


BUTTERFLIES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

Compiled by Vanna Bartlett, Stuart Paston, Ian Senior, Thea Nicholls, Carole Ponniah, Gary White, Colin Smith, James Cordeaux and Jeremy Bartlett


This list of butterflies (order Lepidoptera, superfamilies Hesperioidea and Papilionoidea) found in the Cemetery is a work in progress. It will be updated as new information comes in.

Records are from 1992 onwards.


Last updated: 24th August 2022.

Species	Comments
Small Skipper, <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Recorded in July 2015, 2016 and 2017. Previously one definite record, in 1997. Species has probably been overlooked as it is superficially similar to the Essex Skipper.
Essex Skipper, <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Seen 2006 onwards in small numbers. Becoming increasingly common. More seen than Small Skipper in recent years, including our 2016 and 2017 butterfly walks.
Large Skipper, <i>Ochlodes faunus</i>	Observed most years.
Brimstone, <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Observed most years in spring. Recent records: male 23/03/16 (CP), 08/05/16 (JC), .
Large White, <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Observed every year.
Small White, <i>Pieris rapae</i>	Observed every year.
Green-veined White, <i>Pieris napi</i>	Observed most years.
Orange-tip, <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Observed every year, including 2016, 2017 (CP, JC, VB). 


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	Photo: Vanna Bartlett
Purple Hairstreak, <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	Found in July to August at tops of large oak trees. Seen annually since 2007 but undoubtedly a long established previously overlooked resident.
White-letter Hairstreak, <i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	<p>This butterfly's caterpillar feeds on elm and there were avenues of elms in Earlham Cemetery before Dutch Elm Disease struck. Nowadays there are large suckering elms in places, reaching well above head height.</p> <p>IS was very fortunate to see and photograph a single specimen feeding on Goldenrod and Buddleia flowers at lunchtime on 21st July 2017.</p> <p>The Buddleia (in Section 46) is not near any elm trees, but a fresh SW wind was blowing and so the butterfly may have come from an elm along the boundary with Earlham Road, or one of the gardens next to the cemetery.</p>  <p>Photo: Ian Senior</p>
Small Copper, <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	<p>Formerly more numerous but usually only seen as singletons in recent years.</p> <p>One seen on Broad-leaved Dock leaves on 23rd August 2022.</p> <p>Recorded every year from 2007 to 2012 and in 2014 and 2017. One record in June, otherwise July/August. Sites are east and west of the Burial Chapel and it has been found in the area close to Farrow Road.</p>

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	 <p>Photo: Jeremy Bartlett</p>
Brown Argus, <i>Aricia agestis</i>	<p>Occasional. First recorded in mid nineties when the species also began to colonise a number of other Norwich area sites. Most recent records are of singletons - July 2007 and July 2010 in areas east and north of burial chapel and also July 2013 and early August 2014, 2015, 2017. Also seen in August 2022 between Farrow Road and the Julian Hospital, when mowing was suspended in the drought.</p>
Common Blue, <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	<p>Formerly more numerous but usually only seen as singletons in recent years.</p> <p>Recorded in 2017 (singletons in May and small numbers in July), and from 2007-2010 in July and August. Maximum 2 males July 2010. Sites are open grassland east and north of Burial Chapel, plus at west end of Section W in July 2017.</p> <p>Also seen in August 2022 between Farrow Road and the Julian Hospital, when mowing was suspended in the drought.</p>


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	 <p>Common Blue (male). Photo: Vanna Bartlett</p>

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Holly Blue, <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Observed most years, including April & May 2016 (CP, JC) and 2017 (VB, JB).
Red Admiral, <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Migrant; has also overwintered in recent years. Observed most years. Recent records include 14/03/18 (JB & VB).
Painted Lady, <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Migrant. Seen most years but especially those where there has been a strong influx such as 1996, 2009.
Small Tortoiseshell, <i>Aglais urticae</i>	Formerly common but now in decline in southern Britain. Seen every year until 2005 but more occasional until 2013 & 2014, when numbers increased again. Recent records include 23/03/16 & 13/04/16 (CP), 14/03/18 (JB & VB).
Peacock, <i>Inachis io</i>	Observed most years. Recent records include 11/04/16, 13/04/16 & 03/05/16 (CP), 14/03/18 (JB & VB).
Comma, <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Observed most years. Larvae have been found on elm in the Cemetery although nettle is mostly used.
<u>Silver-washed Fritillary, <i>Argynnis paphia</i></u>	<p>A male was found on our monthly guided walk on 10th August 2022 (GW).</p> <p>A male seen and photographed on path to St. Thomas' Road gate at 9.50am on 22nd June 2022 (Colin Smith).</p> <p>A male seen and photographed on 15th August 2015 by group members on the regular monthly walk around the Cemetery. First spotted by Thea Nicholls.</p> <p>Our largest fritillary.</p> <p>This species has been increasing its range in recent years and was recorded in Heigham Park in Norwich in 2010.</p>

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	 <p>Photo: Sandy Lockwood</p>
Speckled Wood, <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Observed every year. Colonised Cemetery in mid eighties during a rapid expansion of range within the county. In mild autumns has been recorded as late as mid November. Recent records: 07/05/16 (CP), 2017 (VB).
<u>Wall, <i>Lasiommata megera</i></u>	Former resident. Last recorded 1995. In decline in central, southern and eastern England and no longer found in Norwich, where it used to be quite common.
Gatekeeper, <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Observed every year.
Meadow Brown, <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Observed every year.
Ringlet, <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Seen in 1996 and then present every year from 2004.
Small Heath, <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	First seen on 19 th August 2022 (IS, VB) and on subsequent days (e.g. VB, JB 23 rd August 2022) in the area between Farrow Road and the Julian Hospital. At the time of the sighting mowing had been suspended in the Cemetery because of drought and the area was a mass of yellow flowers (Cat's-ear etc.).

The UK Butterflies website, www.ukbutterflies.co.uk, is a useful online source of information on our butterflies.