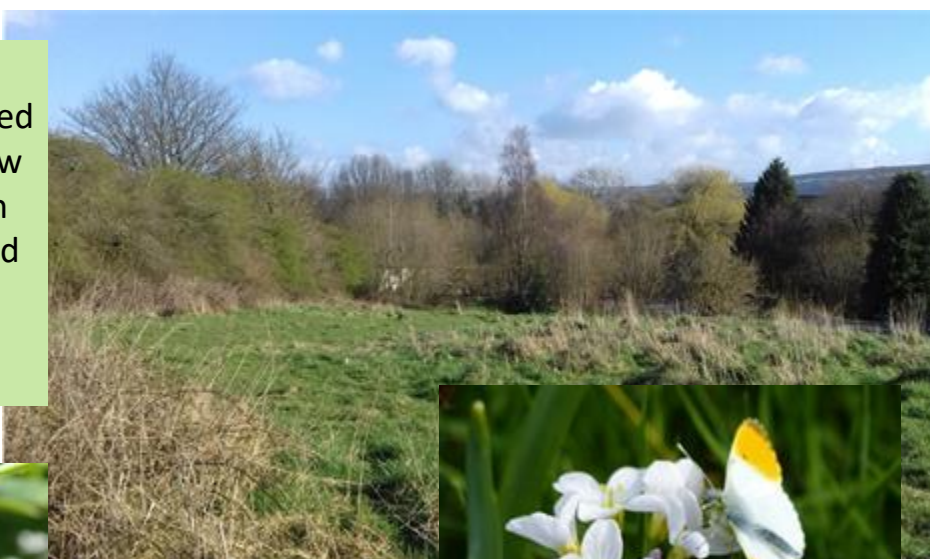




Wildlife Friendly Addingham

The Old School Site butterfly safari

In the 20 years, since Addingham's First School closed nature has taken over. It is now the richest place for wildlife in the village. It is especially good for butterflies. Birds, bumblebees, and bats too.



In this guide local butterfly enthusiast, Diane Morris, tells us about the butterflies that are found here and the plants and habitats that are crucial to them.

You can also find out about other butterflies that you might see in and around Addingham and the places they are found.

The Old Primary School Site

Abandoned grassland

Where the previously mown grass surrounding the school buildings has been left uncut you will find a variety of butterflies that like the long grasses.



Small Skipper

The Small Skipper is often seen in high numbers from June to August in rough abandoned or disturbed grassland. It lays its eggs on long grasses such as Yorkshire Fog.

Although they spend much of their time basking or resting among vegetation, they are marvellous flyers, manoeuvring expertly through tall grass stems. It is these darting flights, wings glinting golden-brown in the sunlight, that normally alert an observer to their presence.



Small Copper

The Small Copper likes rough open places and lays its eggs on a wild plant named Sorrel. It is sometimes seen in gardens too.



Ringlet

The adults have a characteristic bobbing flight and they continue to fly in dull, cloudy conditions when other butterflies are inactive.

The Ringlet lays its eggs on coarse grasses, especially in damp locations. When adult butterflies emerge bramble is one of their favourite nectar sources, and there is plenty of that here!



Meadow Brown

The Meadow brown can be seen in any habitat where wild grasses survive. Several native grasses are eaten by the caterpillar. It's flight is weak, fluttering, and jerky, just above the grass heads.

Wetland

Amongst the long grasses at the far end of the site there is a boggy area that contains amongst other plants, the Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). This plant enjoys damp places and is the food plant of the Orange-tip butterfly.



Orange-tip

The Orange-tip hibernates over winter as a chrysalis/pupa and can be seen from April to July. Males have the unmistakable coloured wingtips from which they take their name, while females have no orange. Both sexes have mottled green undersides.

Ladies Smock is one of the preferred foodplants for this butterfly and can be seen in abundance where this flower thrives.



Green-veined White

The Green-veined White is often seen in damp, uncultivated places such as boggy meadows and ditches. The females lay their eggs on a range of crucifers including Ladies Smock. It is similar to the Small White in appearance but is distinguishable by the broad grey/green veins of the underwings.

Woodland edge

The woodland around the perimeter of school site provides a useful habitat for the following butterfly species.



Speckled Wood

This cream-spotted butterfly prefers living in shady places, and from April onwards can be seen in the dappled shade of tall shrubs and trees. Eggs are laid on long grasses in weak light on the woodland floor or in more open positions beneath shrubs.

The adults rarely visit flowers but instead feed on honeydew on leaves, often high in the treetops.

They are often seen in pairs spiralling in the air.



White-letter Hairstreak

There is an Elm tree at the top of the site and during July and August it is here that you may see the White-letter Hairstreak. This butterfly only lays its eggs on the leaves of an Elm tree, so this tree is very important.

The butterfly often flies high above the tree and feeds on the honeydew on its leaves so is hard to spot, but sometimes it will fly on the flower below to feed on their nectar.

Nettles !

Nettles may not be the prettiest wild flower, and certainly not the most popular, but there are a number of butterflies that would not exist without them. The nettles to growing in large clumps at the old school site attracts egg laying adult butterflies whose caterpillars rely on nettle leaves for food.



**Peacock caterpillars
on nettles**



Small Tortoiseshell

The Small Tortoiseshell lays its eggs on stinging nettles. The eggs are laid in large clusters of 80-200.



Peacock

The Peacock also lays its eggs on stinging nettles. It is a common resident but populations are reinforced by migrants from the continent each year.



Red Admiral

The Red Admiral can be found in almost any habitat. It is often seen in gardens. The butterfly is a migrant from North Africa and continental Europe. In recent years a few have managed to hibernate successfully over winter and can be seen as early as February and March.

The females lay eggs on nettles and consequently there is an emergence of fresh butterflies from about July onwards. They continue flying into October or November and are typically seen nectaring on garden buddleias or flowering ivy and on rotting fruit.

Other butterflies seen at the old school site



Large white

This common butterfly is found in a variety of habitats, particularly gardens and allotments where cabbages are grown.

The brilliant white wings have black tips to the forewings, extending down the wing edge.

Eggs are laid on wild or cultivated species of the Cruciferae family, with a strong preference for Cabbage and Brussel-sprouts and varieties of Oil-seed Rape. Nasturtium is also used.



Small White

The Small White butterfly is found in a variety of habitats, particularly gardens and allotments where cabbages are grown.

Eggs are laid on cultivated brassicas, especially cabbages, and Nasturtium in gardens. Wild crucifers used are Wild Cabbage, Charlock and others.



The Comma hibernates as an adult over winter in woods. It is easily identified by its jagged edges.

Comma

The cryptic colouring of the wings conceal hibernating adults amongst dead leaves, while the caterpillars, flecked with brown and white markings, bear close resemblance to bird droppings!



Painted Lady

This migrant butterfly from North Africa arrives in Yorkshire in May/June depending on weather conditions. And numbers seen is also weather dependent ranging from none in cold wet summers to 1,000s in hot and sunny summers.

Other butterflies seen in the village



Holly Blue

The Holly Blue has been seen in Addingham in gardens, the school grounds, park and other open spaces.

It lays its eggs predominantly on Holly in Spring where the caterpillars feed on the flower buds, berries and terminal leaves. Later in the summer ivy is used.



Wall

The Wall favours short, open grassland, where turf is broken or stony.

It is also found at disused quarries, derelict land, farm tracks, railway embankments and cuttings, gardens and field edges.

The Wall is aptly named after its habit of basking on walls, rocks, and stony places. The delicately patterned light brown undersides provide good camouflage against a stony or sandy surface.



Brimstone

The Brimstone occurs in shrubby grassland, woodland, along grass verges and hedges. It lays its eggs on Buckthorn, so without this plant the butterfly would not survive.

In Addingham the local cubs have planting some hedging which included Buckthorn.

Butterflies seen on the moors



There is quite a lot of bilberry on Addingham Moorside and this is the foodplant for the Green hairstreak caterpillars. Dozens of adults can be seen on the moors during April and May.

Green hairstreak

The butterfly always sits with its wings closed displaying their bright green undersides. The uppersides are plain brown and which makes it quite difficult to identify when in flight.



The Small Heath is an inconspicuous butterfly that flies only in sunshine and rarely settles more than a metre above the ground. Its wings are always kept closed when at rest.

Small Heath

Occurs on grassland where there are fine grasses, especially in dry, well-drained situations where the sward is short and sparse. It has been seen on Addingham golf course and on the moors surrounding the village.