

The Burren National Park would like to thank the following for photo contributions. Dermot Breen for the Clouded Yellow; Gillian Stewart for the Purple Hairstreak; and Eamonn Twomey for all other photographs.

- Butterflies and moths belong to the order Lepidoptera, which is derived from the Greek meaning 'scale-wing'.
- The name "butterfly" is believed to have originated from the Brimstone butterfly, originally known as 'Butter-coloured fly' due to its bright yellow wings.
- The wings of butterflies are actually transparent, the vivid colours are due to overlapping bright scales.
- Butterflies taste food by standing on it, as their taste sensors are found on their feet.

**Some Butterfly Facts:**

Five of these species have been assessed as "Endangered" or "Vulnerable" and a further four species which occur here are listed as "Near threatened".

Butterflies and moths belong to the order Lepidoptera, which is derived from the Greek meaning 'scale-wing'. The name "butterfly" is believed to have originated from the Brimstone butterfly, originally known as 'Butter-coloured fly' due to its bright yellow wings. The wings of butterflies are actually transparent, the vivid colours are due to overlapping bright scales. Butterflies taste food by standing on it, as their taste sensors are found on their feet.

**Butterflies in the Burren National Park**

# Burren National Park Butterfly Guide



**Orange-tip**  
*Anthocharis cardamines*  
 Barr buí

**Foodplant**  
 Lady's smock

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Small White**  
*Pieris rapae*  
 Bánóg bheag

**Foodplant**  
 Various crucifers

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Orange-tip**  
*Anthocharis cardamines*  
 Barr buí

**Foodplant**  
 Lady's smock

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Small White**  
*Pieris rapae*  
 Bánóg bheag

**Foodplant**  
 Various crucifers

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Wood White**  
*Leptidea sinapis*  
 Bánóg choille

**Foodplant**  
 Meadow Vetchling

**Status**  
 Near Threatened

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Wood White**  
*Leptidea sinapis*  
 Bánóg choille

**Foodplant**  
 Meadow Vetchling

**Status**  
 Near Threatened

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Clouded Yellow**  
*Colias croceus*  
 Buióg chróch

**Foodplant**  
 Various clover's

**Status**  
 Near Threatened

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Clouded Yellow**  
*Colias croceus*  
 Buióg chróch

**Foodplant**  
 Various clover's

**Status**  
 Near Threatened

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Common Blue**  
*Polymmatas icarus*  
 Gormán coiteann

**Foodplant**  
 Bird's-foot-trefoil

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Holly Blue**  
*Celastrina argiolus*  
 Gormán cuilinn

**Foodplant**  
 Holly and Ivy

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

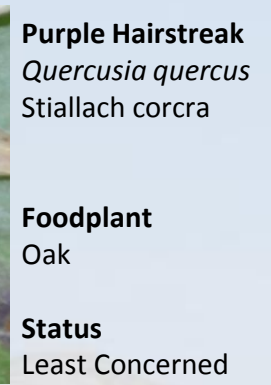


**Brown Hairstreak**  
*Thecla betulae*  
 Stiallach donn

**Foodplant**  
 Blackthorn

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
 38 – 42mm

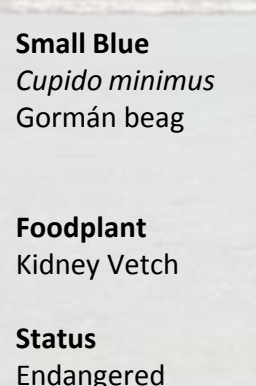


**Purple Hairstreak**  
*Quercusia quercus*  
 Stiallach corcra

**Foodplant**  
 Oak

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
 37 – 39mm



**Small Blue**  
*Cupido minimus*  
 Gormán beag

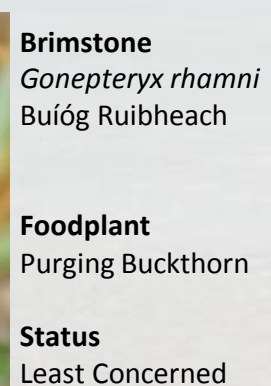
**Foodplant**  
 Kidney Vetch

**Status**  
 Endangered

**Wingspan**  
 16 – 28mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

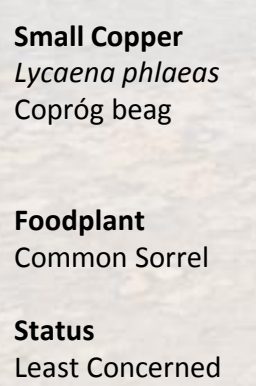


**Brimstone**  
*Gonepteryx rhamni*  
 Buióg Ruibheach

**Foodplant**  
 Purging Buckthorn

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
 50 – 74mm



**Small Copper**  
*Lycaena phlaeas*  
 Copróg beag

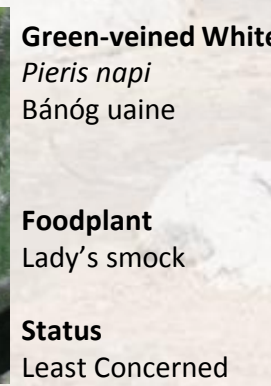
**Foodplant**  
 Common Sorrel

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
 26 – 35mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D



**Green-veined White**  
*Pieris napi*  
 Bánóg uaine

**Foodplant**  
 Lady's smock

**Status**  
 Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
 40 – 52mm

**Painted Lady**  
*Vanessa cardui*  
Áilleán



**Grayling**  
*Hipparchia semele*  
Glásán



**Speckled Wood**  
*Pararge aegeria*  
Breacfhéileacán coille



**Pearl-bordered Fritillary**  
*Boloria euphrosyne*  
Fritileán péarlach



**Foodplant**  
Stinging Nettle

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Common Dog-violet

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Near Threatened

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Endangered

**Wingspan**  
58 – 70mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
56 – 61mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
47 – 50mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
44 – 47mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

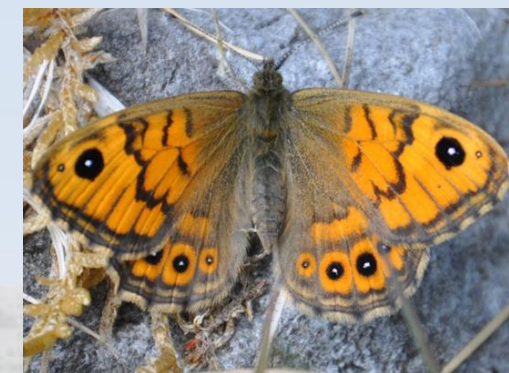
**Peacock**  
*Inachis io*  
Péacóg



**Meadow Brown**  
*Maniola jurtina iernes*  
Donnóg fhéir



**Wall Brown**  
*Lasiommata megera*  
Donnóg an bhalla



**Silver-washed Fritillary**  
*Argynnis paphia*  
Fritileán geal



**Foodplant**  
Stinging Nettle

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Common Dog-violet

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Endangered

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Wingspan**  
62 – 70mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
50 – 56mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
45 – 55mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
70 – 80mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Red Admiral**  
*Vanessa atalanta*  
Aimiréal dearg



**Ringlet**  
*Aphantopus hyperantus*  
Fáinneog



**Dark Green Fritillary**  
*Mesoacidalia aglaia*  
Fritileán dúghlas



**Dingy Skipper**  
*Erynnis tages*  
Donnán



**Foodplant**  
Stinging Nettle

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Common Dog-violet

**Foodplant**  
Bird's-foot-trefoil

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Vulnerable

**Status**  
Near Threatened

**Wingspan**  
64 – 78mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
42 – 52mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
60 – 70mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
28 – 34mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Small Tortoiseshell**  
*Aglais urticae*  
Ruán beag



**Small Heath**  
*Coenonympha pamphilus*  
Fraochán beag



**Marsh Fritillary**  
*Euphydryas aurinia*  
Fritileán réisc



\*The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly is the only insect in Ireland that is listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. This species has declined dramatically across Europe. In Ireland populations are widespread but fragmented and in decline. Habitat destruction of suitable breeding grounds is the main factor for the decline in this species.

**Foodplant**  
Stinging Nettle

**Foodplant**  
Various grasses

**Foodplant**  
Devil's-bit Scabious

Marsh Fritillary is a colonial butterfly species with most individuals remaining locally from where they are laid. The eggs are laid on the leaves of the Devil's-bit Scabious plant on south facing slopes with some shelter. Suitable habitats must contain a 25% density of the larva foodplant and should be lightly grazed with a short sward of 10 to 15cm.

**Status**  
Least Concerned

**Status**  
Near Threatened

**Status**  
Vulnerable  
EU Annex II\*

**Wingspan**  
50 – 56mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
33 – 37mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D

**Wingspan**  
42 – 48mm

**Flight Time**

J	F	M	A	M	J
J	A	S	O	N	D