

## Butterfly Dates for eggs, larvae and adult (to guide safe grass cutting)

Name	Eggs found	Laid on	Caterpillar	Chrysalis	Adult	Safe to mow
Blue, Chalkhill	Aug - March	Horseshoe vetch (shortish sward)	Late March – end June	Mid June – end July	Mid July – mid Sept	Winter/ + July
Blue, Common	June, Aug- Oct	Legumes incl clover, trefoils, vetches.	June then Aug-April (hibernates on ground)	Late April- May & July	May- end Oct ( x2 broods)	winter
<b>Blue, holly</b>	End April – mid June & mid July - mid Sept	Flower buds of Holly, Ivy dogwood & other shrubs	May- June & late July – end Sept	Mid June – July & late Aug – end April (in crevices behind bark)	April – end Sept (x2 broods)	Trees, Winter
Blue, Small	Late May – early July	Kidney vetch flowers	June – April (winter on ground under moss etc)	May	Mid-May -end June & Aug	Winter
Brimstone	Early May – end June (1-2wks)	Alder Buckthorn & Buckthorn leaves	End May – end July	End June – end Aug	End July – beg July (11months) Hibernates as adults below ivy leaves in woods.	Buckthorn - Winter, Sept – end Feb
<b>Comma</b>	mid April-May & July- Aug	Singly on Nettles, hops, currants (2-3wks)	May – June & late July-Aug (underside of leaves- 7 wks)	Late June- mid July & late Aug- mid Sept	X2 mid June- Aug, Sept- following May (hibernates branches, or base of trees in leaves)	winter
<b>Gatekeeper</b>	Mid July- mid Sept	Dropped onto tallish grasses at base of shrubs in sun (3 wks)	Mid Aug- following end June (hibernates inside dried leaves on ground till early spring, then feeds by day when small, then at night when large).	June- mid July suspended from leaf at base of shrubs. (3-4wks)	Late June – mid Sept	Winter: leave dead leaves on ground. Don't cut grasses at base of shrubs.
Hairstreak, brown	End Aug – end following April	Underside Blackthorn & Bullace twigs	End April - June	July – mid Aug ( on ground, tended by ants)	Late July – early Oct	Blackthorn shrub: July - Aug
Hairstreak, green	Mid May – early July	Buds & shoots of Dogwood, Gorse, Buckthorn, Rockrose & Birds foot trefoil	End May – early Aug	July – end April	Late April – early July	Shrubs. Winter
<b>Marbled white</b>	Beg July-mid Aug	Dropped randomly on grasses (3 wks)	Aug- early June following yr (hibernates till early spring in grassy tussock, then feeds by day when small, then at night when large)	June – early July (2-3 wks) on ground under grass tussock.	Late June – late Aug	Winter/ or June, to 4-6 inches.
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<b>Meadow brown</b>	Late June- early Oct (2-4wks)	grasses	July-following mid June. Hibernates in grass clump in winter. Feeds by night in Spring	May-early Aug suspended low on grass stem (4wks)	June-early Oct	Winter/ or June to 4-6 inches
Orange tip	Late April – end June	Cuckoo flower, Garlic mustard & other crucifers	May – early July	June – end April	April - June	Winter: July - April
<b>Painted lady</b>	Late April – early July	Thistles, Nettles, Mallows, Vipers buglos	Late April – early July & mid Aug – Oct (sequentially, 4 wks)	June – Oct (from roof of tent, 2 weeks)	X3 broods, early April – early Nov – migrates.	Winter/ some nettles early June
<b>Peacock</b>	mid May – early July	In huge batches , nettles, 2 wks	Mid May – end June	July (2 wks)	July – following early March/April (hibernates in trees, sheds, wood piles)	winter
<b>Red Admiral</b>	Mid April – mid Sept	Singly on young nettles	End April- end Oct (sequentially, 3 weeks each)	July – Oct (from roof of caterpillar tent)	March – Nov mainly migrates	Winter: some nettles early June
<b>Ringlet</b>	Late June- Aug	Lush growth of course (esp cocksfoot, False Brome) grasses (18 days)	Late July- following early June, hibernates at base of grass clump.	June- mid July (bottom grass clump)- 2 wks	Late June- end Aug esp edges of woods & hedges with long grass.	Winter: to 4-6 inches. Don't cut grasses at edges of woods/ hedges
Skipper- Large	Late June- end Aug	Tall grasses esp Cocksfoot (2 wks)	Tall grasses. July – May. Hibernates in grass tube, emerging in spring to feed.	May- end June	Late May- end Aug	June: Leave areas of long grass over winter
Skipper, Essex	Late July – end March	Tall grasses esp Cocksfoot, Creeping soft grass, Tor grass (overwinters as egg)	Tall grasses. April – mid June	June- end July	July-Aug	June – July: Leave areas of long grass overwinter
Skipper, Small	Late June – end Aug	Grass leaves (Yorkshire fog, Creeping soft grass)	Tall grasses. Mid July – end May (hibernates wrapped in grass blade)	End June – mid July	June - Aug	June: Leave areas of long grass over winter
Small copper	1. May – early July 2. late July - early Sept 3. late Sept- end Oct	Sorrel and Dock leaves, low down.(1-2wks)	Late May – early April with small gaps between broods (4wks)	April – Sept small gaps between 3 broods	April - Oct	Winter
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<b>Small heath</b>	X2 broods. Late	On blades of grasses (2wks)	Late June – end April following yr.	April – mid June &	Early May – mid July &	Winter/ & June

	May- early July & late Aug- early Oct		Hibernates over winter. In spring eats low down in young grasses.	mid July – end Sept (3-4wks) attached to grass stem.	late July – end Oct. Like fairly short sward with fine bladed grasses	4 inches
<b>Small tortoiseshell</b>	end April – May, & mid June – early Aug	In huge batches , nettles (12 days)	May – mid June & July – Aug (4 wks)	June – July & Aug – mid Sept (singly suspended anywhere, 12 days)	Mid June – following early May. (hibernate in sheds etc)	winter
<b>Speckled wood</b>	mid April – mid June, late July-late Aug & late Sept- Oct	Singly, grasses incl Yorkshire fog, False Brome, Cocksfoot (10 days)	X3 May-June, mid July- Sept, & late Sept- following March	June – following early April on grass, other vegetation	April – late Oct	Early April
<b>Wall</b>	X 2, mid May- June, & Aug – Sept & occasionally Oct	Singly on exposed grass roots on vertical edge in dry spot, (10 days)- needs rabbit etc holes, path edges, hollows.	X 2 or 3 broods. June & Aug- next end April (over-winter as caterpillars feeding on mild days).	April, & July, occasionally late Sept suspended from grass stems.	May- June & early July- early Sept	Winter/ & May & July
White, green veined	May – June & end July - Sept	Crucifers (Garlic mustard, Cuckoo flower, Charlock)	May – early July & Aug - Sept	June – July & Sept - April	April - Sept	Winter: Sept- April
White, large	May-June & end July – end Aug	Brassicas	Mid May – end Oct	Mid June- July & Aug - Oct	Mid April – end Sept	N /A
White, small	May -June & mid July - Sept	Brassicas, Nasturtiums, Charlock, Garlic mustard	June – June & end July Sept	June – July & Aug - April	April - Oct	N/A