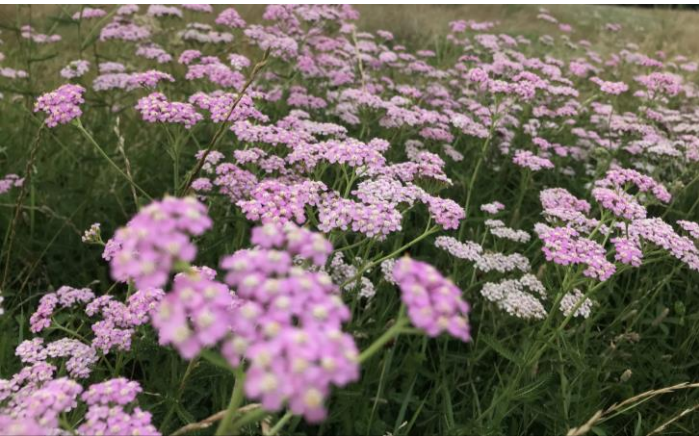




# Whitewebbs Park Butterfly Summary Report



There are 57 resident butterfly species in Britain with a further 2 recorded as migrant species.

Different species require different foodplants for their caterpillars to feed on.

A variety of habitats such as meadow, grassland and woodland are needed to support these species.

Whitewebbs Park contains a mosaic of different habitats across its 240 acre site.


This summary is based upon data provided by GIGL February 2022.



For context  
Alexandra  
Palace is often  
regarded as  
North London's  
Premier  
Butterfly Site.

---

27 butterfly species have been recorded across the 196 acres at Alexandra Park. The last records from Alexandra Palace of the Wall Butterfly date to 1995.



The image shows a screenshot of a website article. At the top is a green navigation bar with the text 'ALEXANDRA PALACE' in a white, arched font. To the left of the logo are the words 'VISIT' and 'DISCOVER', and to the right are 'SUPPORT US' and 'VENUE HIRE'. There are also icons for a search magnifying glass and a location pin. Below the navigation bar is a large yellow curved graphic. The date '01 JULY 2021' is centered above the main title 'Butterflies of Alexandra Park'. Below the title is the author's name 'By Ally Pally'. The main text of the article is in a light yellow background and discusses the biodiversity of Alexandra Park, mentioning 27 butterfly species and a local enthusiast Gerry Rawcliffe.

01 JULY 2021

## Butterflies of Alexandra Park

By Ally Pally

Alexandra Park is teeming with wildlife, with hundreds of species calling the 196 acres home (or a temporary home!). This includes an extraordinary variety of butterflies, for which the Park is an important urban oasis.

Gerry Rawcliffe, a local butterfly enthusiast who has produced studies of the Park's butterflies for [the Friends of Alexandra Park](#), explains more:

With 27 species of butterfly recorded in 2020, Alexandra Palace Park was already in the premier league of London butterfly sites.



# Butterfly Biodiversity

Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) holds records for 30 species of Butterfly at Whitewebbs Park across its 240 acres. However, the Wall butterfly has become locally extinct.

The current total number of butterfly species recorded at Whitewebbs Park is 29 species.



# London Priority Species

London Priority Species are species that are national priorities for conservation, due to their declining population in London and beyond.

There are 16 species of Butterfly that have been identified by the London Assembly as species that are believed to be in decline in London and need the most help. 7 of the 16 species of the London Priority Species can be seen in Whitewebbs Park.

These species include the Purple Emperor, Small Heath, Small Copper, Large Skipper, White Letter Hairstreak, Essex Skipper and Small Skipper.

# The Purple Emperor

---

The Purple Emperor is a large butterfly that has declined over the twentieth century, but can still be found in some large, wooded areas of South-East England.

This elusive butterfly can be seen high in the canopy of mature oak trees during the summer months at Whitewebbs. The Purple Emperor spends much of its time feeding on the sugar secreted by aphids in mature oak trees. Egg laying requires Goat Willow, with the caterpillar feeding on Goat Willow leaves in the Spring.

This butterfly is typically associated with large woodlands such as Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, and areas such as the Great North Wood in Hertfordshire.





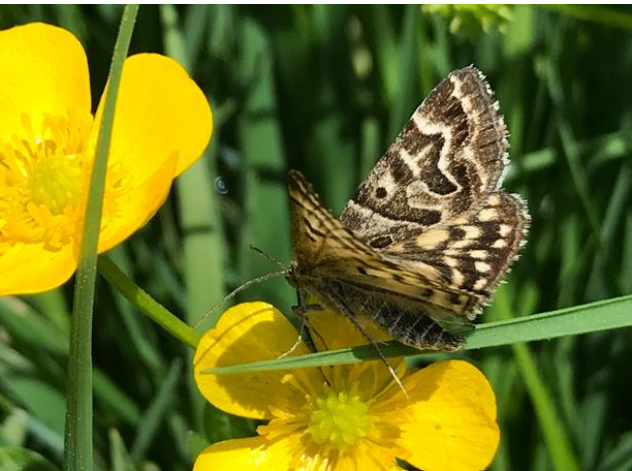
## DAY FLYING MOTHS & VARYING BUTTERFLY FLIGHT TIMES

In addition to butterflies, Whitewebbs is home to a variety of day flying moths such as the Mother Shipton with its distinctive 'witches' face on its wing. There are also a range of dragonfly and damselfly species such as the locally scarce beautiful demoiselles.

The first butterflies to emerge in the Spring are those that hibernate over the winter as adults. These include the Brimstone, Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell.

The number of species increases gradually throughout the Spring and Summer months and then declines as Autumn approaches and hibernation begins for some species.

Each butterfly has a specific flight period. Butterflies are most likely to be seen during this flight period at various points throughout the spring and summer.



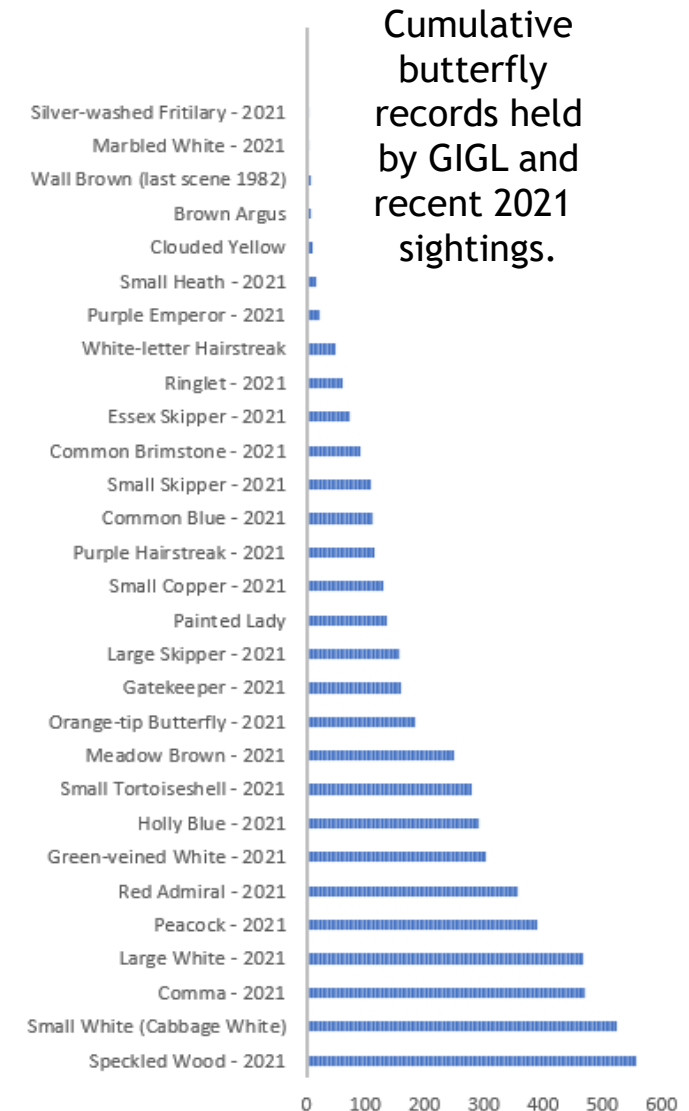
# Cumulative count of Butterfly Records held by GIGL for Whitewebbs Park

The chart shows the cumulative count of Butterfly records held by GIGL. Those seen recently in 2021 are also noted.

The most frequently recorded butterfly at Whitewebbs is the Speckled Wood, once known locally and referred to as the 'Enfield Eye'.

Overall, Butterfly Conservation report that Butterfly Species have declined overall by 80% since the 1970s. With the Wall butterfly now locally extinct.

Submitting sightings helps to keep records up to date.



# Submit Sightings to add to the records

Sightings of butterflies can be submitted via the free *irecord* butterfly app.

Records submitted for Whitewebbs, gardens and other open spaces help to update and inform local trends about butterflies.

This data then feeds into wider reports about trends and patterns to inform the national picture.

Records that are submitted are processed and eventually make their way to a County Environmental Record Centre. In London environmental records are kept centrally by GIGL.



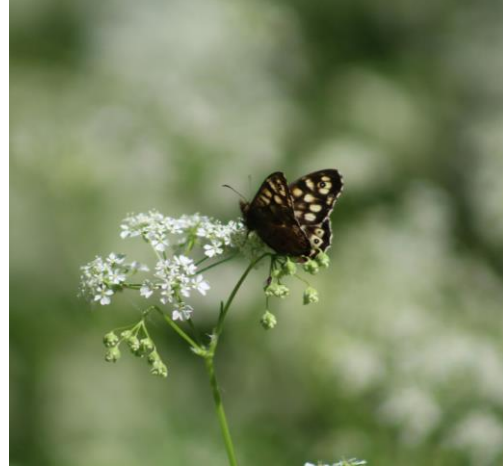
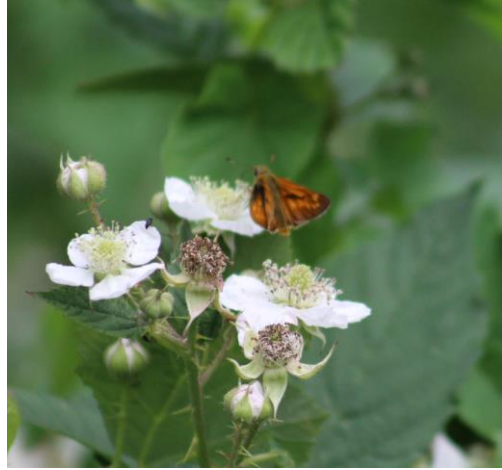
HIGHEST NUMBER OF RECORDINGS ARE FOR  
SPECKLED WOOD,  
SMALL WHITE,  
LARGE WHITE,  
COMMA, PEACOCK,  
RED ADMIRAL,  
HOLLY BLUE,  
GREEN-VEINED WHITE, MEADOW BROWN

FEWER RECORDS OF  
ORANGE-TIP,  
GATEKEEPER,  
ESSEX SKIPPER,  
SMALL COPPER,  
RINGLET,  
COMMON BLUE,  
PAINTED LADY\*,  
PURPLE HAIRSTREAK,  
SMALL SKIPPER,  
LARGE SKIPPER

FEWEST RECORDINGS OF  
BROWN ARGUS\*,  
SILVER WASHED FRITILLARIES,  
MARBLED WHITE, PURPLE EMPEROR,  
SMALL HEATH, CLOUDED YELLOW\*,  
WHITE-LETTER HAIR STREAK\*

\* Not seen during 2021 surveys





# Whitewebbs Park

## Butterfly Summary Report

