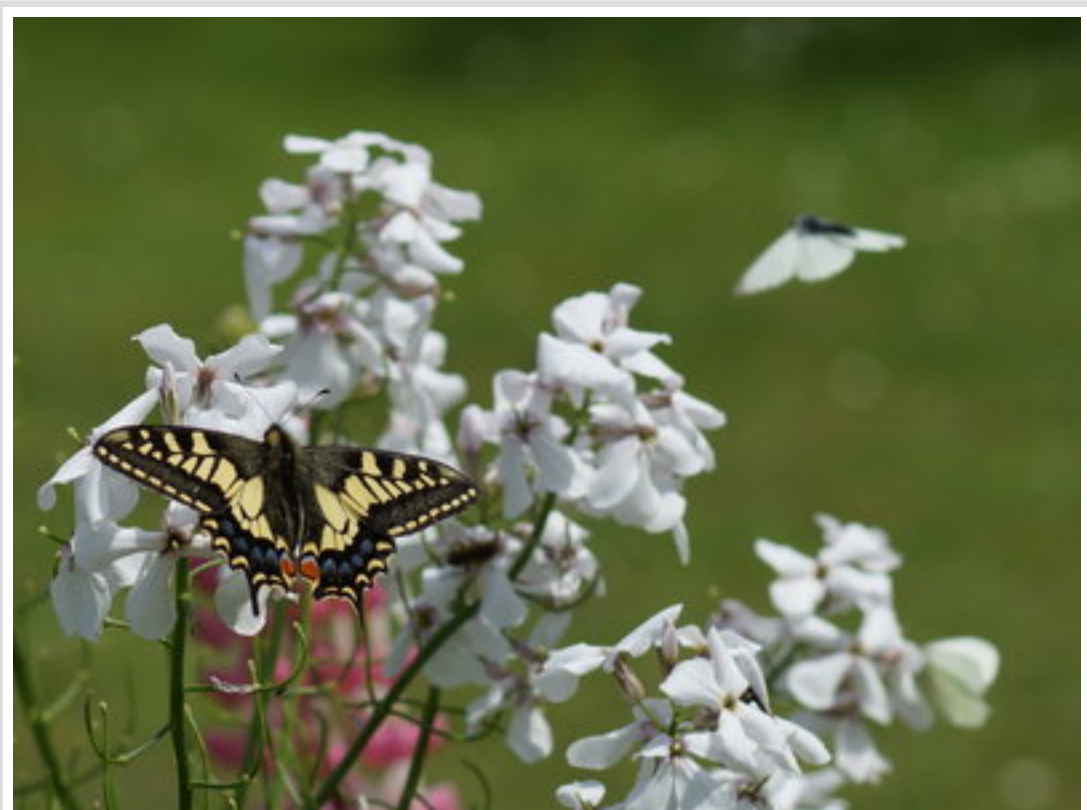
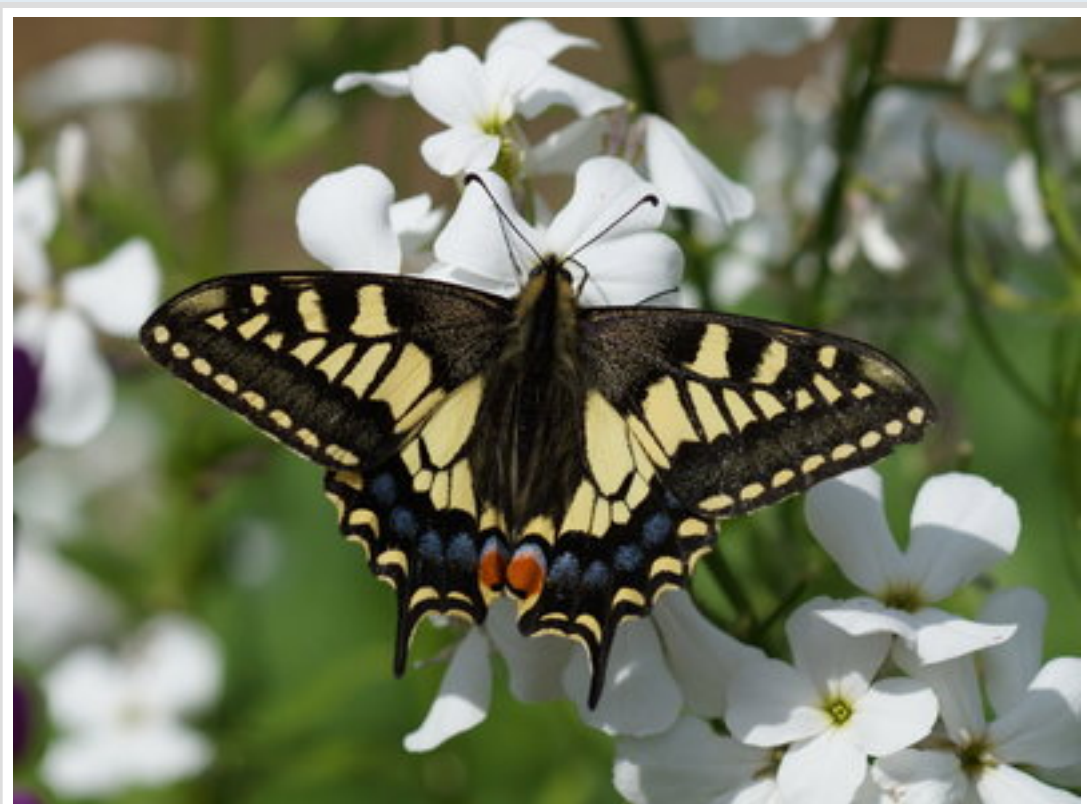
Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 30-May-14 09:46 PM GMT

Thank you and thanks again for for being brave enough to help with the ID – they had been up for a time before you jumped in to help!

Strumpshaw Revisited

I went back to Strumpshaw this afternoon accompanied by my sister. We saw 3 Swallowtails in the Doctor's Garden with the highlight being 3 chasing each other at once. There were plenty of other enthusiasts too. We also looked in some other areas where there had been sightings but didn't see any outside of the garden.





Re: Katrina

by David M, 30-May-14 10:41 PM GMT

I so wish I lived nearer this part of the UK because this butterfly is an absolute showstopper!

I never get tired of seeing it even when I'm abroad.

Re: Katrina

by William, 31-May-14 07:42 AM GMT

I love those last two Katrina, the flowers and the Swallowtails together make a magnificent combination 😊

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 31-May-14 08:14 PM GMT

Simply fantastic images 😊👍 I knew you'd end up falling over them after your initial find 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Susie, 31-May-14 08:17 PM GMT

Cracking photos Katrina, you must be so pleased 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 31-May-14 11:41 PM GMT

Thank you David, they were lovely to see. I was thinking of you and your epic overnight drive to see the Chequered Skippers as I was stuck in a traffic jam on the M25 on the way back.

Thank you William. The garden there is stunning – no wonder the Swallowtails like it.

Wurzel – you were definitely right!

Thanks Susie very pleased with results as they were quite active so it was more a case of rapidly clicking away and hoping for the best than skill. It was a vey happy but slightly surreal experience with a lot of happy photographers clicking away together.

Re: Katrina

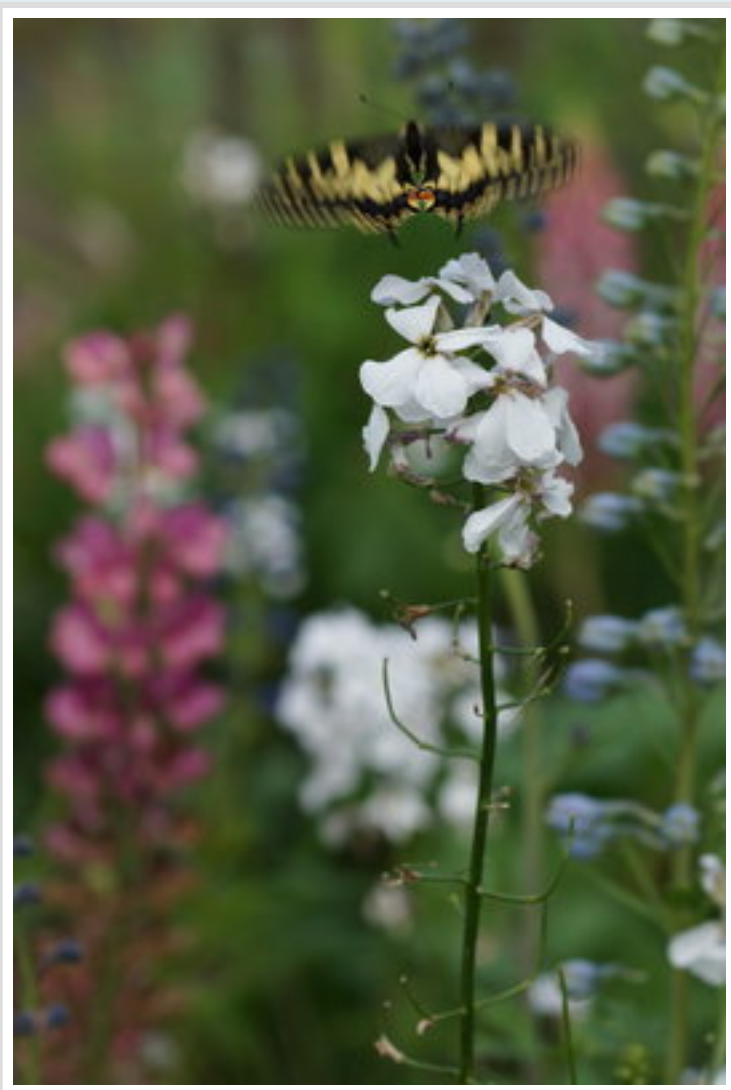
by Pauline, 01-Jun-14 06:34 AM GMT

They are stunning Swallowtail shots Katrina – you must be over the moon with them. If I ever get to Norfolk (and it is beginning to seem quite unlikely) I would be delighted to get shots like that.

Bonus Strumpshaw Shots

by Katrina, 01-Jun-14 06:14 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline. I am so pleased with them I will break protocol and bombard you with some bonus shots including a Norfolk Hawker my sister found.





Re: Katrina

by Maximus, 01-Jun-14 11:30 PM GMT

Great Swallowtail photos Katrina, we went to Strumpshaw last year and know just how difficult it is to get brilliant images like yours 😊 We saw and photographed them in the field just along to the right of the Doctor's garden.

Mike

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 02-Jun-14 07:17 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, we had heard the field was a good place but looked there multiple times and didn't see any – we did however find the Norfolk Hawker there. 😊

Re: Katrina

by Willow, 02-Jun-14 02:34 PM GMT

Wonderful trip report Katrina, as well as those lovely **Swallowtail** shots I'm also very envious of that Norfolk Hawker 🍷

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-14 11:08 PM GMT

I too am envious, even more so when you produce photos like the second one – I love it, brill 🍷

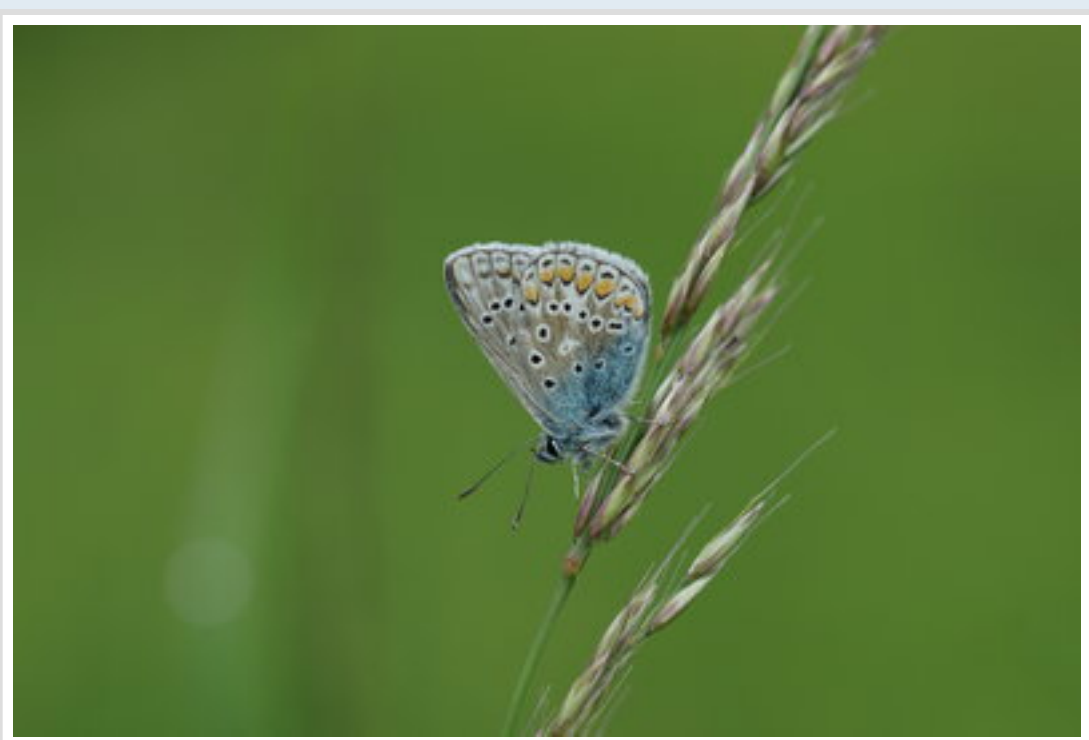
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Rainy Day Blues

by Katrina, 04-Jun-14 08:15 PM GMT

I went to Pulborough Brooks today and saw only one butterfly flying high which I think was a Small Tortoiseshell. I went on to Kithurst Hill and found 4 Common Blues.



Sussex Swallowtail, Large Skipper and Meadow Brown

by Katrina, 09-Jun-14 03:05 PM GMT

On Thursday the 5th Neil kindly alerted me to a Swallowtail he found at Steyning. I had only time for a lightning quick visit without my camera but was extremely pleased to see the Swallowtail – thank you Neil.

Yesterday I went for a quick wander back there in case any more would appear – none did but I saw my first Large Skippers and Meadow Browns of the year.

This morning I went to Downs very early and saw Common Blues, one Brown Argus, 2 Small Blues and a Large skipper. Also a lot of pupas. Can anyone identify the caterpillar? I then went for a quick march round Pulborough Brooks and saw 7 Small Tortoiseshells, one Red Admiral and a Nightingale. I stopped at Steyning on the way back for one hour seeing Meadow Browns, Large Skippers, Common Blues, Speckled Woods, Small Tortoiseshells a Green Woodpecker but no Swallowtails.





Re: Katrina

by William, 09-Jun-14 06:06 PM GMT

Lovely Small Blue – the caterpillar is one of the Burnet Moths, though it's beyond me to say which 😊

BWs

William

Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 09-Jun-14 06:22 PM GMT

I, too, like that Small Blue shot Katrina. I think the composition is spot on and I love the way the background is slightly blurred yet the butterfly is pin sharp. I'd like to be able to take one like that 🍷

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Jun-14 07:27 PM GMT

Thank you William and thanks for the ID.

Thank you Pauline, I think this photo was a triumph of persistence rather than skill – it was the last of about 50 photos I took of the same butterfly. I have enjoyed seeing your Clouded Yellow and SSB shots.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-14 11:31 PM GMT

That is indeed a cracking Small Blue shot 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Willrow, 10-Jun-14 12:52 PM GMT

Your images convey a real sense of being there to the viewer Katrina.

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 11-Jun-14 01:55 PM GMT

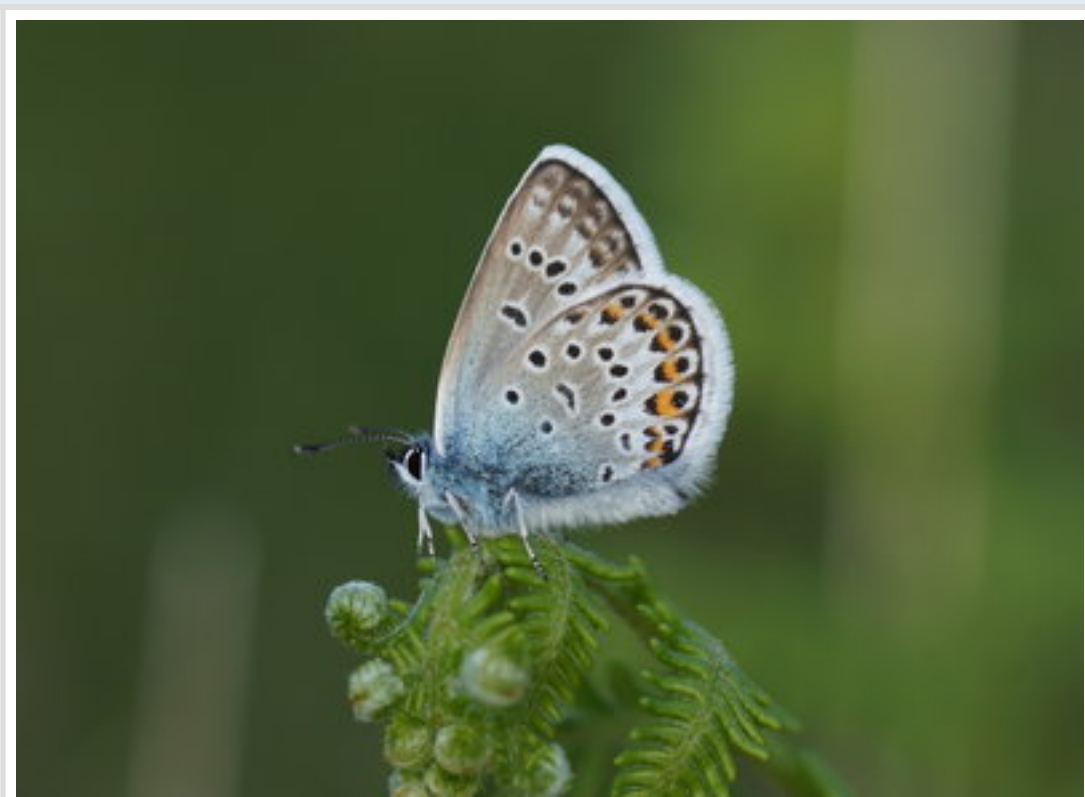
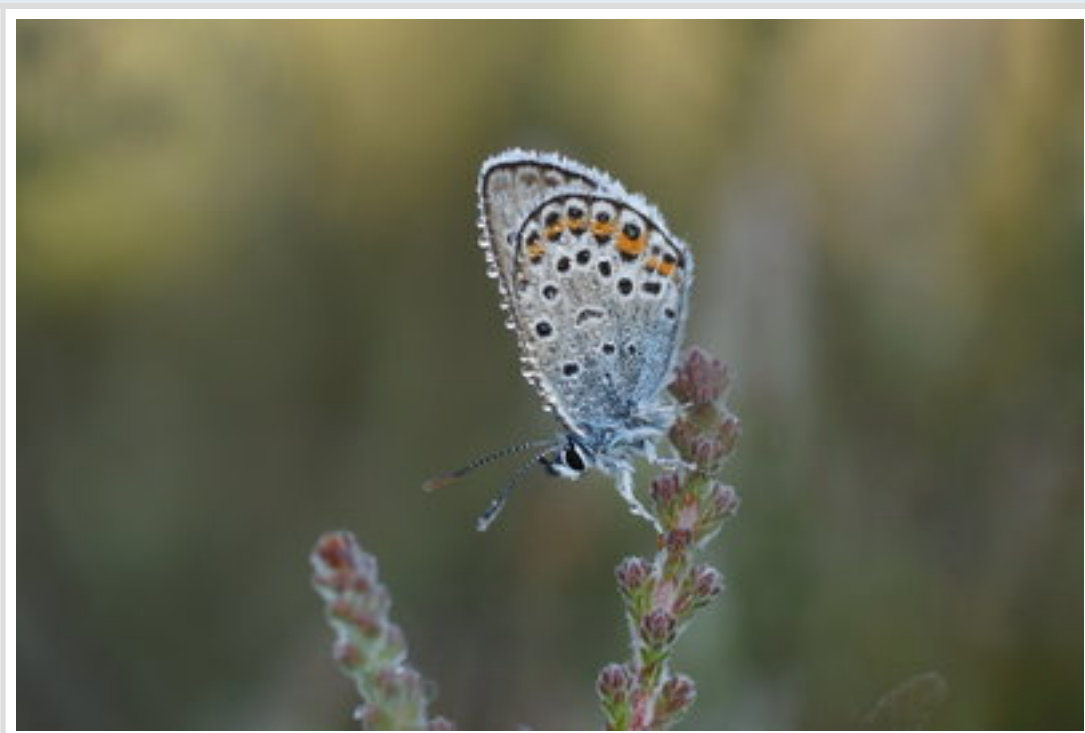
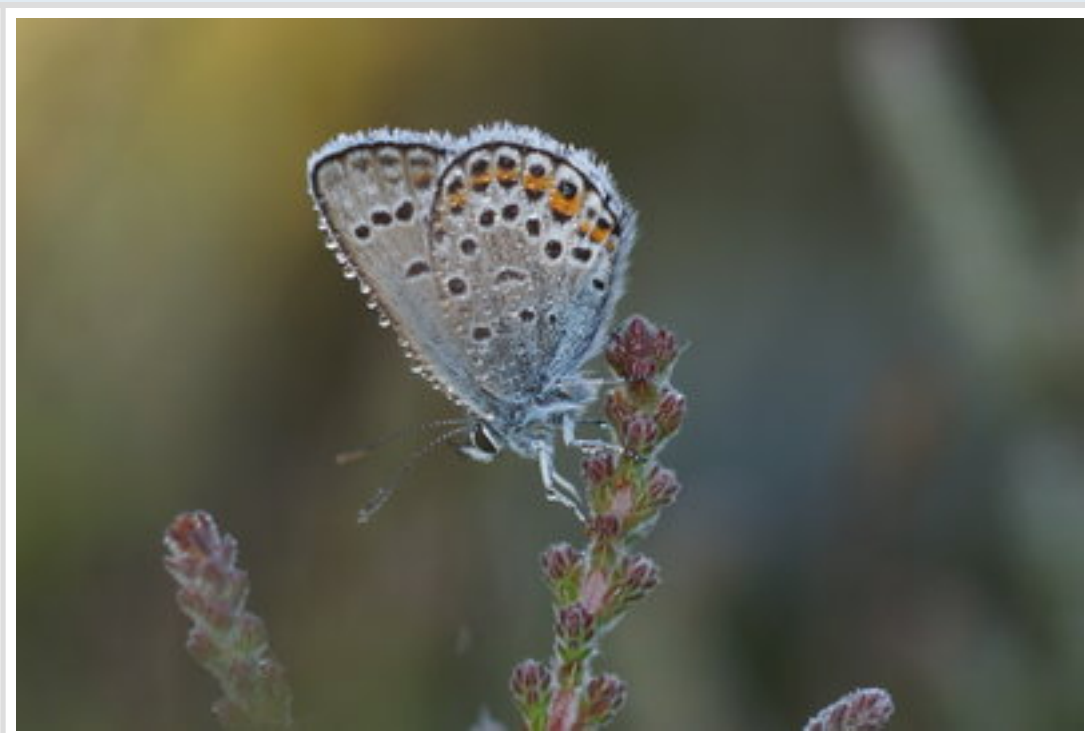
Thank you Bill much appreciated.

Silver-studded Blues

by Katrina, 11-Jun-14 02:07 PM GMT

Having seen Mark's sightings of Silver-studded Blues on our local branch website I decided to go for an early meander on Stedham and Iping Common. I saw 20 blue butterflies and having reviewed the photos think they are all male Silver-studded Blues but please correct me if I am wrong on the posted

photos. I suspect there are a many more out there as I stopped to photo a lot and only made it round a small part of the common. I didn't see any females. I also saw one Small Tortoiseshell.





Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 11-Jun-14 04:40 PM GMT

Lovely SSB with the dew Katrina 🍷 . I'm going to have to start getting myself out early again – I seem to have gotten a bit lazy recently 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 12-Jun-14 02:14 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline, I think I got there in the nick of time for the dew. Remarkably there were already 2 people in the car park before me too.

Re: Katrina

by Maximus, 12-Jun-14 09:49 PM GMT

Great Silver-studded Blues photos Katrina, especially the dew covered ones 😊

Mike

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-14 11:38 PM GMT

A beautiful sequence of shots Katrina 😊🍷 I just hope they're out at my local site this weekend, I don't think I could wait another week for them 😊

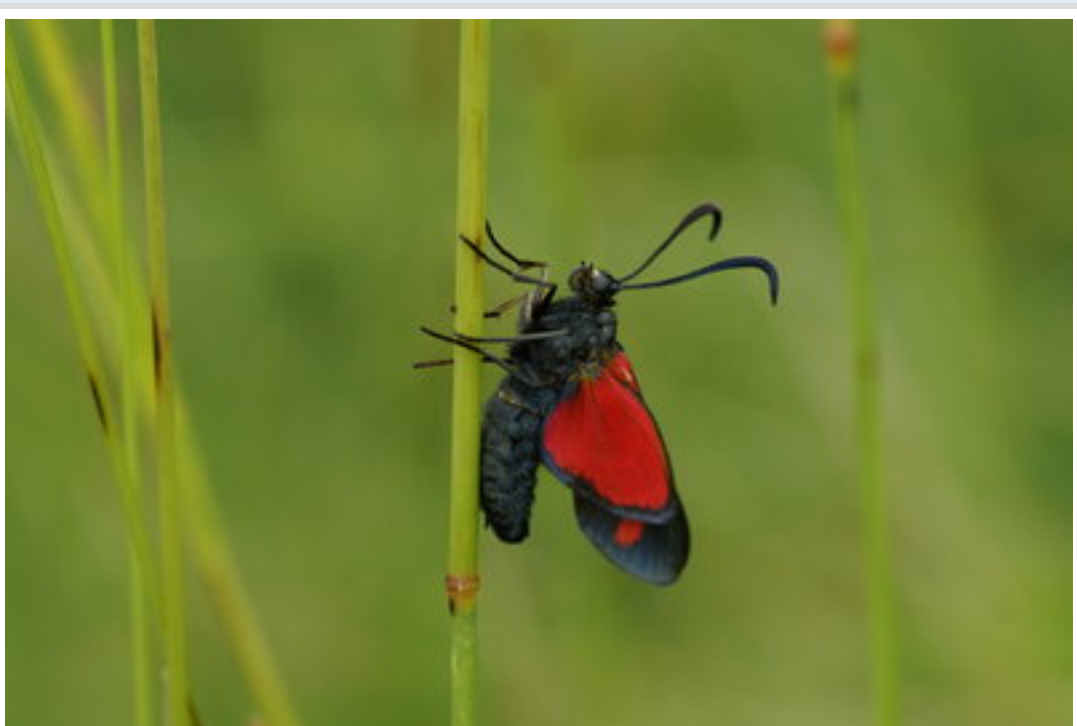
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Jun-14 08:17 PM GMT

Yesterday I went on a quick tour of various sites from Pulborough Brooks to Mill Hill. Only a few Meadow Browns and Large Skippers seen on the butterfly front but there were a lot of Burnet moths. I am not sure if the one in the first photo may be having problems with his wings.





18th June

by Katrina, 21-Jun-14 05:04 PM GMT

Went for a walk in Botany Bay no Purple Emperors but my first Ringlets of the year then onto the Downs and my first Dark Green Fritillarys.



Large Blues

by Katrina, 21-Jun-14 05:25 PM GMT

Me and my sister got up very early and went to Daneway Banks. Fortunately for us we arrived at the same time as David who kindly showed us the areas to look in – thank you David. Plenty of sunshine and butterflies. I was very pleased to see my first ever Large Blue. I think I saw at least 12 Large Blues over the morning but I think others had seen even more. We also saw numerous Marbled White, Meadow Browns and Small Heaths. We saw some Ringlets, Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshells, Speckled Woods, Common Blues, 2 Small Blues and one old Green Hairstreak. We saw some orange butterflies flying by which we think were Dark Green Fritillarys. Unfortunately when I got back I realised I had had the camera on the wrong aperture setting so the photos are a casualty of the early start. Well worth the trip despite the M25 traffic jams on the way back





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-14 11:25 PM GMT

Still got some great shots Katrina 😊📷 of a butterfly I'm hoping to see tomorrow for the first time – but at Collard as it's closer.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

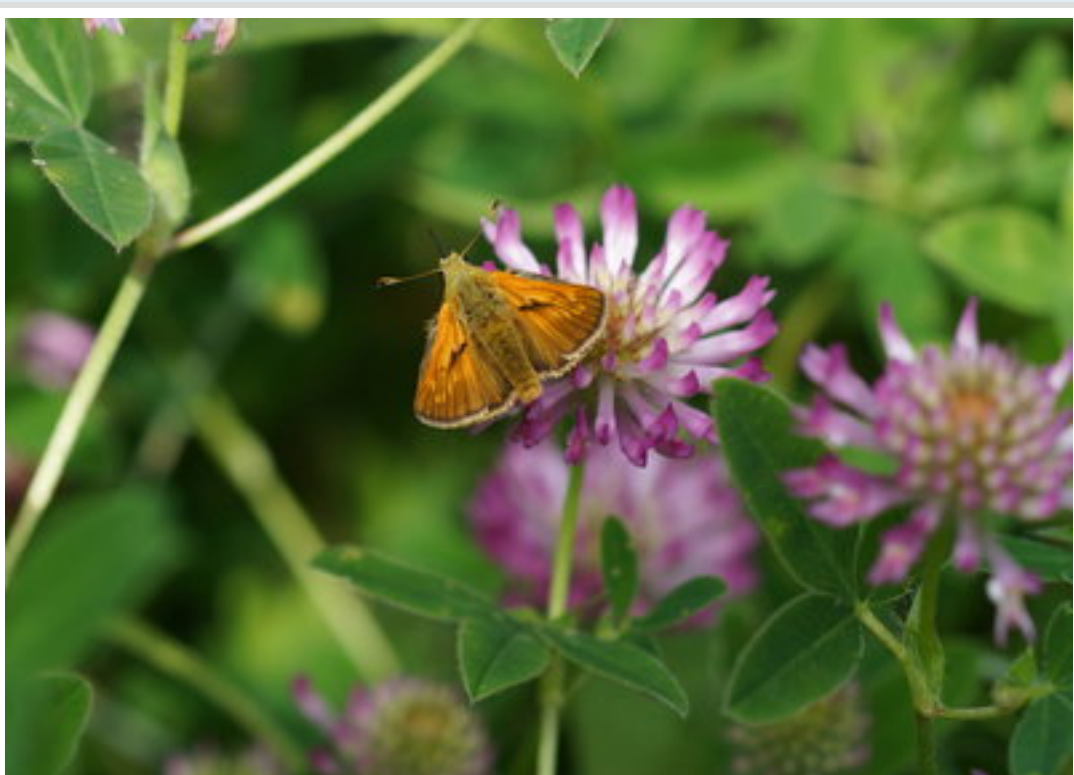
by Katrina, 22-Jun-14 12:49 AM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, they could have been a lot worse in the circumstances. Good luck tomorrow!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 22-Jun-14 08:16 PM GMT

Today we went to Botany Bay in the morning and saw white admirals and silver-washed fritillaries which were very active and not stopping for photos. Some large skippers did though. Then onto the Downs where we saw dark green fritillaries.





Kithurst

by Katrina, 26-Jun-14 03:53 PM GMT

I went to Kithurst Hill at lunchtime and saw my first Chalkhill Blues. (3 of them). Plenty of Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Large Skippers, one Small Tortoiseshell, one Red Admiral, one Speckled Wood and one Brimstone too.



Bad Omens but Purple Success

by Katrina, 27-Jun-14 08:18 PM GMT

Today I headed back to Botany Bay (via Tugley Wood entrance). I got up somewhat later than I had hoped and heard the words "heavy downpours" on the weather. Someone blocking the turning circle, bad traffic on the way and it started to drizzle when I was within 2 miles of the site and then rain when I arrived at 10.30. With not much hope I left the car. The rain soon stopped though and at 11.15 I saw 3 Purple Emperors chasing each other I walked towards them and one flew up from the path in front of me (I had forgotten rule number 1 always check out the path before you walk). I came back to the same part 10 mins later and it had returned. I found it 20m down the path to the left of the triangle when coming from Tugley Wood end. I found another one there later and one in the triangle, so in total 3 on the ground and 3 in the air. It was very different being there today as for the first 2 hours I saw no other people as opposed to last year when I met lots of other enthusiasts every day I went. I then went to lunch at Pulborough Brooks and then went on to the Knepp estate. I arrived there about 3pm and being somewhat rubbish with maps stopped people to check I was going the right

way. A kind lady said yes I was on the right path and would I like to the best area. I didn't need asking twice and when I was in the car she then said Neil Hulme and Matthew Oates were about to lead a guided walk in the area so I inadvertently ended up gatecrashing their walk.(sorry). Many purple emperors were seen flying on the walk including 3 chasing each other. I then went to look at the viewing platforms and managed got lost on the way back but with a bit of help made it in the end. I am quite excited by this site not least because it is much closer to me than Botany Bay. There was plenty of other wildlife about including birds of prey, a green woodpecker, dragonflies etc.



Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 27-Jun-14 08:47 PM GMT

You were more than welcome to join us Katrina. As a winter work party attendee you have a Golden Ticket. 😊
Congratulations on the Botany Bay sightings. Lovely pics!
BWs, Neil

Re: Katrina

by David M, 27-Jun-14 10:20 PM GMT

Indeed. Not too many grounded Emperor pics posted thus far in 2014.
You are very much ahead of the game.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-14 11:32 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Katrina 🍷 😊 I don't think I've seen a sighting from Wiltshire yet let alone even considered going to look for them...what's the weather like this weekend? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 28-Jun-14 05:02 PM GMT

Really well done Katrina, lovely photos. It is rare to have that butterfly all to yourself so I hope you made the most of it and enjoyed the experience 🍷

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 28-Jun-14 11:23 PM GMT

Thank you Neil, David, Wurzel and Pauline. I did enjoy having them to myself but in between found it a bit spookily quiet so pros and cons I suppose.

Re: Katrina

by PhilJohnson, 29-Jun-14 08:19 PM GMT

Hi Katrina,

I am loving the pictures of the Purple Emperor on the ground. Chatting to others, I think I was one of the few people to have seen them today (3) at Bookham Common in Surrey but they were only tree canopy sightings and when I did find one perched on top of one of the taller willow trees (possibly a female), I missed the photo opportunity by about 2 seconds 😊

Best Wishes,
Philip

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 01-Jul-14 06:01 PM GMT

Thank you Phil - I certainly have plenty photos I have missed by seconds too.

Mountain Ringlets

by Katrina, 01-Jul-14 06:17 PM GMT

Today me and my sister went to Craig Meagaidh to look for Mountain Ringlets. There was nothing on the sightings board when we arrived but the helpful rangers pointed us in the right direction. There were Chimney Sweeper moths at the bottom. It was quite hard work walking up with only moths spotted initially by us (but many midges and clegs spotted us), but we finally saw some Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries. We then saw some Mountain Ringlets. Having seen our first ones I decided to stay in the same area rather than going further up the mountain. We also saw some large pale brown and orange butterflies that we couldn't get close enough to identify. Amazing views even from where we were about half way up. We also saw golden ringed dragonflies and my sister saw a weasel.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-14 10:35 PM GMT

You're cleaning up this year Katrina 🤖😄🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurezl

Re: Katrina

by Maximus, 02-Jul-14 08:45 PM GMT

Well done with the Purple Emperors and Mountain Ringlets Katrina, you've certainly done some travelling recently, so very well deserved 😊

Mike

Re: Katrina

by David M, 02-Jul-14 10:43 PM GMT

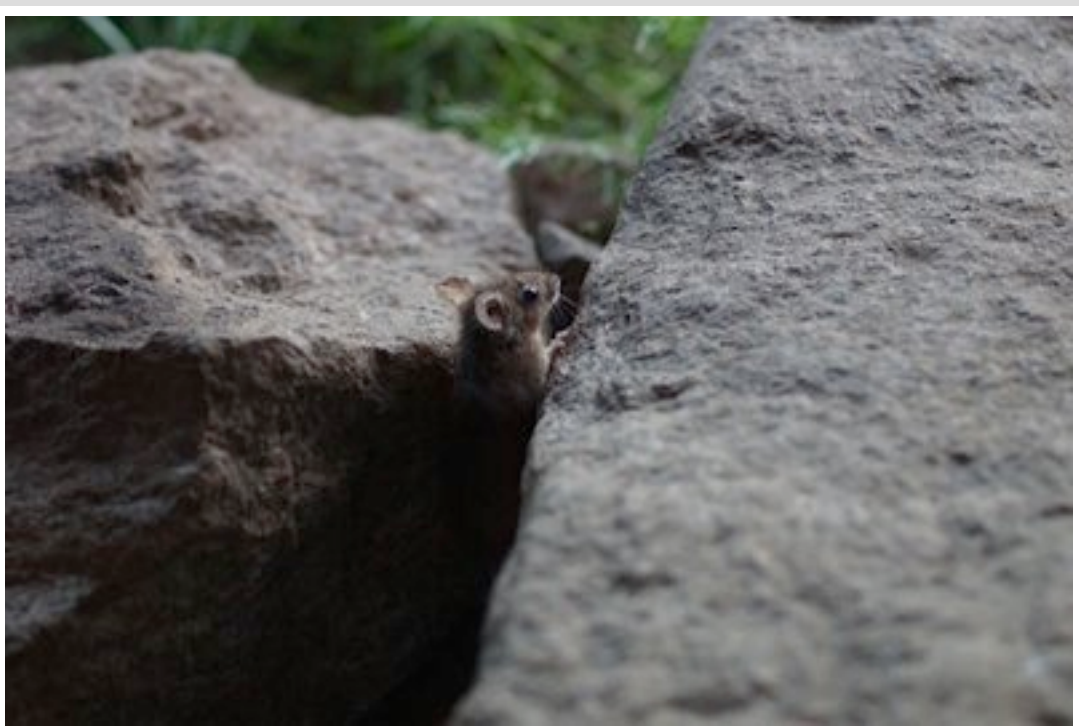
Aaah! Scottish Mountain Ringlets.

A species I must one day get round to seeing.

Dusk Watch

by Katrina, 03-Jul-14 09:21 PM GMT

Last night I went on an excellent Speyside Wildlife Dusk Watch. I had plenty of fun trying to photograph wood mice which were just in front of the hide and were very fast. Later on some roe deer put in an appearance followed by a pine martin (called Ouzel) and then 3 badgers. The hide was excellent with lighting outside and also 4 infrared cameras. I can really recommend it if you are ever up in the area.







Re: Katrina

by badgerbob, 03-Jul-14 09:28 PM GMT

Wonderful stuff Katrina. I love the Chimney Sweeper moth, one I would love to get, and of course I also like the picture of my namesake!!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 03-Jul-14 10:33 PM GMT

Thank you - chimney sweepers seem to be very common round these parts. The badgers were at one point were walking right along the edge of the hide.

Re: Katrina

by David M, 03-Jul-14 10:37 PM GMT

Beautiful images of rarely seen indigenous creatures.

That part of the UK is truly spectacular.

Re: Katrina

by Willrow, 04-Jul-14 08:11 PM GMT

Simply lovely report Katrina, that superb Pine Marten has got me drooling 🍷

Enjoyed!

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Northern Brown Argus

by Katrina, 04-Jul-14 08:23 PM GMT

Yesterday we went on a successful hunt for the Northern Brown Argus in the Cairngorms. We also saw Ringlets, Meadow Browns, one Small Heath and a golden ringed dragonfly.







Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 04-Jul-14 09:15 PM GMT

Just catching up Katrina and I love your Pine Marten shots 🍷

Re: Katrina

by essexbuzzard, 04-Jul-14 11:40 PM GMT

Well done on the white spotted Northern Brown Argus sightings and pictures, Katrina—they are fantastic, as are the nocturnal mammals, of course... 🍷

Really must get back to Scotland, before they install a drawbridge 😂

Re: Katrina

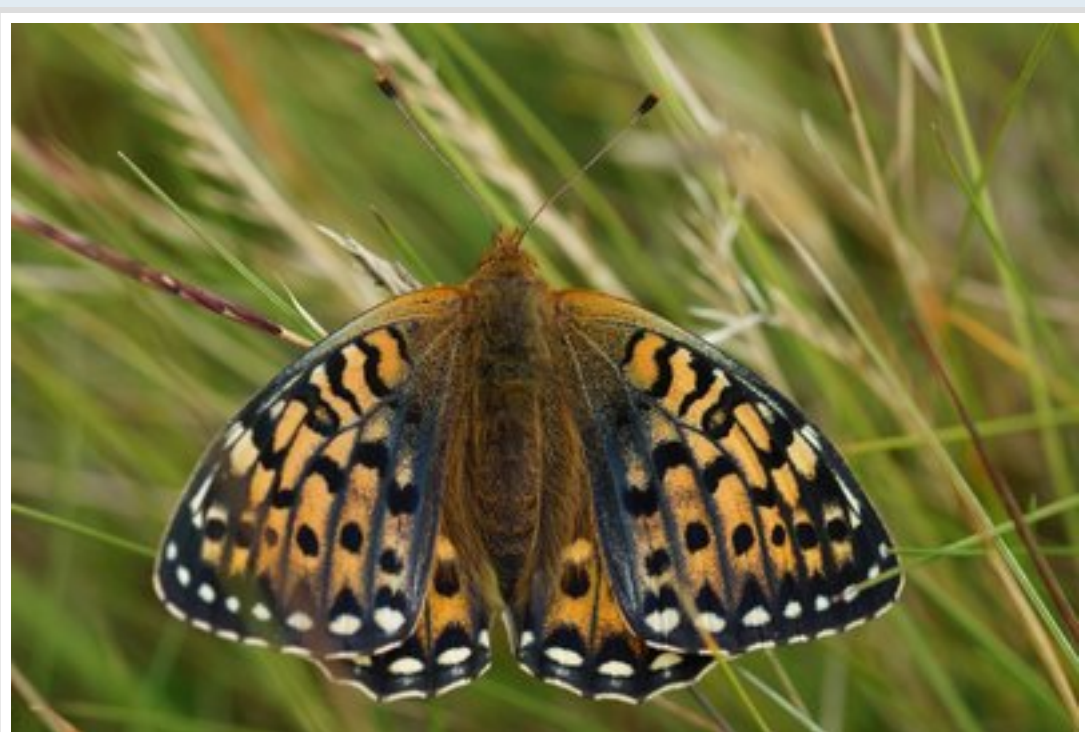
by Katrina, 05-Jul-14 08:28 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline and Essexbuzzard the hide was so good for the dusk watch it felt like cheating.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 05-Jul-14 08:37 PM GMT

Today we went for a walk between Boat of Garten and Loch nan Carraigan. We saw 52 Ringlets, 4 Common Blues, 8 Small Heaths and at the Loch we found one Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and one ginormous Dark Green Fritillary. We also saw on the way numerous Bordered White moths, some Gold Swifts and 11 Tiger Beetles.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 05-Jul-14 10:39 PM GMT

Cracking sets of shots Katrina. I love the white under wing markings of the NBA and that female Dark Green is spectacular 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurezl

8th July

by Katrina, 10-Jul-14 08:32 PM GMT

On the 8th of July we went to Insh Marshes to see some more Northern Brown Argus. Despite intermittent drizzle we saw plenty and also Small Heath, Common Blues, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries and Ringlets. I was surprised to see some with wings fully open even in the light drizzle.







Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 10-Jul-14 11:35 PM GMT

It looks like this is going to be a season to remember for you Katrina. You've nailed quite a few difficult and distant species along the way. Impressive commitment and results to match!
BWs, Neil

Pulborough Brooks Parade of Butterflies

by Katrina, 06-Aug-14 10:25 PM GMT

This morning I stayed in, rather put off by the rain first thing. At lunchtime I went to Steyning Rifle Range but didn't see any Brown Hairstreaks, probably as I got there rather late. I did see plenty of Walls though. I then spent a very short time at Pulborough Brooks where there were Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Peacocks, Skippers and Common Blues. All common species but I was very pleased to see them.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-14 10:35 PM GMT

Love the first Red Admiral shot Katrina 😊 That field looks like a prime Clouded Yellow spot 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 07-Aug-14 06:28 AM GMT

I'm loving the last Peacock 🦋

Re: Katrina

by William, 07-Aug-14 08:36 AM GMT

Just seen your Northern Brown Arguses Katrina – Superb!

BWs

Beautiful Brown Hairstreaks

by Katrina, 09-Aug-14 10:55 PM GMT

I managed to get out a bit earlier to Steyning today and had an enjoyable afternoon with other Brown Hairstreak hunters including Trevor and Butterfliesaurus Rex. I saw 4 in total and the first 2 I saw I found myself.



Re: Katrina

by Neil Hulme, 09-Aug-14 11:14 PM GMT

Great result Katrina. The Early Bird catches the Hairstreak. 😊
BWs, Neil

First Egg Capture

by Katrina, 16-Aug-14 07:43 PM GMT

I went to Brown Hairstreak Hotspot Steyning Rifle Range today. It was an unusual day with sun coming and going and people coming and going. By the time I arrived Trevor and David had already seen 2. They then promptly found 2 more. My spotting effort of the day came later which was just one, which, although posing nicely with wings open, was right in the middle of an inaccessible large clump of thorny vegetation. Nearer the end of the day a couple on holiday found 2 more (thank you) which overlapped. The first of which was very obliging posing for a long time, egg laying and then seeming to fly into the perfect spot in front of one or other of us. At one point it even graced Paul Fosterjohn's shoulder briefly, no doubt as a thank you for his splendid pin badge fundraising efforts. In total I think 9 were seen by different people over the day of which I saw five. My highlight was remembering to look for the eggs after seeing the butterfly. I managed one recognisable egg photo. My first outing where I have tried to photo an egg. Thanks Neil for you kind comment. I hope you are feeling better.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-14 10:23 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Katrina 😊 I'm hoping for a break in the cooler weather to get out and try to find a few more for myself, but in the mean time your shots will keep me going 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

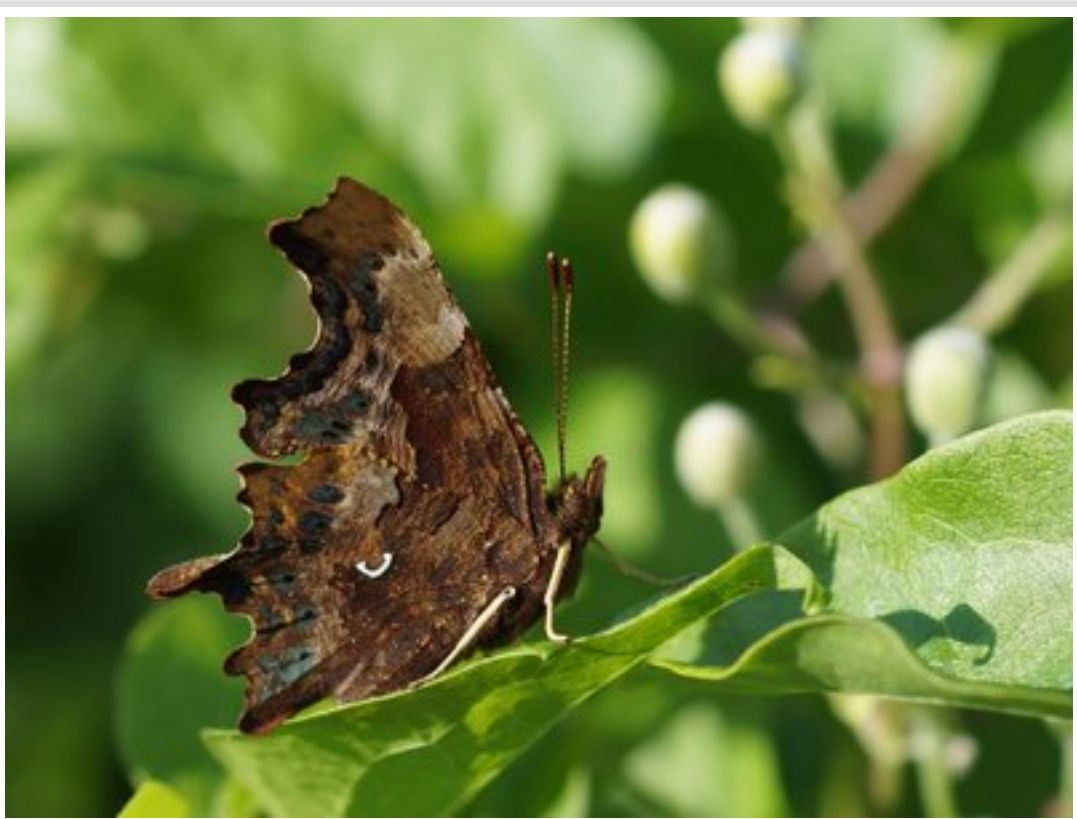
by Katrina, 23-Aug-14 06:50 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel – you are always very encouraging 😊

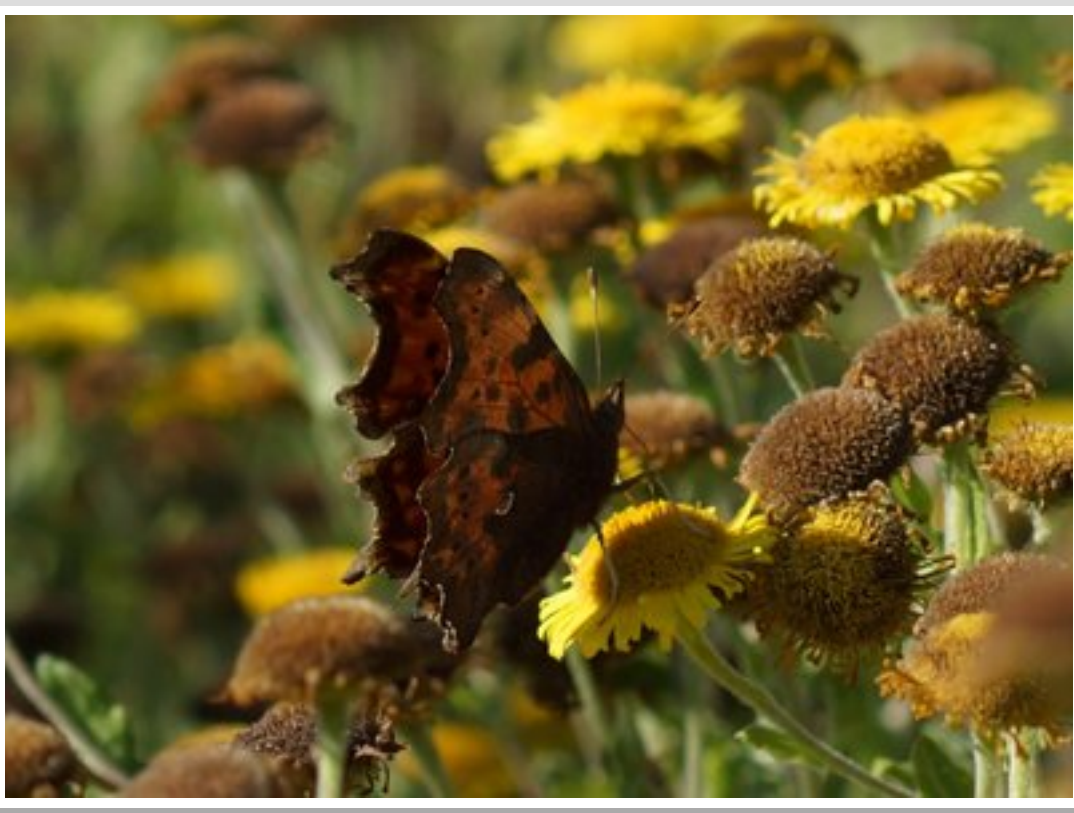
Comma Day

by Katrina, 23-Aug-14 07:03 PM GMT

Today I went to Mill Hill and got there in beautiful sunshine about 8.30 in the magical time of day when the butterflies are going from roosting to waking up. The light was lovely but most of the blues I found looked as though they had had an interesting life with a few narrow escapes. I also saw a Marbled White, some Small Heaths and Meadow Browns. I was pleased to see my first Comma in ages when I was leaving. I went on to Pulborough Brooks and found three more fresh Commas as well as some Common Blues, 2 Red Admirals, one Small Tortoiseshell and a Brimstone.







Re: Katrina

by peterc, 23-Aug-14 07:34 PM GMT

Hi katrina,

Well done today. Unless my eyes are deceiving me, is the open-winged blue an Adonis Blue?

Peter

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 23-Aug-14 08:08 PM GMT

Hi Peter, yes it is. The Adonis blue was at Mill Hill.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-14 10:07 PM GMT

Great Comma action Katrina, the first shot is a cracker and shows of the lovely purpley brown of the autumnal Commas 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Pulborough Brooks

by Katrina, 27-Aug-14 09:48 PM GMT

This afternoon I went for a quick walk round Pulborough Brooks. The sky was grey and although it wasn't raining the air felt damp. I saw Speckled Woods, Green-Veined Whites and a Red Admiral.



Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 31-Aug-14 09:40 PM GMT

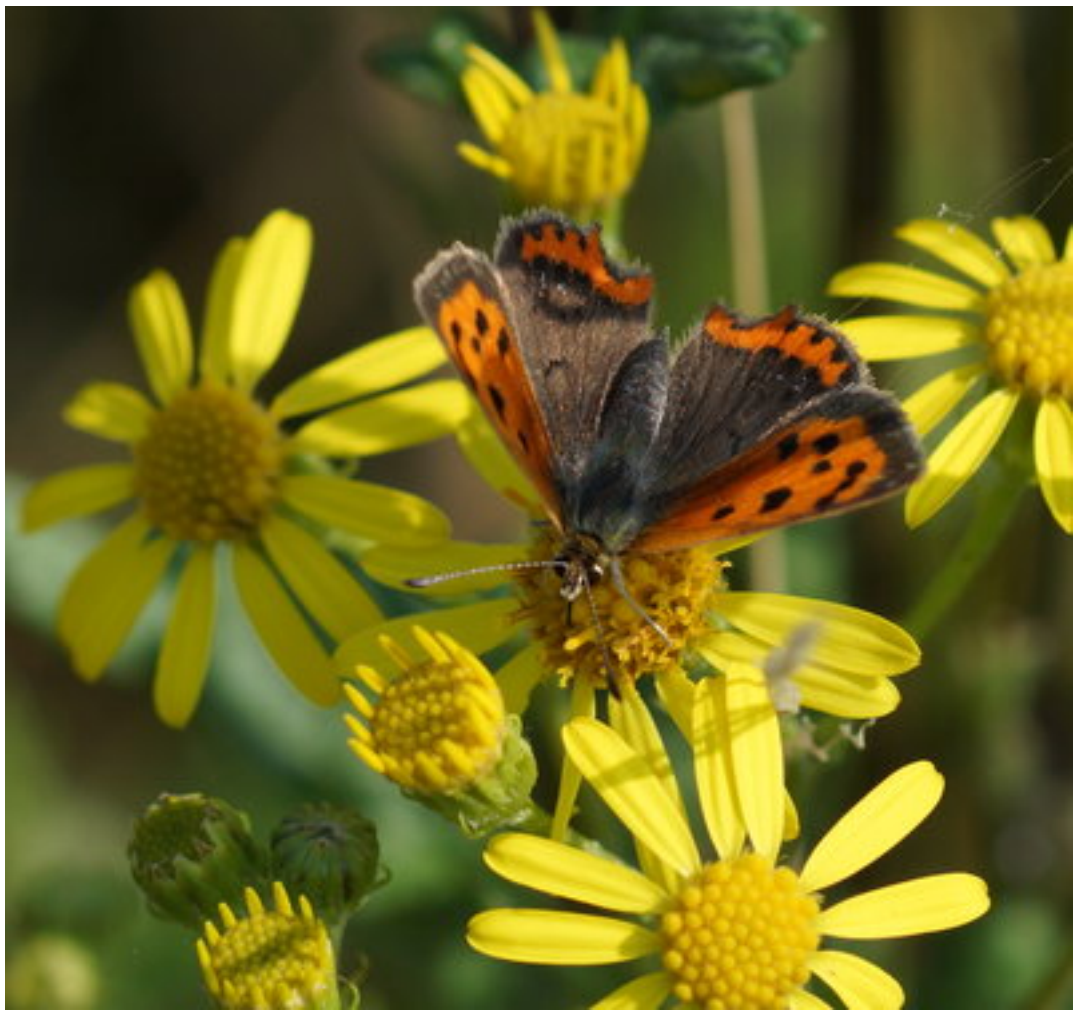
I spent an hour in the sun at Chantry Hill today. Plenty of butterflies on the wing. Thanks to a couple who pointed out the first Clouded Yellow for me of the year. Some nice Small Heaths about.



Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 03-Sep-14 09:39 PM GMT

This morning I went to Cissbury Ring. I saw Meadow Browns, Small Heaths, Small Coppers, Common Blues, a Skipper and a Brimstone.



Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-14 10:50 PM GMT

Lovely Small Coppers 😊 And a blue badge one too 🏆

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 24-Sep-14 08:00 PM GMT

This morning I went up to the Downs and unfortunately an extensive black cloud arrived just before me. I was pleased to find a single butterfly – common blue I think with a bit of wing missing. I then went briefly to the Heathland area at Pulborough Brooks where I saw three dragonflies on the sandy path. After that a brief visit to Aldrington canal where the sun and butterflies were out. I saw about 10 Clouded Yellows, some Common Blues and some Whites.



Re: Katrina

by David M, 24-Sep-14 09:30 PM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

I saw about 10 Clouded Yellows...

This species is really having an excellent year in southern England. I keep looking out for them in south Wales but as yet have only seen two.

Pulborough

by Katrina, 08-Oct-14 08:43 PM GMT

At Pulborough this afternoon between showers I saw a Small Copper and some Common Blues.



Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 08-Oct-14 11:34 PM GMT

Nice end of season shots Katrina 😊 They look as worn out as I feel 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Oct-14 09:30 PM GMT

I've just been catching up with your diary Katrina, WOW what a year you've had. You've taken some really terrific photos. It was great to see you at Steyning again this year, hopefully I'll see you and a few of the regulars there again next year. It's often very busy but also great fun. 😊

Best Wishes

B'saurus

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 19-Nov-14 04:56 PM GMT

Thank you B.rex. it was lovely to see you at Steyning too. I do like catching up with people there.

Godwits Galore

by Katrina, 19-Nov-14 05:11 PM GMT

Today I finally made it to a work party at Heyshott. The weather was good and there was even a bit of warmth in the sunshine. There is something about Heyshott that is always peaceful – even with the chainsaws.

I then went on to Pulborough Brooks and saw a large flock of Black-tailed godwits. Someone I met said they had stopped counting at 200. I also saw one butterfly flying in the distance which I think was a Red Admiral.



Ragged Red Admiral

by Katrina, 29-Nov-14 08:56 PM GMT

A short trip to Aldrington canal today and I found a Red Admiral.



Re: Katrina

by David M, 29-Nov-14 09:14 PM GMT

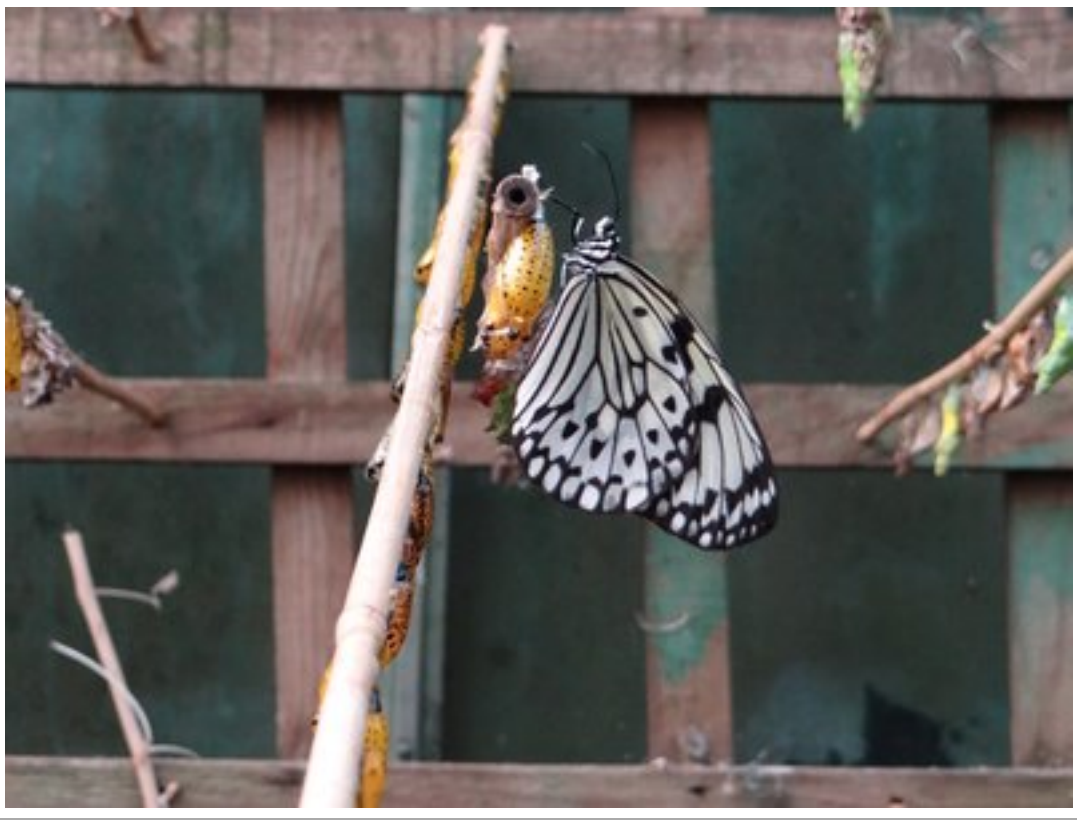
Looks more like half a Red Admiral to me. 😊

Fair play to it still being on the wing in late November in THAT condition.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 27-Dec-14 07:48 PM GMT

Today I went to the Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World in search of heat and butterflies.



Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 30-Dec-14 03:04 PM GMT

Yesterday I went with my mother and sister to Baron's Haugh. The highlight was seeing an otter which my sister spotted. It was so quick I only managed a photo of its tail.



Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-14 10:18 PM GMT

Great sighting Katrina 🍷 Are those Whopper Swans? happy New Year.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by David M, 30-Dec-14 10:24 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Great sighting Katrina...Are those Whopper Swans?

They look pretty big to me, Wurzel. 😊

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-14 10:32 PM GMT

I think I'm going to give up using iPads/iPods as the predictive text malarkey always catches me out 😞😞 ...let me try my question again...
Are they Whooper Swans and not Buicks? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 30-Dec-14 10:48 PM GMT

I think they are Whooper swans. I looked online and the shaped the yellow on the beaks looks more like Whooper than Bewick's. The Barons Haugh website says 16 species of butterflies have been seen there including "the locally abundant orange-tip" so I might come back in Spring / summer.

Re: Katrina

by MikeOxon, 30-Dec-14 10:53 PM GMT

I'd say those are Whoopers – it's a good place to see them. I expect they've come from Iceland.

As it happens there's one very close to my home at the moment, in Radley Village

Mike