

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES TRAIL

The Swiss Garden is a haven for many of our native butterfly species. Join us on our trail to find out more about these fascinating creatures.

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Butterflies have a larval stage where, as caterpillars, they eat and eat to build up lots of energy. Then, they weave a cocoon of silk to protect them while they pupate and undertake the miraculous transformation into their adult form. Read about the larvae below for clues as to which plant they are linked to. Then see if you can spot the adult butterfly, before it flies away to mate so that the females can lay eggs that will hatch into more larvae...

1: Peacock

The Butterfly is named due to the 'eyes' on its wings, just like the 'eyes' on a peacock's tail. As you exit the Discovery Hub, look for the stunning Minton Peacock.



2: Purple Hairstreak

The Purple hairstreak is the only butterfly in the UK which is entirely reliant on the oak tree. It can use our two native oaks as well as the introduced Turkey and Evergreen.



Found it!

3: Wall Brown

The Wall brown or 'Wall' gets its name from the fact it rests on any bare surface or wall! It can be found in open, sunny places like sand dunes, old quarries and grasslands.



Found it!

4: Swallowtail

Found the world over, though the UK population of the Swallowtail is a unique subspecies, Papilio Machaon Britannicus, found only here. Feeds on Ragid Robin; Thistles or Reeds



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7: Purple Emperor Male purple emperors are known to travel up to a kilometre from their feeding areas to gather in 'master trees' (usually oak, as here) the same tree will be used year after year.



10: Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Caterpillars overwinter wrapped in a leaf at the base of a food plant, such as Common Dog-violet. When they emerge, they are half the size they were the previous summer.



We hope you have enjoyed exploring and discovering in the Swiss Garden today Visit our website to see all our other cool kids trails

5: Ringlet

Found around Bamble and Wild Privet, the female Ringlet lays her eggs by perching on a grass stem and firing them into the air so that they land on nearby vegetation.



Found It!

8: Gatekeeper

The colour and patterns of the wings of the Gatekeeper vary and can be affected by factors such as extremes in temperature when the butterfly was developing in the chrysalis



11: Marbled White

Watch out for the unmistakeable, striking black-and-white checks of the Marbled White alighting on purple flowers, such as our Field Scabious, and along woodland paths.





Their northward migrations from North Africa and continental Europe continue into October or November. They are typically seen nectaring on Clematis, flowering Ivy & rotting fruit.



9: Holly Blue

Holly Blue populations fluctuate enormously each year depending on numbers of a parasitic wasp that lays its eggs in the lavae. As the catepillar grows the wasp grub eats it alive!



12: Painted Lady

Partial to Buddleia, the Painted Lady is a long-distance migrant. One of the most widespread butterfly species, found right across the world, with the exception of South America.



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