

Potential Butterflies of Combwell Wood



Brimstone

Likely to be a regular visitor. Larvae feed on Alder Buckthorn. Occurs in scrubby grassland and woodland. The butterfly ranges widely and can often be seen flying along roadside verges and hedgerows.



Comma

Found in open woodland, with wood edges being the main breeding and hibernating habitats.



Gatekeeper

Found where tall grasses grow close to hedges, trees or scrub. Typical habitats are along hedgerows and in woodland rides.



**Green
Hairstreak**

A potentially common butterfly but difficult to spot. Strongly associated with gorse and broom on woodland rides and clearings, and rough, scrubby grassland.



**Green-veined
White**

Likely to be an occasional visitor. Prefers damp areas with lush vegetation, where its various foodplants are found. It usually occurs in hedgerows, ditches, ponds, damp meadows, and woodland rides and edges.



Holly Blue

Occasionally seen around hedgerows and woodland rides. The larvae feed predominantly on Holly and Ivy but will also use Gorse and Bramble.



Large Skipper

Found in a wide variety of habitats where there are shrubs, tall herbs, and grasses, for example; woodland rides and clearings, pastures, roadside verges, and hedgerows.



Meadow Brown

Our most common UK butterfly. Found in many grassy places.



Orange-tip

Spring butterfly (April to June) that feeds on Cuckooflower and Garlic Mustard. Prefers damp habitats such as meadows, woodland glades, hedgerows and the banks of streams and rivers.



Painted Lady

A regular migrant that could be seen moving through the wood. Feeds and nectars on thistles and nettles.



Peacock

Likely to be a regular visitor. Larvae feed on nettle.



**Purple
Hairstreak**

Look for the Purple Hairstreak at the top of oak trees in full sunshine, especially in the evenings as the butterflies start to congregate.



Red Admiral

Likely to be a regular visitor. Larvae feed on nettle.



Ringlet

Found in woodland rides and glades and damp grassland where grasses are lush and tall (it likes damp situations with partial shade).



Silver-washed Fritillary

Likes broadleaved woodland, especially oak woodland and woodlands with sunny rides and glades. Larvae feed on violets.



Small Tortoiseshell

Likely to be a regular visitor. Larvae feed on nettles.



Large White & Small White

Likely to be very common visitors. These are common butterflies found in a variety of habitats.



Speckled Wood

Lives in areas of dappled sunlight (similar to the pattern on the wings). It seems to prefer slightly damp areas where there is tall grass.



White Admiral

Maintain and improve woodlands supporting spindly, trailing growths of honeysuckle in dappled shade, with nearby sources of flowers (e.g. brambles). Ensure Honeysuckle is not lost during management work to widen rides, create scallops etc.

Potential, occasional visitors: Essex Skipper, Small Skipper, Clouded Yellow, Small Heath, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Copper.

Aspirations for Combwell Wood



White-letter Hairstreak

Encourage flowering, suckering regrowth Elm trees; and coppice a proportion of these Elm trees every year, on a ten year cycle. Plant disease resistant Elms in sunny sheltered spots but do not coppice them.



Purple Emperor

Slowly expanding its range towards Combwell. Increase sallows of a varied age mix within woodlands, with crown in full or partial shade.



Dingy Skipper

Maintain, enhance and extend a sparse sward containing long stems of Common Bird's-foot Trefoil with patches of bare ground and abundant nectar plants such as Bugle. Recently found at Bedgebury.



Grizzled Skipper

Regularly seen at Bedgebury. Maintain and improve a sparse habitat with a high density of Agrimony, Creeping Cinquefoil, Wild Strawberry and Bugle in a varied height sward, with bare patches to create hot spots.