

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Jan-20 08:11 AM GMT

A video I watched recently (Jan 2020).

My species Movie Critique I added to the species specific forum for Orange Tip

"The Orange-tip (Anthocharis cardamines L.)" by Filming Varwild 2019

<https://youtu.be/601Z2Bgrq44>

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 23-Jan-20 07:09 PM GMT

{quote=PhilBJohnson post\_id=150381 time=1579767100 user\_id=13253}.The Orange-tip (Anthocharis cardamines L.)" by Filming Varwild 2019..

This entire series is beyond cutting edge as far as butterflies are concerned. I would recommend to anybody to view the full range of these videos as they are the 'Blue Planet' equivalent in the butterfly world and the couple that produce these films are as devoted and knowledgeable as anybody in Europe.

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 25-Jan-20 09:01 AM GMT

Thanks David,

I thought that the Green Hairstreak was an example of a species not fully understood (or widely understood). It apparently needed a species of ant for it's life cycle, making it not a common garden species but very much habitat specific.

As it was not endangered (or became extinct) like the Large Blue, it was apparently, not studied to such a degree.

We might have a situation (I don't know), where United Kingdom, European and United States Green Hairstreak, had evolved to interact with habitats and other species in their local habitats, differently.

For education and entertainments sake, this was my latest effort to collate some of my Green Hairstreak video clips and photos:

I hope you enjoy it.

<https://youtu.be/qGuQu0vzJow>

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 26-Jan-20 06:12 PM GMT

#### Woodland Paths in Winter

As one knows, after much rain, woodland paths can become muddy. As people tend not to like walking through the middle of some mud, a mud path can become wider, as people walk on the less muddy edges, often trampling on celandine and violets that might be there, making a muddy part of a path, wider.

One management solution with funding and land owners permission, was to lay a slightly raised, narrow gravel path, for two people to walk side by side and for **wheel chair access**, a path of **at least 1.2m wide**, was thought appropriate. A path laid centrally, allowed flora on a path edge to recover, as people walked more, keeping to the purpose built, nice new path.



*Celandine and Violets on muddy Woodland path edge suffered after rain and many walkers, runners and cyclists. 26th January 2020, a Lincolnshire Wood.*

Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 29-Mar-20 08:00 AM GMT

Space for another file.

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Apr-20 10:39 AM GMT

### Companion Planting ideas to help butterflies



*April -May Aubretia & Garlic Mustard. Planted Scheme with "water table" tray for GM tap roots*

April Aubretia & Garlic Mustard. Planted Scheme with "water table" tray.

If uprooting native Garlic Mustard (Garlic M) in ones own garden, try and transplant it by keeping all of it's long carrot like (in shape, do not eat) tap root. Get as much surrounding fine root in soil as one can, to help prevent, not enough water "leaf wilt" once transplanted.

Grown in general purpose (nitrogen rich) compost for larger green leaves. It took two years to flower from seed (biennial) with that half of pot well watered in shade to start with. A watering tray at the bottom of the large pot, helped the "water table" tap root and the aubretia to stay drier. Aubretia liked well drained (small stones in soil), less watered compost. It was less deep rooted.

When Garlic mustard flowered, a pot was transferred from a shady location, to a sunny one, a female Orange Tip butterfly oviposited on, at an appropriate seasonal time (and time of day).

Kind Regards,

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Apr-20 01:51 PM GMT

The Orange Tip butterfly in the United Kingdom, had evolved a mottled green underwing to help it camouflage while resting on native, white Garlic mustard flowers (or similar species), in-between periods of direct sunlight needed for flight in a "cold" United Kingdom Springtime.

Companion Planting Garlic Mustard with Sweet Rocket might have been an answer to Sweet Rocket being an unhelpful "misleadance" for a female Orange Tip butterfly, looking to egg lay (a waste of her energy, if the plant wasn't used to complete a life cycle).

This "Species Video" was unfinished, I hoped to update this link later.

It was hoped that better content was to be added (and poorer content removed) at a future time:

<https://youtu.be/ToWv3rnuO4c>

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 02-Apr-20 07:09 PM GMT

Some interesting stuff lately, Phil. Are you intending to let us know when 'Edwardo' becomes an adult?

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 05-Apr-20 11:27 AM GMT

Devil's-bit scabious (Marsh Fritillary Larval foodplant) (DBS)

This was a plant grown from seed, that germinated in the autumn, from a single species DBS seed packet and grown indoors on a window ledge through the winter, sown from shop bought seed and seedling compost (not contaminated by other seeds).

One thought was, first year root, might have significantly different leaves from a mature rooted DBS

At this stage, this plant did not have hairy, or very hairy leaves.

This turned out not to be Devil's-bit scabious but possibly sorrel!

UK butterflies that laid their eggs in a large batch, often chose big leaves for their oviposited position.

A significance of growing DBS with large leaves, might have been like telling a Marsh Fritillary female, where to go to lay her batch of eggs and the plant also might have produced many nectar rich flowers.

My DBS purchased as plug plants, were transferred into larger pots which stood on a water tray.



30th April 2020 Re-potted Sorrel? plant from DBS seed packet. (Bench gave an understanding of plant size).

Kind Regards,

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-Apr-20 06:41 PM GMT

April 9th 2020

"Gardening for Native Butterfly Species in the United Kingdom.

The following comments of mine were about our native Speckled Wood butterfly on facebook. I apologised for not seeing one yet this year.

I had copied these comment with edits, for possible critique:

The Speckled Wood female butterfly laid it's eggs on grass and a green caterpillar, habitually, sat lengthways (vertically, if the grass was growing that way) along a broad leaf of grass, as it had evolved to camouflage that way (ones that did not do that got eaten, not surviving to pass on to another generation).

The wild, native grasses, caterpillars ate, were not present in everyones fine cut lawns. When one left a bit of "rough grass" around the edges of their garden, it was often helpful for this species and many other native UK butterfly species.

This was one of the larger native United Kingdom resident butterfly species, to complete it's life cycle, in need of native grass. For a fat, 4th Instar caterpillar to camouflage successfully from predators, it needed to lie lengthways on a relatively broader grass leaf, compared with a fine leaf, lawn hybrid developed to be hard wearing, for sport on grass.

Someone's specialised book topic might have been:

UK Resident Butterfly Species and Native Grasses they depend on.

which might have led to:

A more thought out grass seed mix, specifically for native butterfly species.

Kind regards

PS (I have not seen a Speckled Wood caterpillar in the wild yet). 😊😊

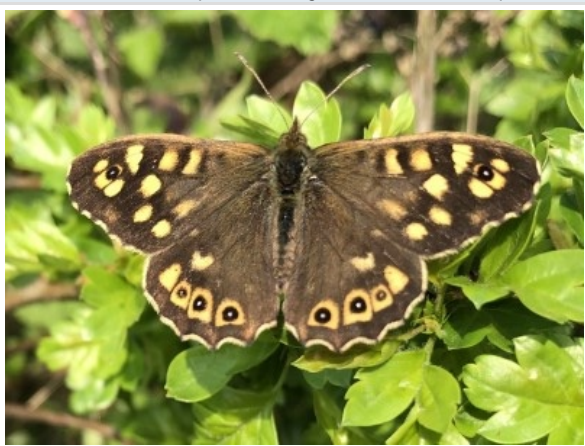
### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Apr-20 10:23 AM GMT

Easter morning Walk for a sense of well-being during "lockdown" (a time of pandemic).

8:30am

Who had seen a butterfly "on the wing", before 8:00am in April?



A male Speckled Wood Butterfly. April 12th 8:30am

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 12-Apr-20 05:57 PM GMT

[quote=PhilBJohnson-post\_id=152088-time=1586683390-user\_id=13253] Easter morning Walk.  
8:30am

Who had seen a butterfly "on the wing", before 8:00am in April'a climate, warmer?

It is somewhat unusual.

The earliest I've ever seen an active butterfly in the UK, Phil, is a Chequered Skipper at Glasdrum Wood, Argyll at 7.10am.

Notable though that night-time temperatures were in double figures and the sun is rising at 6 o'clock. Also, the Speckled Wood seems to have a higher tolerance for low temperatures than most other species.

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 13-Apr-20 01:45 PM GMT

Small White Pupa diary updates:

Monday 13th April 8°C, more pupa found in an early "Spring pupated, lighter colour formation"

Larva apparently overwintered in aubretia and pupated when seasonal temperatures allowed their life cycle to speed up:



"Small White pupae

After later inspection, these two were thought, might have been parasitised, before butterfly emergence.



April 13th 2020

Kind Regards

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 20-Apr-20 05:09 PM GMT

The Green-veined white species did not need (or was not known by me), to complete it's life cycle using vegetable crops in the United Kingdom.



20th April 2020, Lincolnshire 14:01pm. Green-veined whites, paired. The male was top left (wings outside).

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 21-Apr-20 06:59 PM GMT

Lovely colours, Phil. This is a flighty species so a mating pair is the best opportunity you can expect.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 27-Apr-20 08:17 AM GMT

April 26th 2020, Lincolnshire

Brimstone butterfly ovipositing (egg laying) on Alder Buckthorn, harassed by male Small White butterfly.

The native Brimstone species in the United Kingdom needed Buckthorn or Alder Buckthorn, to sustain it's life cycles in the wild, or wild garden. A Small White male butterfly harassed a female Brimstone butterfly.

Here was a video, made from clips taken in 720p definition, 240 frames/second, iPhone 6Plus:

<https://youtu.be/CrmmmngK0IN8> (updated April 30th 2020)

Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 28-Apr-20 11:53 AM GMT

Some lovely slow motion footage there, Phil. The Brimstone is so keen to lay she gets on with it whilst that male Small White is literally crawling up her wings!

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 28-Apr-20 03:26 PM GMT

Thanks David,

What became more obvious to me was that it might have been an evolutionary advantage for the female Brimstone to keep her wings tight shut (not always seen with male Brimstone courtship). She appeared to ignore, bending her abdomen away to deposit an egg. Another female butterfly's rejection (like you had seen), was to wave the abdomen in the air, like she had a repellent smell there.

Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 28-Apr-20 10:16 PM GMT

`{quote=PhilBJohnson_post_id=152839_time=1588084019_user_id=13253}`What became more obvious to me was that it might have been an evolutionary advantage for the female Brimstone to keep her wings tight shut (not always seen with male Brimstone courtship). She appeared to ignore, bending her abdomen away to deposit an egg. Another female butterfly's rejection (like you know), was to wave the abdomen in the air, like she had a bad smell there.

Good point, Phil. A female can hardly oviposit whilst she's pointing her abdomen in the air at a marauding male.

I was fascinated to see how determined the Brimstone was to simply get on with it despite the harassment. I wonder if she'd have behaved similarly had it been a male of her own species? I have occasionally seen female Brimstones curve their abdomens upwards wings open when assailed by males, but the one in your video was decidedly steadfast in her intent to carry on with her business.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 30-Apr-20 07:12 PM GMT



Thank you, David,  
My video Brimstone video was updated (and link changed) to hopefully aid someone else's understanding of the larval food plants.  
Kind regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 01-May-20 08:34 AM GMT

During these C19 different times, I was fortunate to have a garden and be Employed as a Gardener.



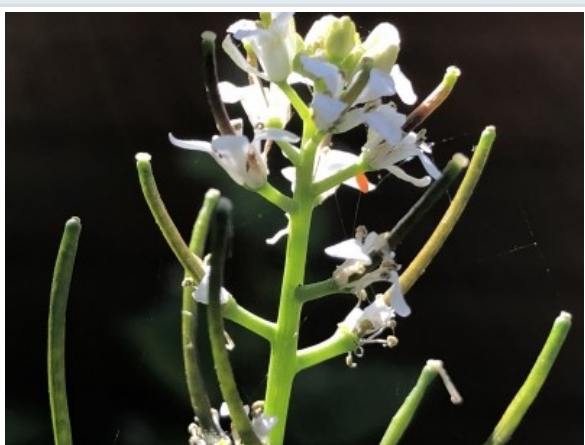
*Yesterday 15:03pm, ready for overnight roosting on perennial wall flower.*



*8:24am this morning, not the most camouflaged, nectar rich roosting position!*

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 07-May-20 06:37 AM GMT



*May 6th 2020 iPhone picture of Orange Tip egg laid on Garlic Mustard, a private garden, Lincolnshire.*

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 07-May-20 08:20 PM GMT

Very nice, Phil. Will you be rearing any or are you going to leave them to their own devices?

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-May-20 09:11 AM GMT

Reported scabious plants for butterfly loving flowers.

A Marsh Fritillary, as a batch, egg laying female, chose a large leaf to deposit her eggs, for evolutionary, selective reasons. The largest Devil's-bit scabious (DBS) plant, was thought to be larger than the largest Field Scabious (FS) plant, so DBS was a slightly better leaf choice for a Marsh Fritillary web (nest of caterpillars). DBS, apparently had the potential to grow larger than FS, liking a damp soil, where water was often showered with a watering can sprinkler, making it a looked after garden plant during a dry weather period. Water banks, water tanks or more water butts helped someone with their cost efficient habitat creation.



Reported DBS May9th 2020, bought as "plug plants" from [naturescape.co.uk](http://naturescape.co.uk) in Autumn 2019



### Re: PhilBWright

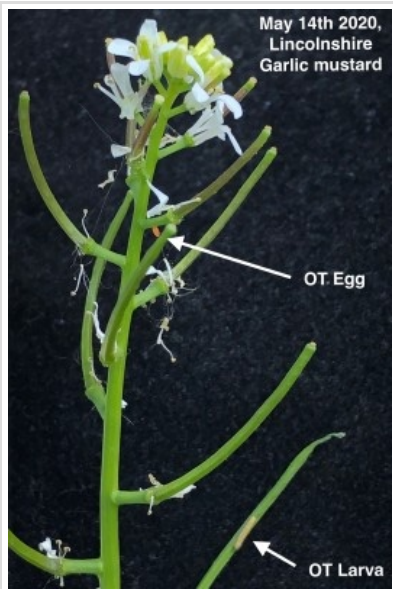
by PhilBJohnson, 15-May-20 08:11 AM GMT

It was thought it was a good idea to seed Garlic mustard (Garlic M) in two consecutive years as it was a biennial (taking two years to complete its Life Cycle, like possibly an Arran Brown, before climate change in Scotland) 😊

Seeding Garlic M in two consecutive years, for enclosed or isolated populations of Orange Tip butterfly (OT), was a caring, gardener's idea.

Seeding just once, was an appropriate action, for someone wanting an annual OT butterfly, emerging from a pupa, to travel further in flight to find a Garlic M flower.

In the second year after seeding, Garlic mustard "Bolted" (grew a tall flower spike for the Orange Tip butterfly).



*Biennial Garlic mustard.*

What Is a Biennial?

"In between annuals and perennials is another plant category known as biennials, which can be regarded as short-lived perennials that usually take two growing seasons to complete their life cycle. For the classic biennial, in its first growing season, the plant produces only foliage. In its second year, it will flower and set seed, often early in the season." Reference the spruce.com May 15th 2020

Garlic Mustard (With a large tap root established), was thought to have survived a Green-veined white larval feed and an English winter, into a second or third year.

Kind regards

## Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 20-May-20 08:52 AM GMT

**May 19th 2020** A less common sighting in Springtime.

Many "Large Brassica White butterflies" recorded in a previous early Spring were male.

I thought these were Spring brooded, 3rd instar, **Large Brassica White** caterpillars on Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata* in the mustard family (**Brassicaceae**)).

Honestly, it was thought that Spring cabbages often did not have big enough leaves, to attract a female Large Brassica White. In more recent decades or centuries, cabbages had been grown in winter in warmer environments and some varieties have been hybridised to grow more (including seed germination) in colder temperatures.

Does anyone have significantly different larval colours for Spring larval broods, when "Cabbage White larva" were normally book displayed in Summer Brood?

These looked to me more blue (from a distance) and less yellow than those I saw last August:



*May 19th 2020. 20:11pm Spring brooded Large White Garden caterpillars.*  
**May 20th**





*10:28am fed mainly on seedpods with little leaf damage noted.*



*Picture showing that there had been two broods on the same plant.*



*19:56pm Plant showed signs of significant leaf damage.  
The Garlic mustard plant chosen by at least one female "Large brassica White" butterfly was not within a large group of garlic mustard plants, so it was thought, at some point soon, some of these caterpillars will need to go for a walk across the ground, looking for more food plants.*



May 20th 2020, Lincolnshire 19:59pm

Kind regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 21-May-20 07:51 PM GMT

Thanks for posting that, Phil. I didn't know Large White used garlic mustard as an LHP.

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 22-May-20 06:38 AM GMT

Thanks David,

One thought was that native Garlic M, might be our most original native plant, most often used (not very often).

Cabbages had been selectively grown & hybridised for years, to produce bigger leaves in successive generations.

There were Wild Cabbages.

The female "Large Brassica White" might only feel secure (or behave in an evolved manner) under a large leaf to lay her batch of eggs

(like, for example, in a well watered garden , during a dry Spring). 😊 😊

More recently, growers and hybridisers chose Nasturtium plants for mass retail, that had smaller leaves, but flowered more profusely.

Someone wanted to be "in" growing Nasturtiums on their Council allotment, for using the flowers in a salad.

In ones own garden, I could suggest growing lots of different varieties. Chose the one that produces the biggest leaves and save all the seeds from that one, for next year.

It was thought that "Butterfly species purists" might end up seeking out, original native plants for their gardens, rather than those so called "bee friendly" flowers that were actually more sterile!

Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 29-May-20 08:21 AM GMT



May 28th  
2020  
"Large Brassica  
White" larva  
On Garlic  
Mustard.  
5th Instar

*Pieris brassicas* (Large Brassica White) appearing to go through it's Life Cycle very fast nearing the end of May 2020 (First Annual Brood).

Nasturtium Brood



May 25th 2020  
2nd Instar Larva, finishing eating the  
Nasturtium leaf eggs were laid on.



May 28th 2020 Moulded!



**Re: PhilBWright**

by David M, 29-May-20 07:46 PM GMT

Wow! Just goes to show how much they change appearance as they grow, Phil.

I presume there may be quite a few pupae on your plot very soon?

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 31-May-20 09:41 AM GMT

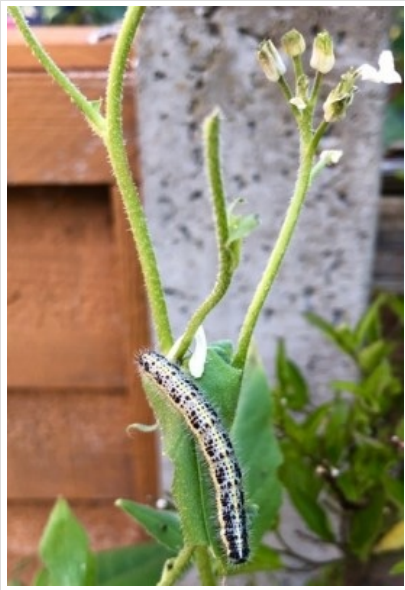
Thanks David and Pete,

I was going to go back, when I get more time and edit my personal diary and make some picture compilations (of more than one picture), to reduce picture file numbers.

**Sweet Rocket**

*Hesperis matronalis* is an herbaceous plant species in the family Brassicaceae.

Being in the Brassica (Brassicaceae) family, this plant made it into my list of butterfly species conservation plants, that had some use, companion planted with some wild, native plants (the ones with slowly evolved wildlife dependence). I wasn't sure how successful an Orange-tip (OT) female was in raising a brood there. Here was a Large Brassica White Larva, I found this morning, showing signs, it had munched the leaves:



*May 31st 2020. 5th Instar*

In my Orange-tip (OT) video lacking 2020 images, the Garlic Mustard (Garlic M) seed pods that developed the OT larva so quickly, were left standing in water (like cut flowers).

Lincoln Spring 2020 (April/May, it had been dryer than average (after a very wet winter). Garlic M that was seen recently in a dryer location, a small OT larva had retreated to a leaf nearest the lower developing seed pods of that plant.

OT were typically seen near water courses. Garlic mustard was found on river banks, where it sent down tap roots, for needed water.

Kind Regards

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Jul-20 01:56 PM GMT

Jobs for the weekend (July 11-12th 2020), included collecting Garlic Mustard (Garlic M) Seed. Seed pods turned pale yellow or brown, splitting when black or dark brown seed was mature. Store in a dry conditions, open pot until seeds were dried out.

It usually germinated quite easily. Young plants often appeared in early Spring.





**Garlic Mustard**

This plant was primarily for life cycles of:

Orange-tip wanting a spring brassicaceae (brassica family, but not necessarily namely related for human consumption of plant) flower head to lay it's eggs on.

Green-veined White

Large "Brassicacious" White

Small "Cruciferous" White

Garlic M thrived if in a wet, nutritious, part shade.

Summer (July/August) broods liked first year large leaves (plants that hadn't "bolted" to flower).

Many gardeners, by now might have removed unsightly (aesthetically unappealing to some) seed heads before they ripened, so consider planting in less "kept" areas (or in pots), to give the Orange-tip pupa a chance to over-winter, as it wasn't camouflaged, to help it avoid a garden tidy-up!

Kind Regards,

**Re: PhilBWright**

by PhilBJohnson, 27-Aug-20 10:03 AM GMT

"Gatekeeper" or "Hedge Brown" ?

Having a vivid imagination, there was something about the romance of the name "Gatekeeper" that stuck, and those walks through arable fields where the butterfly was met at a stile or gate in the boundary hedge.

Having said that, a gate keeper (like a lock keeper) was a persons job, depending on what type of gate it was, so the name might have been inappropriate. As the name "Gatekeeper" told one little about the butterfly's life cycle requirements and a need for many to be educated to help the species, my err, was away from that name, but hopefully towards something a little less "boring" than "Hedge Brown".

This year I wanted to share a couple of pictures to do with their timings, also for me to remember personally, about the same seasonal time, another year:



*Mating Pair (Newly emerged) July 26th 2020, Lincolnshire*



*A female August 23rd 2020, Lincolnshire. This was the last one, I saw that year (2022 edit).*

Kind Regards

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 28-Aug-20 01:26 PM GMT

{quote=PhilBJohnson-post\_id=157731-time=1598519032-user\_id=13253} "Gatekeeper" or "Hedge Brown" ?

Interesting one, isn't it, Phil?

I've clung on to the name Hedge Brown purely because that's what I called them as a kid and old habits die hard....

That said, when in Europe I use Spanish/Southern Gatekeeper, as there are no alternatives for those, but equally, being non-British species, they are not associated with being encountered at stiles/gates in arable fields, so the name 'Gatekeeper' has merely been carried forward to describe other similar butterflies in that particular group.

### Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 28-Aug-20 07:56 PM GMT

Great shot of the pair in cop Phil 😊 I've always tried to call it a Hedge Brown or 'Hedgie' as that's what both my sets of Grandparents called it 😊😄 However during Brown Hairstreak season I call it either a False-streak or a Little \$@%£ depending on how it behaves:wink:

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

### Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 24-Oct-20 07:28 PM GMT

A remade Red Admiral video clip from 2017

<https://youtu.be/basKvkdx4PY>

### Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 03-Nov-20 10:18 PM GMT

{quote=PhilBJohnson-post\_id=159022-time=1603564084-user\_id=13253} A remade Red Admiral video clip from 2017

<https://youtu.be/basKvkdx4PY>

I love these short clips, Phil, especially the slow motion flight shots.

Interesting that the butterfly keeps coming back to the purple part of the compost bag. I wonder whether it thinks it's a flower?