

# A guide to the Butterflies of Chipstead Downs



## **Introduction**

This guide to the butterflies of the Chipstead Downs site is intended only as a brief introduction to these winged jewels. The notes that accompany the photographs are necessarily brief and cannot take the place of the many field guides available. Should you wish to avail yourself of more information on the butterflies, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the Collins “Butterfly Guide” by Tom Tolman & Richard Lewington, which gives far greater detail and describes each species with excellent colour paintings.

The notes attached with each species describe:

**Distribution** - this details where each species is *commonly* seen at the Chipstead Downs.

**Flight period** - Whether the species has a single generation (univoltine), two generations (bivoltine) or many generations (multivoltine) and when they are usually in flight. The flight period of many species is gradually extending, due to global warming.

**Habitat** - Describes the habitat where each species is *usually* seen.

**Food plant** - this is the food plant of the caterpillar, not that of the adult.

We hope that this guide will assist you in discovering the natural beauty of the Chipstead Downs and, perhaps, prompt you to increase your knowledge of the nature around you.

## Large Skipper (*Ochlodes venatus*)



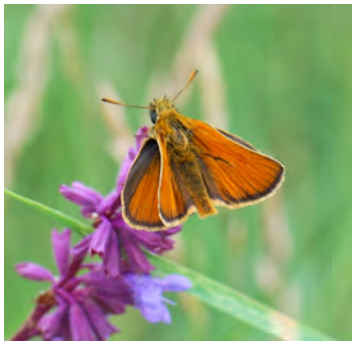
- Distribution: A widespread and common species over most of the site.
- Flight period: Univoltine. On the wing from June to the end of August.
- Habitat: Diverse, but favouring scrub, particularly bramble with tall grasses.
- Foodplant: Various coarse grasses.

## Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)



- Distribution: Widespread and very common over most of the site.
- Flight period: Univoltine. May to the end of July
- Habitat: Scrub with tall grasses
- Foodplant: Various tall grasses, particularly Yorkshire Fog.

## Essex Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*)



- Distribution: Recorded from Fames Rough only.
- Flight period: Univoltine. May to end of August
- Habitat: Tall grassland with an abundance of flowers
- Foodplant: Various tall grasses, particularly Cocksfoot.

## Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*)



- Distribution: Fames Rough, Lords Wood field and Great Parson's field.
- Flight period: Univoltine or bivoltine. May to the end of September
- Habitat: Grassy places with small scrub
- Foodplant: Wild Strawberry, Creeping Cinquefoil

## Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*)



- Distribution: Fames Rough and Coneyboro Hill
- Flight period: Usually univoltine. May to end of August.
- Habitat: Grassy places with small scrub
- Foodplant: Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Horseshoe Vetch.

## Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)



- Distribution: Widespread throughout
- Flight period: Multivoltine. April to end of October
- Habitat: Most terrestrial habitats
- Foodplant: The Cabbage family

### **Small White** (*Pieris rapae*)



Distribution:	Widespread throughout
Flight period:	Multivoltine. April to end of October
Habitat:	Most terrestrial habitats
Foodplant:	The Cabbage family

### **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*)



Distribution:	Widespread and frequent in Banstead Wood
Flight period:	Bivoltine. April to end of October
Habitat:	Most terrestrial habitats
Foodplant:	The Cabbage family but rarely cultivated forms.

### **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*)



Distribution:	Widespread throughout
Flight period:	Bivoltine. April to end of October
Habitat:	Most terrestrial habitats
Foodplant:	The Cabbage family

## Clouded Yellow (*Colias crocea*)



Distribution:	Summer visitor. Widespread throughout grassland, but usually in small numbers.
Flight period:	Multivoltine. May to October
Habitat:	Diverse, but with an abundance of flowers.
Foodplant:	Clovers, lucerne and related plants.

## Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)



Distribution:	Common on grasslands and woodland edge.
Flight period:	Univoltine. Generally May - October but can be seen in any month of the year given suitable weather conditions.
Habitat:	Grassland and woodland edge.
Food plant:	Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn

## Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)



Distribution:	Farnes Rough and Coneyboro Hill
Flight period:	Univoltine. April to July.
Habitat:	Scrub and grassland.
Food plant:	Several, but particularly Rock Rose.

## Purple Hairstreak (*Quercusia quercus*)



- Distribution: Shaw between Harholt Plantation and Hill Wood field.
- Flight period: Univoltine. Late June - early September
- Habitat: Oak woodland and oak scrub
- Food plant: Oak.

## Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)



- Distribution: Grasslands, particularly Hither field.
- Flight period: Bivoltine. Late April to October.
- Habitat: Grasslands and scrub areas
- Food plant: Common and Sheep's Sorrels

## Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)



- Distribution: Banstead Wood, Harholt Plantation, Stagbury Down.
- Flight period: Bivoltine. March to October.
- Habitat: Woodland edge and scrub areas
- Food plant: Holly, Dogwood and other shrubs.

## Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*)



Distribution:	Hither field, Coneyboro Hill, Fames Rough.
Flight period:	Bivoltine. May to September.
Habitat:	Grasslands
Food plant:	Rock Rose, Common Stork's-bill.

## Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)



Male (left) and bright female (right)

Distribution:	Stagbury field, Great Parson's field, Barn field, Hither field, Fames Rough.
Flight period:	Bivoltine. May to October
Habitat:	Grasslands.
Food plant:	Bird's-foot Trefoil



### **Adonis Blue** (*Lysandra bellargus*)



Distribution:	Harholt Plantation, Stagbury Down
Flight period:	Bivoltine. Late May to September.
Habitat:	Grassy slopes
Food plant:	Horseshoe Vetch
Note:	First confirmed record 2011.

### **Chalkhill Blue** (*Lysandra coridon*)



Distribution:	Stagbury field
Flight period:	Univoltine. Late June to September
Habitat:	Short grass on chalk/limestone slopes.
Food plant:	Horseshoe Vetch

### **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*)



Distribution:	Harholt Plantation, Banstead Wood
Flight period:	Univoltine. July to August
Habitat:	Mature deciduous woodland
Food plant:	Sallow.
Note:	First confirmed record 2011.

## Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)



Distribution:	Harholt Plantation, Banstead Wood, Stagbury Down.
Flight period:	Univoltine. March to November
Habitat:	Woodland edge, scrub areas.
Food plant:	Stinging Nettle

## Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)



Distribution:	Hither field, Fames Rough, Stagbury field.
Flight period:	Multivoltine. April to October (Summer visitor from the Continent).
Habitat:	Grasslands
Food plant:	Stinging Nettle

## Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)



Distribution:	Hill Wood field, Harholt Plantation, Stagbury Down, Hither field, Fames Rough.
Flight period:	Univoltine. February to October
Habitat:	Woodland edge, scrub and grassland
Food plant:	Stinging Nettle

## Peacock (*Inachis io*)



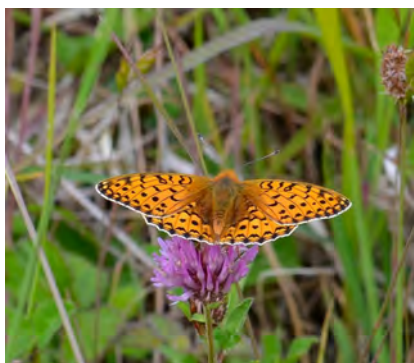
Distribution:	Stagbury Down, Coneyboro Hill, Harholt Plantation, Banstead Wood, Lord's Wood field.
Flight period:	Univoltine. March to October
Habitat:	Woodland rides/glades, woodland edge, scrub and grassland.
Food plant:	Stinging Nettle

## Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)



Distribution:	Everywhere
Flight period:	Bivoltine. March to September
Habitat:	Adapted to most habitat types
Food plant:	Stinging Nettle, Hop and Elm

## Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)



Distribution:	Harholt Plantation
Flight period:	Univoltine. June to August.
Habitat:	Woodland edge, scrub and grassland
Food plant:	Violets

## Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*)



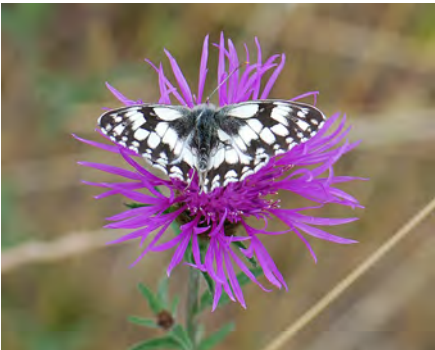
Distribution:	Harholt Plantation, Banstead Wood
Flight period:	Univoltine. July and August
Habitat:	Scrub and Woodland
Food plant:	Violets

## Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)



Distribution:	Banstead Wood, Coneyboro Hill, Fames Rough.
Flight period:	Bivoltine. April to November
Habitat:	Open woodland and scrub
Food plant:	Various grasses

## Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*)



Distribution:	Stagbury Down, Hither field, Hill Wood field.
Flight period:	Univoltine. June to September
Habitat:	Rough grassland
Food plant:	Red Fescue and other grasses

## Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)



Distribution:	Stagbury Down, Hither field, Barn field, Coneyboro Hill, Fames Rough.
Flight period:	Univoltine. June to September
Habitat:	Grasslands
Food plant:	Various grasses

## Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)



Distribution:	Stagbury Down, Barn field, Hither field, Harholt Plantation, Hill Wood field.
Flight period:	Univoltine. May to October
Habitat:	Hedgerows and scrub
Food plant:	Various grasses.

## Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)



Distribution:	Stagbury Down, Hither field, Barn field, Coneyboro Hill, Fames Rough, Hill Wood field, Lord's Wood field.
Flight period:	Multivoltine. May to October
Habitat:	Grassland
Food plant:	Fine-leaved grasses

**Ringlet** (*Aphantopus hyperantus*)



Distribution: Hither field, Stagbury field, Barn field,  
Great Parson's field, Lord's Wood field.

Flight period: Univoltine. July and August

Habitat: Grasslands and hedgerows

Food plant: Various grasses.



Chalkhill blue, female underside.



Marbled White, female underside



Orange-tip, male underside



Common Blue, male underside

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