

Whippendell & Beyond

The Butterflies of The Watford Area

Part 3: Appendices

Flying times, Lifecycle and Plant Guides, Maps and References

Covering the areas of:

Cassiobury Park & Whippendell Woods, Fishers Field, Radlett Road Playing Fields, Merry Hill, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Croxley Moor, St Mary's Church & St Mary's Road and more

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The view towards Whippendell Woods as seen from Merry Hill

2024 Report

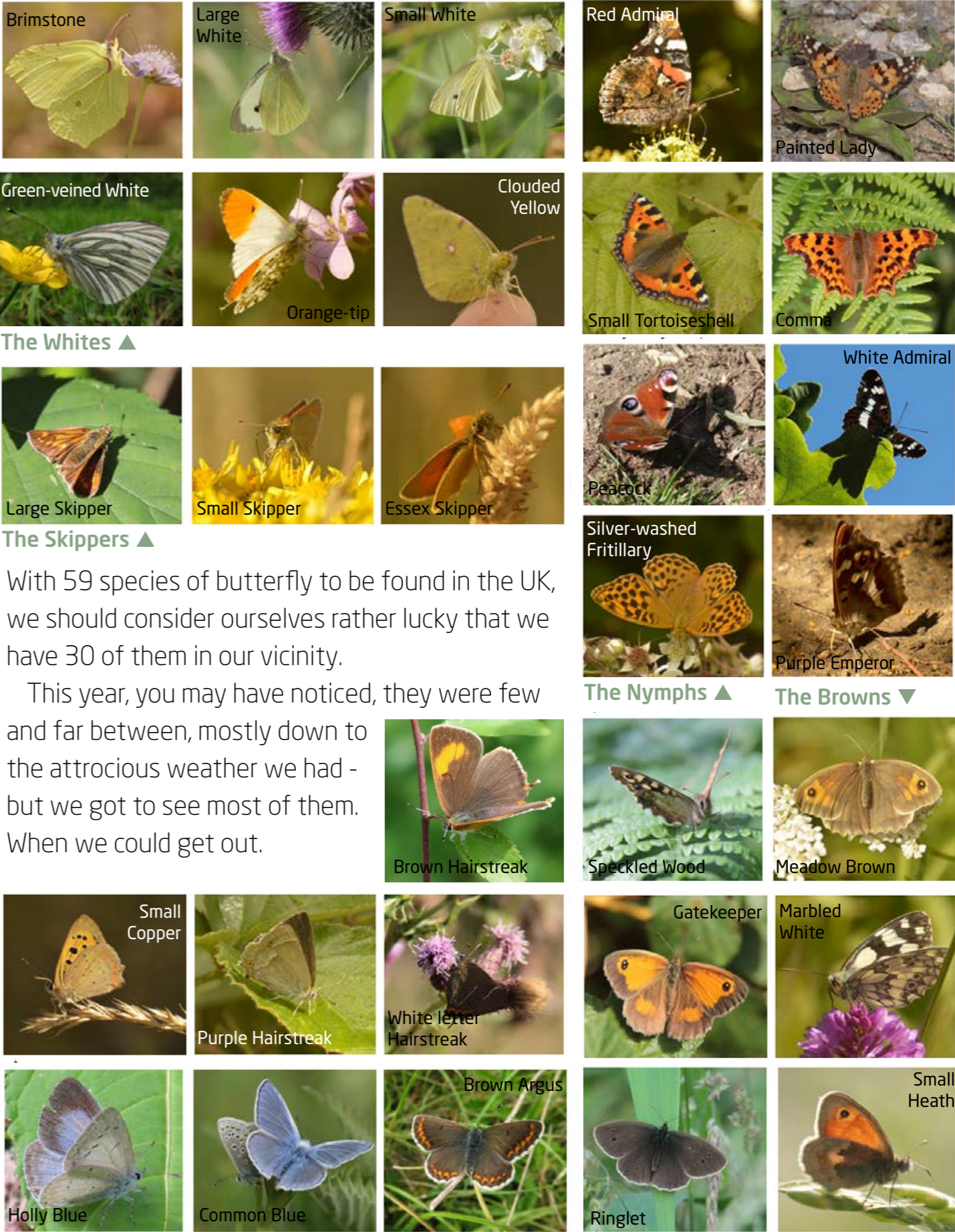
Rick Vickers and Pete Fewell

Butterflies in flight and when - 2024

February	Brimstone
March	Brimstone, Peacock, Comma (Red admiral & Small tortoiseshell seen elsewhere)
April	Orange-tip, Holly blue, Peacock, Speckled wood, Green-veined white, Comma, Brimstone, Small tortoiseshell, Large white, Small white
May	Brimstone, Holly blue, Peacock, Orange tip, Green-veined white, Small white, Red admiral, Small heath, common blue,
June	Holly blue, Small heath, Common blue, Red admiral, Peacock, Large skipper, Meadow brown, Speckled wood, Ringlet, Comma, White admiral, Large white, Purple emperor, Silver-washed fritillary, Small skipper,
July	Comma, Ringlet, Gate keeper, Meadow brown, Holly blue, Green-veined white, Large white, Speckled wood, Red admiral, Small skipper, Essex skipper, Silver-washed fritillary, Marbled white, Purple hairstreak, Common blue, Brimstone, Brown hairstreak
August	Meadow brown, Gate keeper, Small skipper, Speckled wood, Purple hairstreak, Large white, Peacock, Brimstone, Comma, Silver-washed fritillary, Holly blue, Small copper, Chalk-hill blue, Common blue, Small heath, Purple hairstreak, Brown hairstreak, Painted lady, Red admiral, Green-veined white,
September	Large white, Red admiral, Comma, Small white, Speckled wood, Red admiral, Holly blue, Small copper, Meadow brown, Small heath, Brimstone, Adonis blue, Green-veined white,
October	Red admiral, Large white, Painted lady

Although the above looks good, with plenty of species seen, the actual number of individuals we observed was way down on previous years

The Butterflies of The Watford area

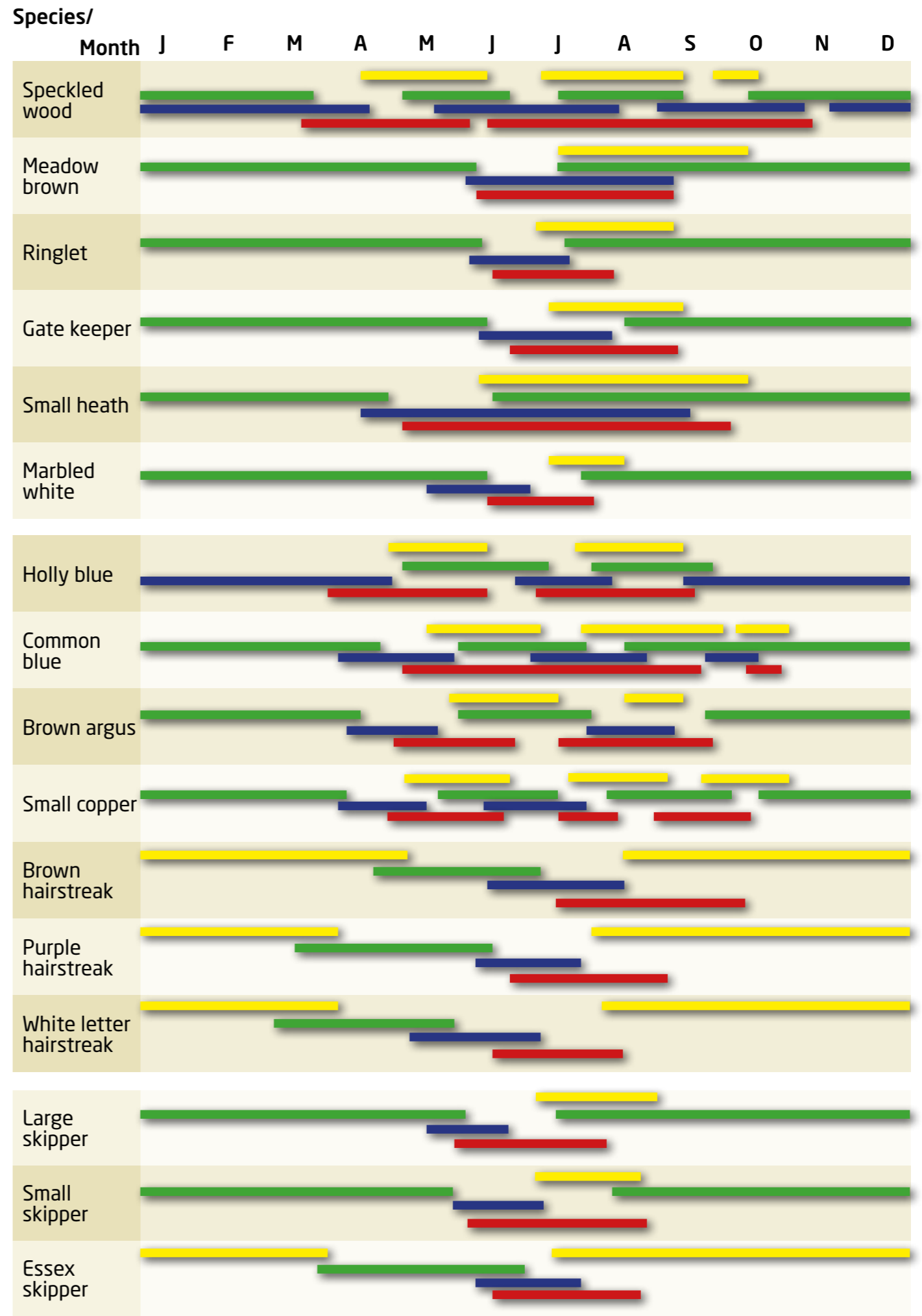
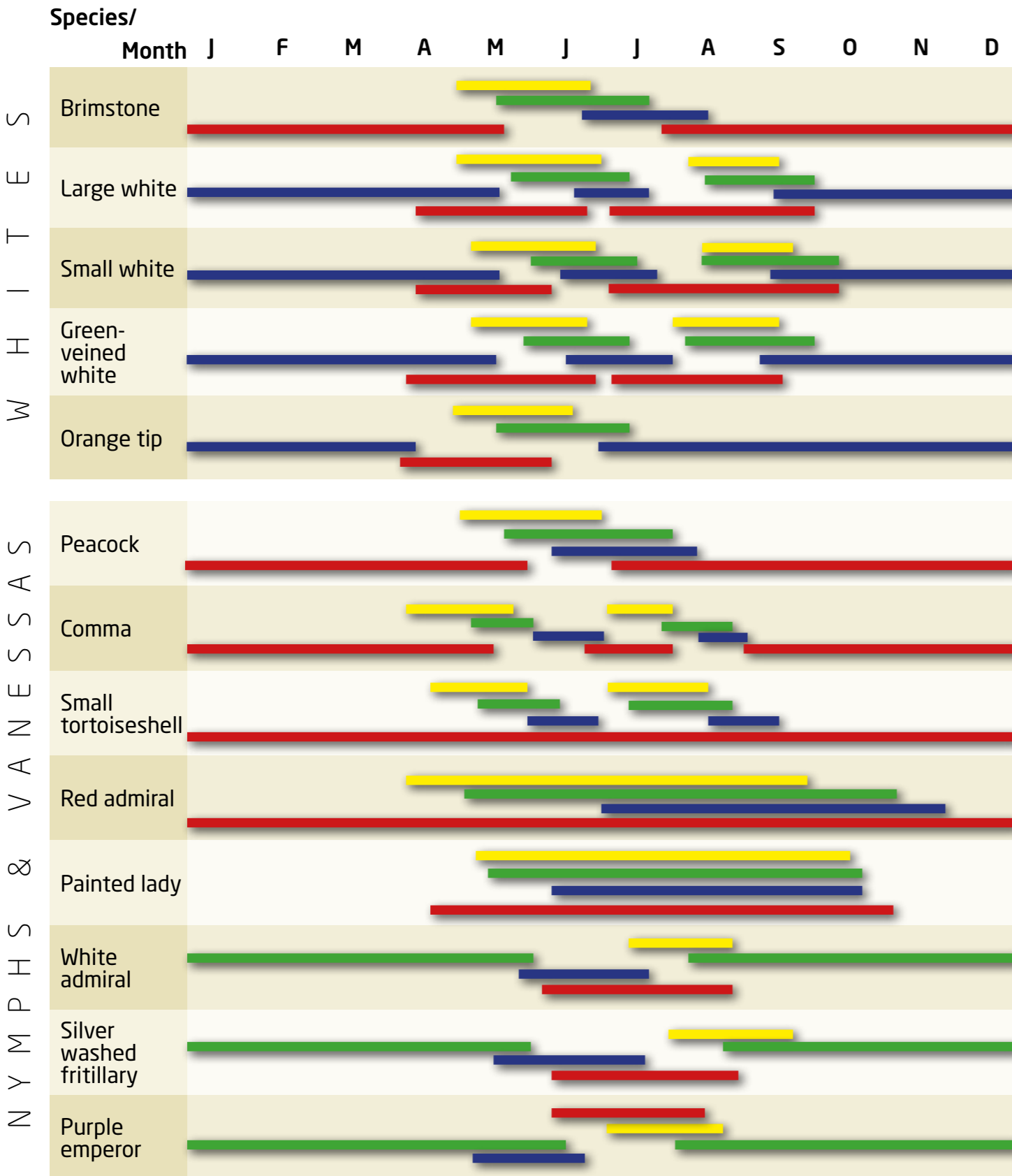


With 59 species of butterfly to be found in the UK, we should consider ourselves rather lucky that we have 30 of them in our vicinity.

This year, you may have noticed, they were few and far between, mostly down to the atrocious weather we had - but we got to see most of them. When we could get out.

The Life cycles of our Butterflies

All butterflies go through the same stages through their brief lives: egg (ova), caterpillar (larvae), chrysalis (pupa) and adult (imago). Hopefully, the below will aid in finding them in their various stages. These charts are usually displayed individually with each species, but here we hope to show you a bigger picture of a typical year of their different habits.



Key: Egg (yellow), Caterpillar (green), Pupa (blue), Adult (red). All timings are approximate and vary year by year. Sources: Life Cycles of the British & Irish Butterflies - Peter Eeles, Britains Butterflies, Wild Guides - Newland, Still, Swash & Tomlinson

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Butterflies & their Larval Foodplants

Whites

Large White: Various Crucifers, including: Cabbages (hint: grow Nasturtiums to keep them off your veggies)
Small White:
Green Veined White: Lady's Smock, Garlic Mustard, Charlock and other members of the Crucifer family
Orange-tip: Lady's Smock, Garlic Mustard, Honesty and other members of the Crucifer family
Brimstone: Alder Buckthorn

Skippers

Large Skipper:
Small Skipper: Various Grasses, including: Cocks-Foot Grass, Couch Grass, Timothy Grass, Common Bent
Essex Skipper

Browns

Meadow Brown:
Ringlet: Various Grasses, including: Meadow Grasses, Cocks-Foot Grass,
Gatekeeper: Couch Grass, Red Fescue, Timothy Grass, Common Bent and others
Speckled wood:
Marbled White:
Small Heath:

Blues

Holly Blue: Holly, Ivy, Dogwood, Spindle Tree, Bramble, Lucerne, Hop, Purple Loosestrife
Common Blue: Bird's-Foot Trefoil, Clovers, Black Medick, Lucerne
Small Copper: Sheep's Sorrel, Common Sorrel, Broad-Leaved Dock, and others
Brown Argus: Common Rockrose, Doves foot Cranesbill and other Cranes/Storksbill Species
Purple Hair Streak: Various Oaks
Brown Hair Streak: Blackthorn
White Letter Hair Streak: Wych Elm and other Elms

Nymphs

Peacock: Nettles
Red Admiral: Nettles
Comma: Nettles, Hops
Small Tortoiseshell: Nettles
Silver Washed Fritillary: Dog Violet
White Admiral: Honeysuckle
Purple Emperor: Goat Willow, Grey Willow, Crack Willow, Eared Willow and other Salix Species
Painted Lady: Thistles, Nettles, Burdocks and others

Grow it and they will come...

Nectar & Sources

Nectar Sources

Aphid Honeydew	Hawkweeds
Bird's-Foot Trefoil	Hawthorn
Brambles	Hemp agrimony
Blackthorn	Hog Weed
Bluebell	Ivy
Buddleia	Knap Weed
Bugle	Lucerne
Buttercups	Purple loosestrife
Clovers	Ragwort
Cow Parsley	Red Campion
Dandelions	Spring Blossom
Field Scabious	Teasle
Fleabane	Thistles
Forget-Me-Not	Wild Marjoram

And a wide variety of other species

Thanks to...

Isabel Crozier, Vicky D'Souza for encouraging us in Whippendell and Cassiobury Park, the Friends of Cassiobury Park, the Friends of Fishers Field, Andy Roby and The Green Heart of Watford Initiative, Caroline Crang of Countryside & Rights of Way, Nick Furtek and Ian Watts for our first egg rescue, Malcolm Hull and Liz Goodyear and everyone at Butterfly Conservation, Emma McDonald for her artwork and support.

And to everybody else who we should have included - sorry, but a big thank you anyway!

Useful Websites

Butterfly Conservation Herts & Middx Branch Website:
<https://hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/index.php>
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn>
Herts & Middx Moth Group: <https://www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk/>
Creating Wild Spaces: <https://wild-spaces.co.uk/>
Friends of Cassiobury Park: <https://friendsofcassioburypark.org.uk>
UK Butterflies: <https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/index.php>

...hopefully

Sources

Other than our own documentation, the following sources have been very helpful:

Larval Foodplants of the Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland - Peter R May

WildGuides, Britain's Butterflies, A field guide to the butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland - David Newland, Robert Still, Andy Swash and David Tomlinson

Butterfly Conservation: The Warwickshire Approach - Mike Slater and Keith Warmington

Philip's Guide to Butterflies of Britain & Ireland - J. A. Thomas

Life Cycles of British & Irish Butterflies - Peter Eeles

Further Reading

The following books may also be of interest:

The Butterfly Isles - Patrick Barkham

In Pursuit of Butterflies - Matthew Oats

Harrap's Wild Flowers A Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain & Ireland - Simon Harrap

The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland - Jeremy Thomas & Richard Lewington

The Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex - Andrew Wood

The Butterflies of Hertfordshire - Brian Sawford

Rainbow Dust - Peter Marren

Butterfly Conservation: The Warwickshire Approach - Mike Slater, Keith Warmington

Photographs

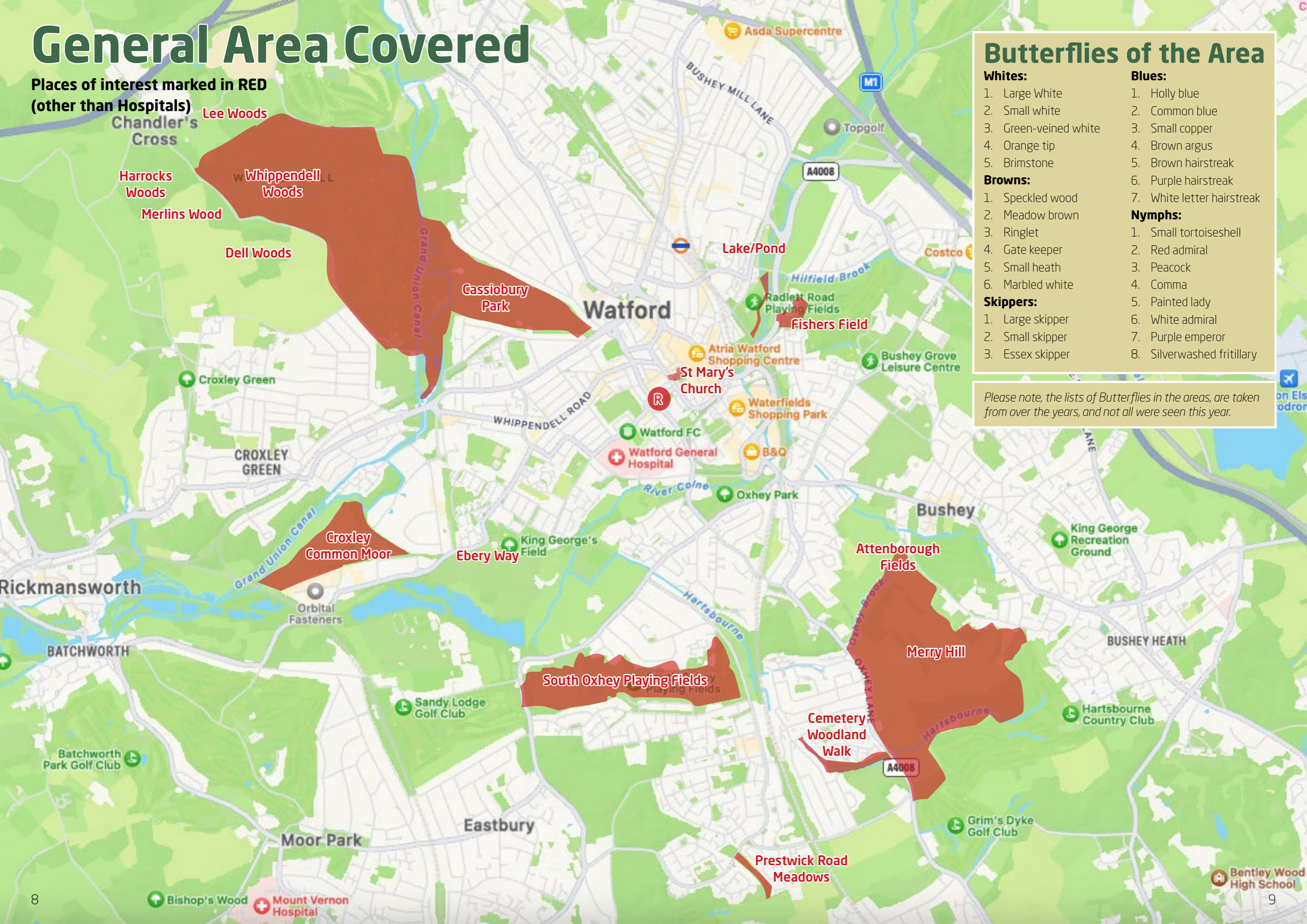
All photographs by Rick Vickers and Pete Fewell, and where possible the images were taken at the spots indicated in the text. Maps from the internet.

Special thanks to Clare Turner for proofreading.

And Malcolm Hull and Liz Goodyear for additional information.

General Area Covered

Places of interest marked in RED
(other than Hospitals)



Butterflies of the Area

Whites:	Blues:
1. Large White	1. Holly blue
2. Small white	2. Common blue
3. Green-veined white	3. Small copper
4. Orange tip	4. Brown argus
5. Brimstone	5. Brown hairstreak
Browns:	6. Purple hairstreak
1. Speckled wood	7. White letter hairstreak
2. Meadow brown	Nymphs:
3. Ringlet	1. Small tortoiseshell
4. Gate keeper	2. Red admiral
5. Small heath	3. Peacock
6. Marbled white	4. Comma
Skippers:	5. Painted lady
1. Large skipper	6. White admiral
2. Small skipper	7. Purple emperor
3. Essex skipper	8. Silverwashed fritillary

Please note, the lists of Butterflies in the areas, are taken from over the years, and not all were seen this year.

General Area Covered

Places of interest marked in RED
(other than Hospitals)



Butterflies of the Area

Whites:	Blues:
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Skippers:	5. Painted lady
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3. Essex skipper	8. Silverwashed fritillary

Please note, the lists of Butterflies in the areas, are taken from over the years, and not all were seen this year.

Whippendell Woods & Cassiobury Park

Locations and Grid References

Small Oak Copse: TQ 096970
 The Rond: TQ 08295 97764
 Lime Avenue for PEs: TQ 08692 97610
 Camilla Oak/Corner: TQ 07515 97822
 Frit Freeway/junction: TQ 08004 97879



History of Whippendell Wood

This beautiful 160ha woodland was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1994 because of its valuable and rare habitats including ancient woodland, veteran trees and dovecote which support a wide range of animals and plants. Over 60% of the woodland is classed as ancient woodland, meaning it has been continuously wooded for over 400 years.

You will find historic features and remnants of the Cassiobury Estate which became the seat of Arthur Capel, 1st Earl of Essex in 1663. The park provided timber, firewood and game for the family.

Wildlife

A mosaic of habitats including shrubs, grasses, coppice, open spaces, veteran trees, and open understorey are home to many animals including Muntjac deer, owls, butterflies, birds, insects, and small mammals. Retaining dead and decaying wood such as fallen logs to support habitats for fungi and invertebrates. The main tree species you will find in Whippendell are oak, ash, birch, silver birch, hazel, hornbeam, holly and hawthorn. The northern part of the woodland was replanted in the 18th and 19th century and has remnants of plantations.

The wood has been used as a filming location for several film and TV programmes. The most famous is Star Wars where exterior shots for scenes set on the planet Naboo were filmed for the 1999 prequel, The Phantom Menace. So please remember to only leave footprints and only take memories as you explore the wood, we need your help to protect this valuable landscape!

WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
BE BOLD

You can contact Watford Borough Council at enquiries@watford.gov.uk or 01923 226400

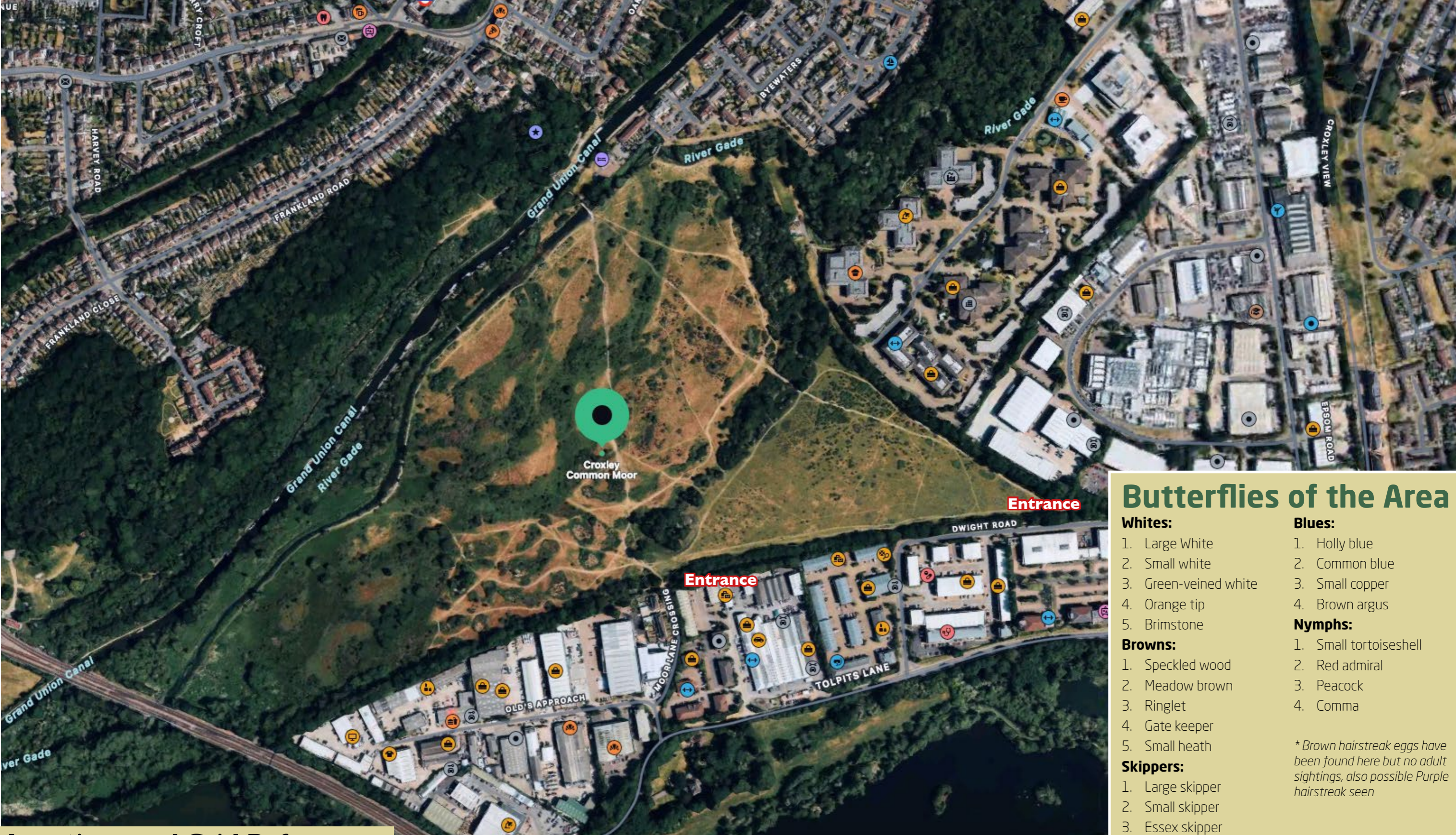
For information about the Friends of Cassiobury Park membership and volunteering opportunities, visit www.FriendsofCassioburyPark.org.uk

Butterflies of the Area

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Whites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large White 2. Small white 3. Green-veined white 4. Orange tip 5. Brimstone <p>Browns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speckled wood 2. Meadow brown 3. Ringlet 4. Gate keeper 5. Small heath 6. Marbled white <p>Skippers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large skipper 2. Small skipper 3. Essex skipper | <p>Blues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holly blue 2. Common blue 3. Small copper 4. Brown argus 5. Purple hairstreak 6. White letter hairstreak <p>Nymphs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small tortoiseshell 2. Red admiral 3. Peacock 4. Comma 5. Painted lady 6. White admiral 7. Purple emperor 8. Silver washed fritillary |
|---|---|



Croxley Common Moor



Locations and Grid References

General Location: TQ 082 948

Butterflies of the Area

- Whites:**
1. Large White
 2. Small white
 3. Green-veined white
 4. Orange tip
 5. Brimstone

- Browns:**
1. Speckled wood
 2. Meadow brown
 3. Ringlet
 4. Gate keeper
 5. Small heath

- Skippers:**
1. Large skipper
 2. Small skipper
 3. Essex skipper

- Blues:**
1. Holly blue
 2. Common blue
 3. Small copper
 4. Brown argus
- Nymphs:**
1. Small tortoiseshell
 2. Red admiral
 3. Peacock
 4. Comma

**Brown hairstreak eggs have been found here but no adult sightings, also possible Purple hairstreak seen*

South Oxhey Playing Fields

Butterflies of the Area

Whites:

1. Large White
2. Small white
3. Green-veined white
4. Orange tip
5. Brimstone

Blues:

1. Holly blue
2. Common blue
3. Small copper
4. Brown argus
5. Brown hairstreak

Browns:

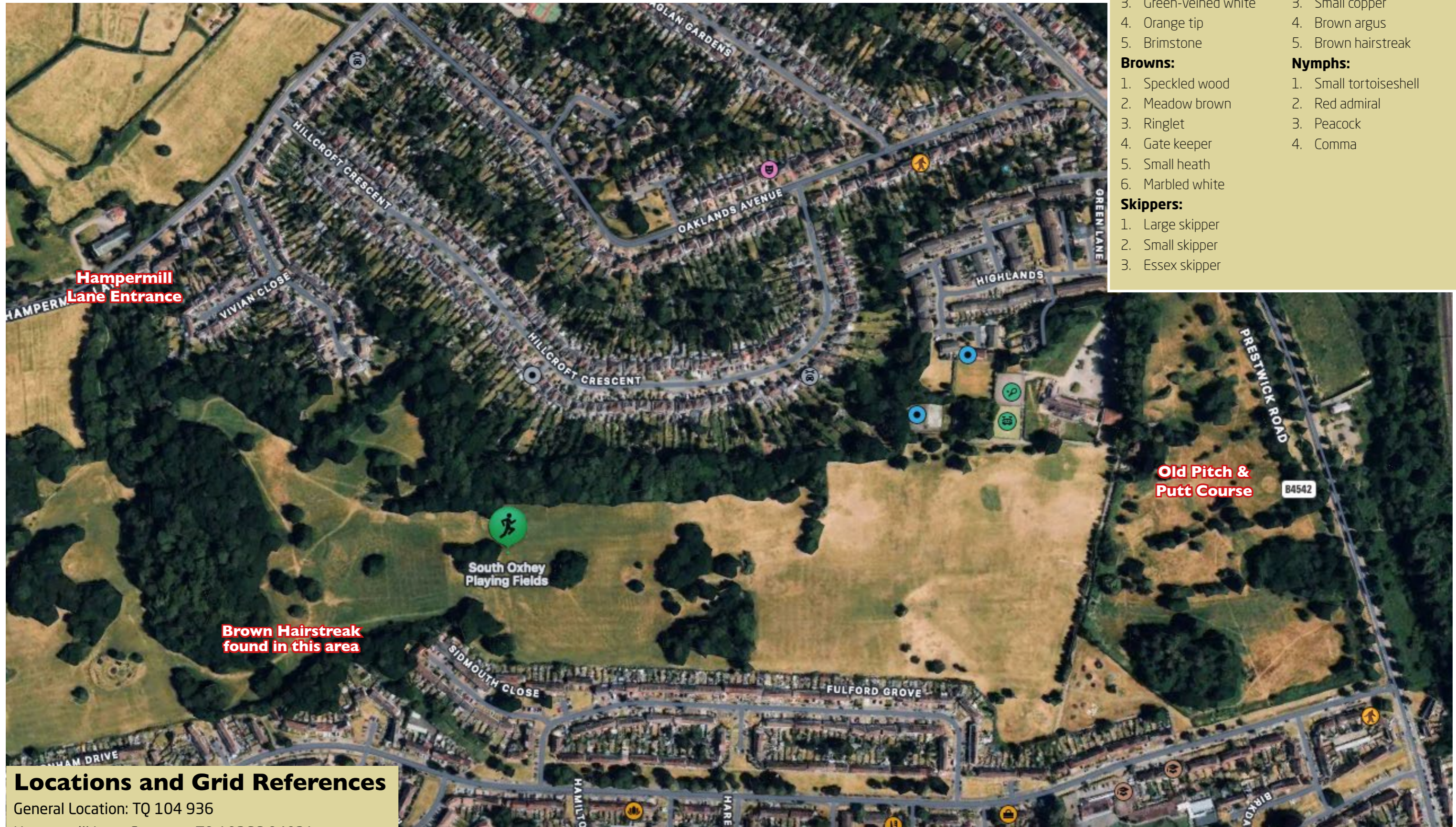
1. Speckled wood
2. Meadow brown
3. Ringlet
4. Gate keeper
5. Small heath
6. Marbled white

Nymphs:

1. Small tortoiseshell
2. Red admiral
3. Peacock
4. Comma

Skippers:

1. Large skipper
2. Small skipper
3. Essex skipper



Locations and Grid References

General Location: TQ 104 936

Hampermill Lane Entrance: TQ 10266 94031

Brown hairstreak seen at: TQ 10443 93638

Merry Hill

Butterflies of the Area

Whites:

1. Large white
2. Small white
3. Green-veined white
4. Orange tip
5. Brimstone

Blues:

1. Holly blue
2. Common blue
3. Small copper
4. Brown argus
5. Brown hairstreak
6. Purple hairstreak

Browns:

1. Speckled wood
2. Meadow brown
3. Ringlet
4. Gate keeper
5. Small heath
6. Marbled white

Nymphs:

1. Small tortoiseshell
2. Red admiral
3. Peacock
4. Comma

Skippers:

1. Large skipper
2. Small skipper
3. Essex skipper

** A Long-tailed blue was seen by Malcolm Hull at Bushey Open Space*



Locations and Grid References

- Entrance Carpenders Avenue: TQ 12666 93637
- Entrance By The Wood: TQ 12493 94044
- Entrance Merry Hill Lane: TQ 13642 94356
- Sighting of Brown hairstreak: TQ 13057 93835

Radlet Road Playing Fields & Fishers Field



Locations and Grid References

Radlet Road Playing Fields General Area: TQ116969

Fishers Field General Area: TQ119967

Butterflies of the Area

Whites:

1. Large white
2. Small white
3. Green-veined white
4. Orange tip
5. Brimstone

Browns:

1. Speckled wood
2. Meadow brown
3. Ringlet
4. Gate keeper
5. Small heath
6. Marbled white

Skippers:

1. Large skipper
2. Small skipper
3. Essex skipper

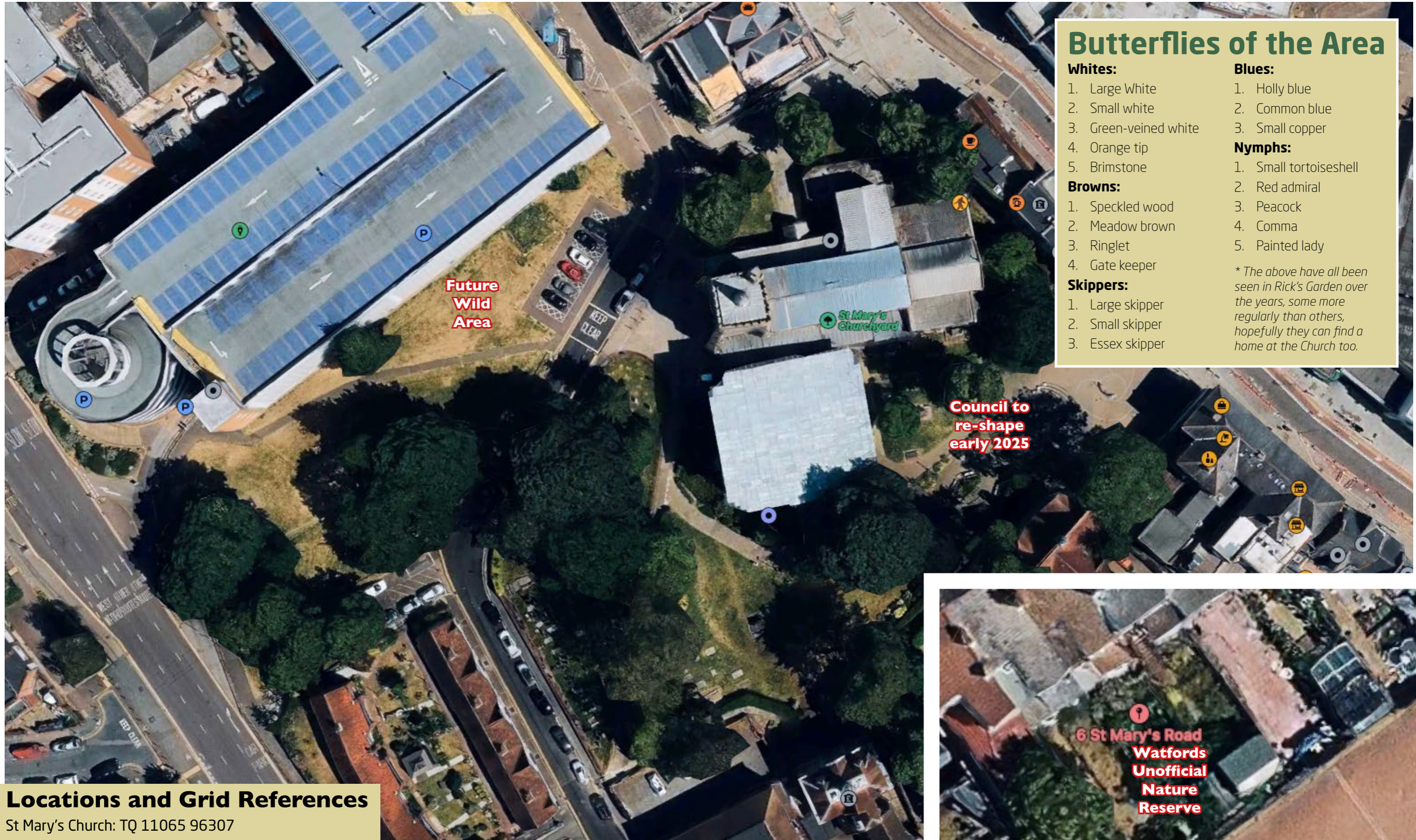
Blues:

1. Holly blue
2. Common blue
3. Small copper
4. Brown argus
5. Purple hairstreak

Nymphs:

1. Small tortoiseshell
2. Red admiral
3. Peacock
4. Comma

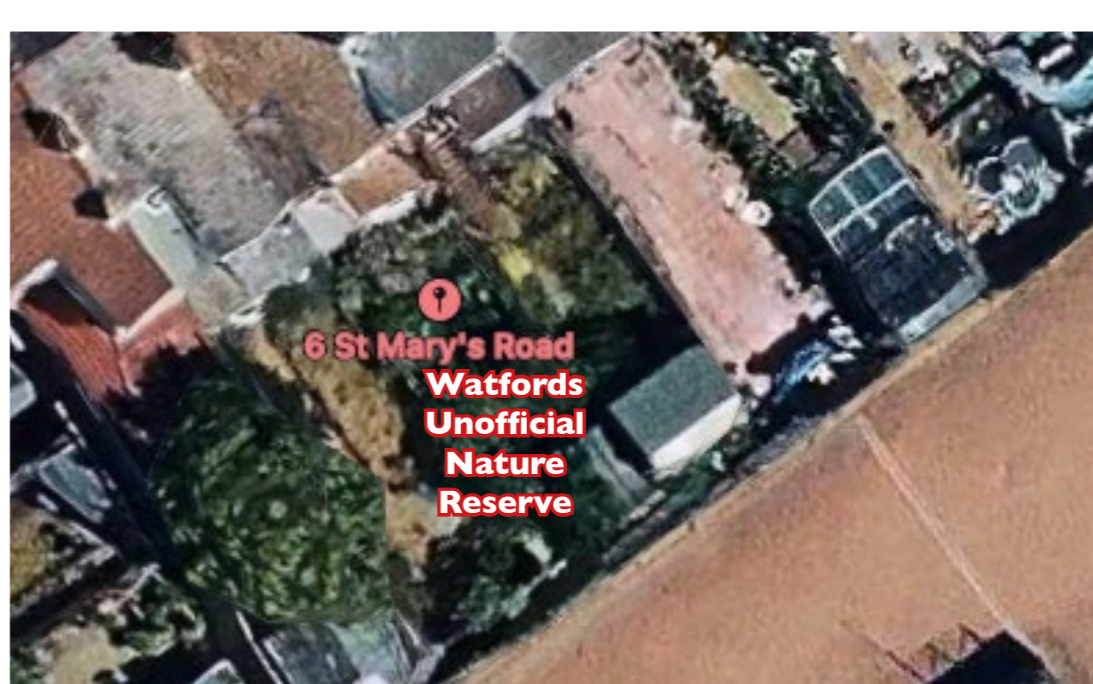
St Mary's Church & Road (the Garden)



Butterflies of the Area

Whites:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large White 2. Small white 3. Green-veined white 4. Orange tip 5. Brimstone 	Blues:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holly blue 2. Common blue 3. Small copper
Browns:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speckled wood 2. Meadow brown 3. Ringlet 4. Gate keeper 	Nymphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small tortoiseshell 2. Red admiral 3. Peacock 4. Comma 5. Painted lady
Skippers:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large skipper 2. Small skipper 3. Essex skipper 	<p><i>* The above have all been seen in Rick's Garden over the years, some more regularly than others, hopefully they can find a home at the Church too.</i></p>	

Locations and Grid References
 St Mary's Church: TQ 11065 96307
 Triangle, to be planted: TQ 11016 96310
 6 St Mary's Road: TQ 10828 96132





Look out for our future events in the Park & Woods in **2025**

Spring Butterfly and Bluebell Walk	May*
Summer Woodland Butterfly Walk	June/July*
Banquet for an Emperor	June/July*

We'll probably be holding a couple of Stalls too,
so, keep an eye out for us

* Dates and full list of events to be announced in early 2025
on the Friends of Cassiobury Park and Butterfly Conservation websites

Here's hoping there will be butterflies this time!

