

Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 03:23 AM GMT

After my dad, who posts on UKB as nfreem, got me interested in butterflies and nature, he kindly gave me his old camera and after following my dad's diary on here for a few months now I decided to give it a go myself to keep a personal track of what I see out and about and also to practice and improve my photography skills as this is something I am new to, so all advice, hints and tips welcome.

Since receiving the camera I haven't had many opportunities to get out and about due to work and the recent bad weather, however this month I have managed 2 lovely outings with the father. The first of these was to Bishops Hill, which provided me my first chance to try out taking some photos as this is something I have never done before.

This was back on 09/06/12 and the day was cloudy but pleasant with occasional bright spells and just warm enough for a few things to be out and about. While there we saw Common Blues, Small Blues, a couple of Grizzled Skippers and Small Heaths and a couple of faded Dingy Skippers. We also managed to see a few Burnet Companion moths and a single Yellow Shell moth.



White-Legged damselfly



Grizzled Skipper



Burnet Companion moth



Faded Dingy Skipper



Yellow Shell moth - not great quality



Small Blue underside



Common Blue female



Common Blue male



Common Blue underside

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Susie, 25-Jun-12 03:37 AM GMT

Cracking photos! 😊

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Colin Knight, 25-Jun-12 03:40 AM GMT

Well done Gothic Dreams! Wish my early butterfly shots had been as good as these. I particularly like your Grizzled Skipper. Keep posting please.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 03:57 AM GMT

Thank you for the comments Susie and Colin, im glad you like the photos 😊 I shall be keeping a regular update of what i see out and about.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Pauline, 25-Jun-12 03:59 AM GMT

You're giving your dad a run for his money there Gothic dreams – great grizzled skipper shots!

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Neil Freeman, 25-Jun-12 04:05 AM GMT

It comes to something when I take him out and he takes better photos than me.....with my old camera as well 😊

Best of it was, I completely missed the Grizzled Skipper being on another part of the site at the time.

Looks like I will have to up my game 😊

Neil.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 04:13 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline, the Grizzled Skipper shot is one of my favourites too 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 04:34 AM GMT

The second of my outings with the father this month was at a place called Babbs Mill which we visited yesterday afternoon.

It was a fairly cloudy day with bright patches, however with it being a dry day and only being 10mins away from where I work, and being a place neither me or my dad had been before we took the opportunity to have a look to see if it would be a place worth while visiting over the next few months. Not expecting to see anything we were very happy and surprised to see a single Painted Lady, which was very faded and looked like it had seen better days, and a single fresh looking male Meadow Brown.

The place looked a lovely area and definitely a place worth checking again when the weather has improved.



Faded Painted Lady



Faded Painted Lady half open wings



Faded Painted Lady closed wings



Male Meadow Brown



Male Meadow Brown underside

More to come

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Wurzel, 25-Jun-12 05:13 AM GMT

Cracking shots Chris - looking forward to the "more" that's following!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 05:20 AM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, im pretty new to taking photos but look forward to getting out and about more over the summer and hopefully getting some good practice in over the coming months 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Padfield, 25-Jun-12 05:58 AM GMT

Welcome Chris! I look forward to sharing the rest of your season through your diary. As others have commented, that's a great shot of the grizzly. It

captures the species perfectly.

Guy

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 25-Jun-12 06:13 AM GMT

Thank you Guy, im glad you like the grizzly shot 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Nick Broomer, 27-Jun-12 01:43 AM GMT

Hi Chris,

Glad to see you`re following in your dads footsteps. If you have just picked up a camera for the first time then i would love to see your photos in a couple of months time, 😊 some lovely pictures already.

All the best,

Nick.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 27-Jun-12 08:02 AM GMT

Thank you Nick, im lucky that my dad gave me some good tips to get me started, and also the fact he gave me a pretty decent camera 😊 pretty pleased with my first shots but hopefully will improve over the coming months, reading tips from other members on this forum and a few outings with the father over the next few months should go along way to helping 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Debbie, 27-Jun-12 04:49 PM GMT

lovely pictures, I really enjoyed seeing them. 😊 Debbie.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by NickMorgan, 27-Jun-12 08:03 PM GMT

Chris,

I don't think you need any tips on photography. I think you should be passing tips on to us! I recently bought a Lumix FZ150, but like you I have been struggling to find days when I can use it so far this year.

Nick

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-12 01:41 AM GMT

Love your Photo's , keep them coming Goldie 😊

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 28-Jun-12 08:36 AM GMT

Thank you for the kind comments Debbie, Nick and Goldie. Hopefully i will be able to get about a little more over july with a few days out planned with the father 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Vince Massimo, 29-Jun-12 08:00 PM GMT

Hi Chris,

I'm pleased to see you following in your fathers footsteps and also launching straight into a Personal Diary. Something I have still not got round to starting yet..... I am impressed with the quality of your photos and would be pleased if you could add your Meadow Brown male upperside to the Species-Specific Album when you get time.

Regards,

Vince

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 30-Jun-12 03:00 AM GMT

Thank you for the kind comments Vince, im glad you like the photos, I have added the Meadow Brown male upperside to the Species-Specific Album as requested 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 01-Jul-12 04:04 AM GMT

Babbs Mill - 30/06/12

With the afternoon being very windy but sunny and warm I decided to take a wander over Babbs Mill after work to join up with the father who was already over their. The wind made it very difficult conditions for taking decent photos but managed to see a good selection of things fluttering through the long grass in the meadows. Amongst the things seen were 4 Ringlets, 5 Large Skippers, a Speckled Wood, and 3 Red Admirals.



Ringlet underside



Ringlet



Female Large Skipper



Male Speckled Wood



Red Admiral

Also fluttering about in the wind were a mixture of Common Blue Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, and Blue-tailed Damselfly.



Common Blue Damselfly



Azure Damselfly



Blue-tailed Damselfly

A very enjoyable afternoons walk 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Pauline, 01-Jul-12 04:13 AM GMT

Your damselfly photos are lovely Chris – really sharp and beautifully posed. Well done! Are you sure you haven't been doing this for years 🍷

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 01-Jul-12 04:23 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline I appreciate the kind comments 😊 Today was only my 3rd time but luckily my dad has passed on some good tips to me, but hopefully I shall be doing it for years to come 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 06:40 AM GMT

This is the first time I have had chance to update my diary for a while due to work commitments, so I will start with a trip I had last Wednesday.

Prees Heath and Whixall Moss – Wednesday 04/07/12

Me and the father both booked the day off work and decided to have a look at Prees Heath and Whixall Moss.

I wont talk too much about these places as my dad described them well in his entries a few days back, but what we half expected to be a bit of a wash out turned out to be a wonderful trip.

We started at Prees Heath, and then went onto Whixall before ending the day back at Prees Heath.

I will start with photos from the 2 visits to Prees Heath



Underside – Male Silver–Studded Blue



Small Heath



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Underside - Female Silver-Studded Blue



Underside - Male Silver-Studded Blue



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Male Silver-Studded blue invading a mating pair of Burnet Moths



Male Meadow Brown



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Underside - Male Silver-Studded Blue



Peacock caterpillars



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Male Silver-Studded Blue



Mating pair of Silver-Studded Blue



Female Silver-Studded Blue



Mullein moth caterpillar



Female Silver-Studded Blue



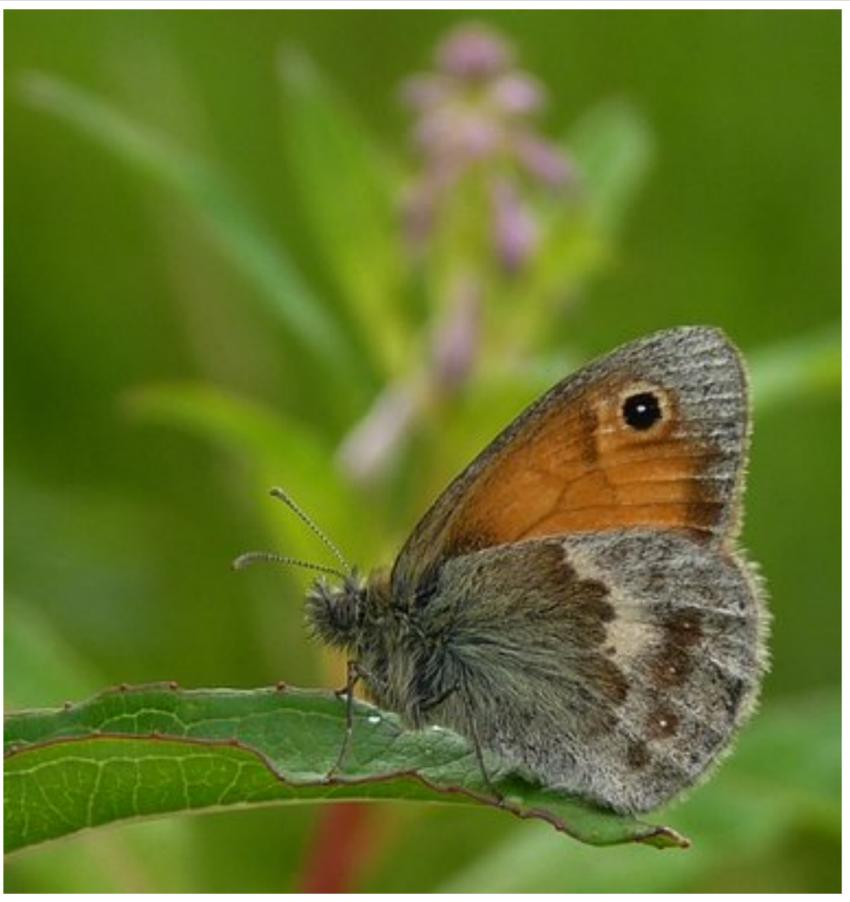
Male Silver-Studded Blue



Underside Male Silver-Studded Blue

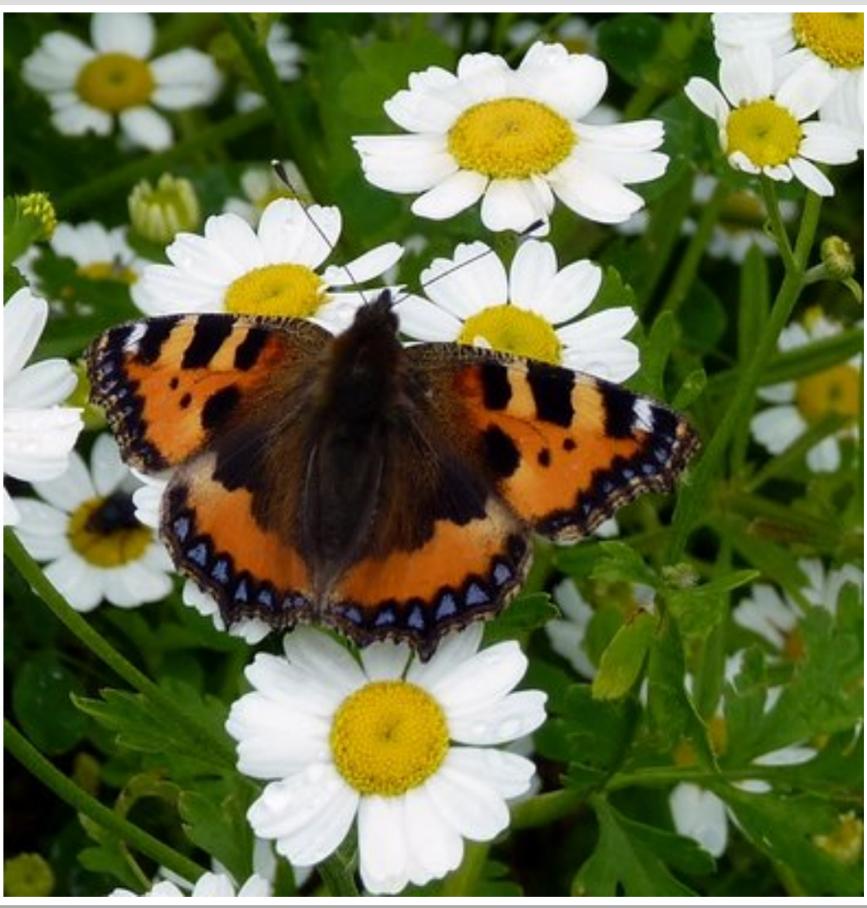


Male Silver-Studded Blue



Small Heath

And now for the visit we took to Whixall Moss 😊



Small Tortoiseshell



Meadow Brown underside



Large Heath



Large Heath



Large Heath



Female Meadow Brown



Ringlet underside



Ringlet underside

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 06:43 AM GMT

(Prees Heath and Whixall Moss - Wednesday 04/07/12 continued)



Ringlet

And to finish with, 3 Damselflies at Whixall moss, a Large Red Damselfly and 2 Emerald Damselflies 😊



Large red Damselfly



Emerald Damselfly



Emerald Damselfly

More to come soon 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-12 06:54 AM GMT

Cracking shots Chris 😊 Can you get "the father" to pass on some of those tips to me? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 07:01 AM GMT

Thank you Wurzel im glad you enjoyed them 😊 to be honest most of my technical side is point, click and hope for the best, the camera does most the work and co-operative butterflies help 🍷

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by David M, 13-Jul-12 07:16 AM GMT

Good work with the Large Heath *davus*. They are stunning (surely the finest in Europe).

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 07:28 AM GMT

Thank you David, we got lucky with the Large Heath as a couple landed right by us on the path 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by David M, 13-Jul-12 07:31 AM GMT

"Gothic_dreams" wrote:

Thank you David, we got lucky with the Large Heath as a couple landed right by us on the path

Matters not – you captured them on film better than I've ever seen them before. *Davus* is by far the most striking Large Heath ssp, and it's range is fairly restricted compared to *polydama* and *scotica*. Probably, Whixhall Moss is the best place on earth to see it.

I went there last year but I don't remember any of the dozen or so I saw being SO heavily marked.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 07:58 AM GMT

Thank you for the kind comments David, I agree with you that the markings on them are lovely, being the first time I have seen this butterfly it was a treat to see them at good quality 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by feralkitten, 13-Jul-12 08:11 AM GMT

wow there some ace photo i hope i can get that good 😊 . i mostly worked on kids and landscapes so i'm really new to wild life photos

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 13-Jul-12 08:20 AM GMT

Thank you feralkitten 😊 Like you i am also fairly new to taking wildlife photos. I have never done photography before in the past, this being my first year at it and the most recent photos only being my 4th attempt, starting to pick it up and get the nack of it tho 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by feralkitten, 13-Jul-12 08:30 AM GMT

i been doing wildlife a weak lol . i needed to try it for my portfolo for college and i found i really liked it . i found i liked taken photos of old castles and stuff to they look really cool when turn black and white . kinda into the creepy gothic look

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Neil Freeman, 14-Jul-12 02:59 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Cracking shots Chris 😊 Can you get "the father" to pass on some of those tips to me? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I don't know that I have actually given him any tips other than;

- 1 – Don't muck about with the camera settings too much.
- 2 – Try and think about the background when you take your shot.

I have picked up most of my 'tips' from people on here. I think the most valuable was to set the exposure setting to $-2/3$ on my Lumix, more perhaps for whites or a particularly sunny day.

As Chris says, our cameras are remarkably easy to get good photos with 😊

The Father (Neil)

Re: Gothic_dreams

by philm63, 14-Jul-12 04:00 AM GMT

Chris

Great shots, all are equally good despite the different species and challenges presented.

Phil

Re: Gothic_dreams

by MikeOxon, 14-Jul-12 06:26 AM GMT

"Gothic_dreams" wrote:

Prees Heath and Whixall Moss – Wednesday 04/07/12

A splendid series of photos! I notice that one of your Large Heaths (P1070398) has an elongated 'spot' typical of *Ab. lanceolata*. You have some very nice damselfly photos as well!

Mike

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 14-Jul-12 07:58 AM GMT

Thank you for the kind comments Phil

And thank you Mike im glad you enjoyed them, and i agree with the Large Heath photo you mentioned 😊 Im glad you like the damselfly photos too, im becoming quite a fan of them, i never really noticed how nice they could be before i started taking photos of them.

Chris

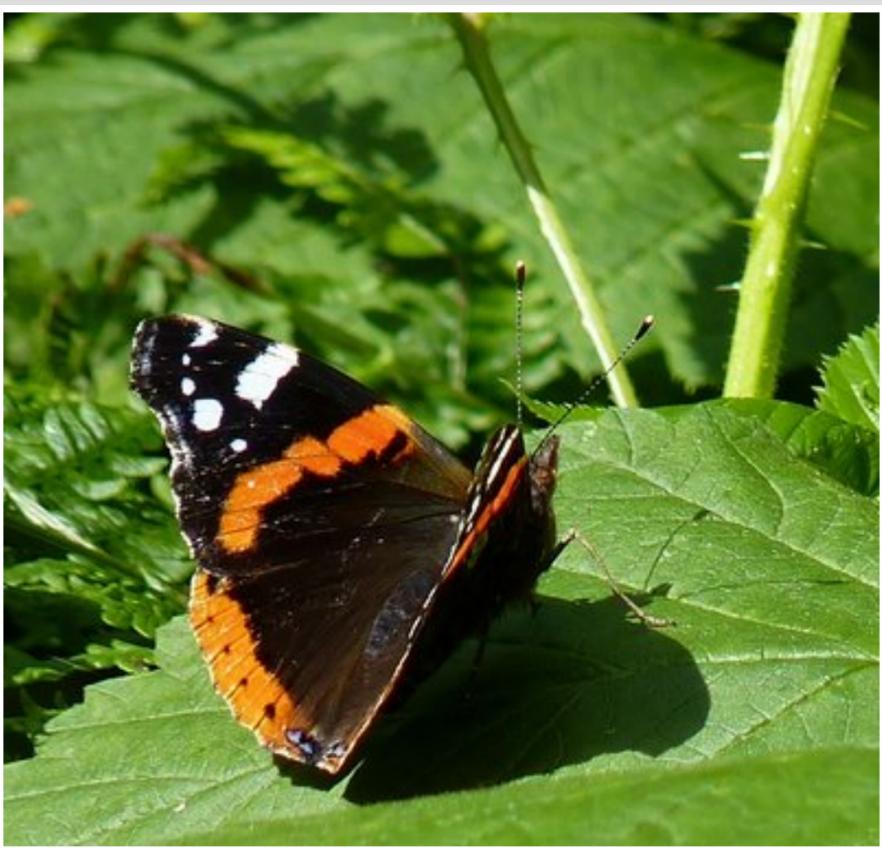
Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 14-Jul-12 08:20 AM GMT

Babbs Mill – Thursday 12/07/12

As it was a sunny afternoon, very rare these days, I decided to have a look over Babbs Mill on the way home from work to see what was out and about.

I was pleased to see that the number of things fluttering around had increased since my last visit, most being very active due to the warm and sunny day. Amongst the things out and about I spotted a lot of Ringlets, I counted at least 30, 2 Red Admiral, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Meadow Brown, and 5 Large Skipper. The highlight of the visit being 2 mating pairs of Small Tortoiseshell 😊



Red Admiral



Underside - Red Admiral



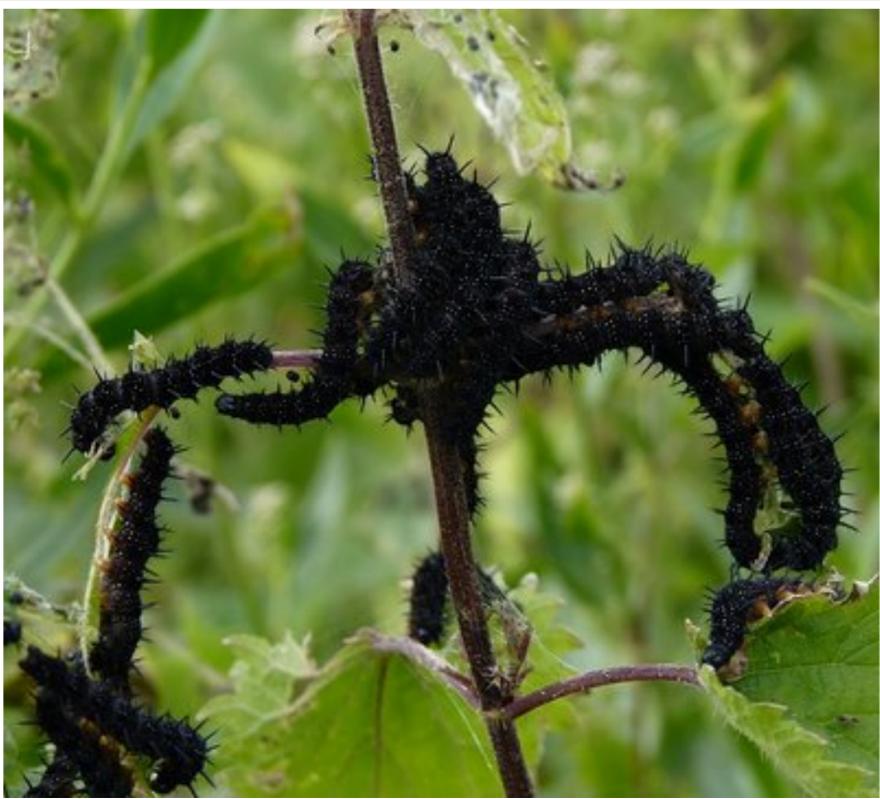
Red Admiral



Red Admiral



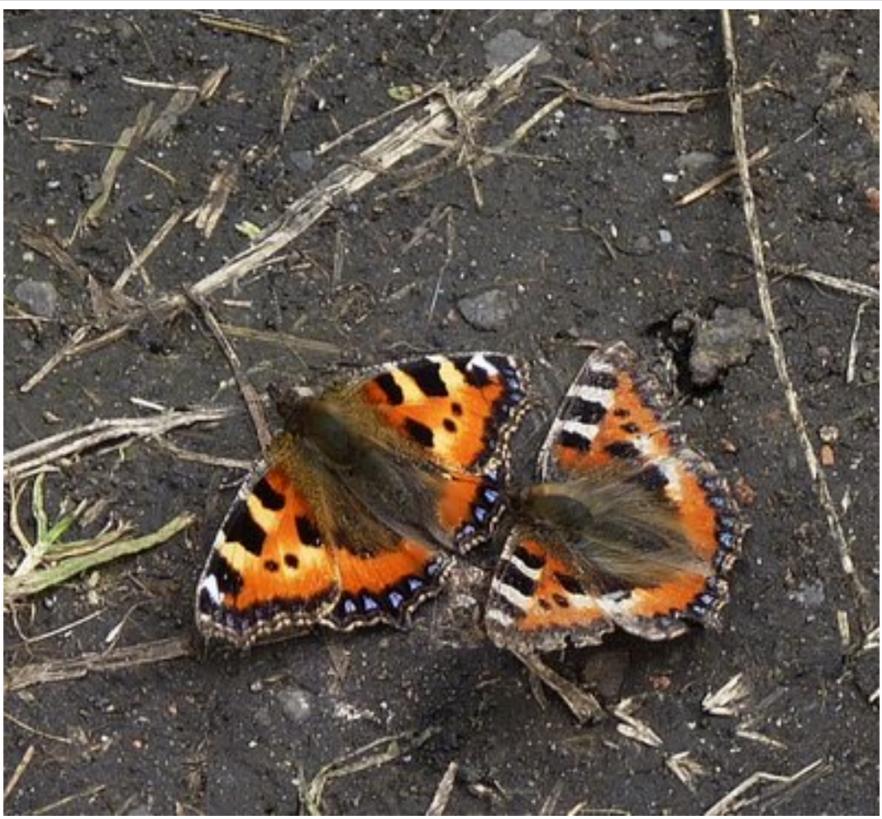
Underside – Red Admiral



Peacock caterpillars



Mating pair Small Tortoiseshell 1 (little blurry round the edges due to fluttering wings)



Mating pair Small Tortoiseshell 2



Small Tortoiseshell



Male Large Skipper



Male Large Skipper



Cat spying on me in the woods

Also spotted was a Banded Demoiselle and many Damselfly.



Banded Demoiselle



Damselfly tree :)

A very enjoyable afternoons walk and nice to see plenty about in the rare good weather 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-12 03:30 PM GMT

More great shots and good to see more than a single Small Tortoiseshell reported 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Gothic_dreams

by dilettante, 14-Jul-12 05:02 PM GMT

What's happened to all the photos on this page? None of the captions seem to match

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 14-Jul-12 05:21 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, i was also pleased to see more than 1 Small Tortoiseshell in a small area and to see 2 mating pairs was a treat 😊

Not sure what you mean about the captions dilettante? they all come up ok for me.

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Neil Freeman, 14-Jul-12 05:50 PM GMT

"dilettante" wrote:

What's happened to all the photos on this page? None of the captions seem to match

They all look ok to me, the captions match fine.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by dilettante, 15-Jul-12 03:28 AM GMT

"nfreem" wrote:

"dilettante" wrote:

What's happened to all the photos on this page? None of the captions seem to match

They all look ok to me, the captions match fine.

Yes, they look fine to me now too. They were definitely all messed up when I looked this morning. Maybe some weird browser error.

Lovely photos, btw!

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 15-Jul-12 04:09 AM GMT

Glad they are showing up ok now dilettante, i was thinking it could be a browser error but wasnt sure which end, im not great with technology 😊 glad its sorted either way, and thank you, im glad you enjoyed them 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Pauline, 15-Jul-12 05:08 AM GMT

Some great shots there Chris – can't decide which I like best – the damsel flies, Skippers, cat or Small Torts. Got to be the latter cos I've never seen that before. Well done.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Nick Broomer, 15-Jul-12 05:34 AM GMT

Just caught up with your posts, those Large Heath photos are smashing, the best i`ve seen along with your dads.

All the best, Nick.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 16-Jul-12 07:00 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline the small Small Tortoiseshell pair was new to me too, and also very pleasing to see with their reported numbers these days lower than they used to be 😊

And thank you for the kind comments Nick, im glad you enjoyed them 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 16-Jul-12 07:45 AM GMT

Ryton Woon and Meadows open day – 14/07/12

Yesterday the father and myself went over to the open day at Ryton Wood and Meadows. The ground here was very soggy underfoot but the weather for the day was overcast to start with breaking into sunny spells and very warm.

The day included 3 guided walks, 2 of which we went on in the morning, and then in the afternoon we had a wonder around on our own. It was nice to

see plenty of things fluttering around despite the recent bad weather. Below is the list of our sightings

Marbled Whites – 25+

Gatekeepers – 5

White Admiral – 2 (very flighty)

Silver-washed Fritillary – 4 (3 male and 1 female)

Purple Hairstreak – 1 (up in a oak tree)

Small Skippers – around 12

Large Skippers – around 12

Red Admirals – 2

comma – 1

Brimstone – 1 (very tatty)

Common Blue – 1

Also seen as well as the butterflies were Six-spot Burnet moths, Five-spot Burnet Moths and Silver-Y moths.

There were also reports of Small Heath and a Green-veined White, although we didn't see these ourselves.



Brimstone caterpillar



Ringlet



Ringlet



Ringlet



Mating pair of Ringlet



Underside – Gatekeeper



Gatekeeper



Small skipper



Large Skipper



Mating pair of Large Skipper



Male Silver-washed Fritillary



Pair of Silver-washed Fritillary (fluttering wings)



Silver-washed Fritillary



Comma



Comma



Marbled White



Marbled White



Marbled White



Underside – Marbled White



Burnet moth



Burnet moth

A Lovely day had with great company 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 21-Jul-12 07:38 AM GMT

Snitterfield Bushes and Oversley Wood - Wednesday 18/07/12

With the father and myself both having the day off work we decided to go to Snitterfield Bushes and Oversley Wood for the day. The weather forecast for the day wasn't looking great but we decided to go and see what we could find anyway.

We started off with a trip to Snitterfield Bushes. When we got there it was raining but we decided to head to a meadow where my dad had seen Marbled Whites in the past to see if we could find any roosting up and we managed to find half a dozen or so despite the bad weather.

The rain eased off a little, although still very gloomy, so we decided to head over to Oversley Wood to see if we could find anything there. The first and main part of the time spent there was quite gloomy with heavy showers.

There were plenty of Ringlets fluttering about, with some even flying in heavy rain, and also a number of Meadow Browns flying in the gloom. Around late afternoon time the gloom started to lift a little and there were even sunny spells. During this time we managed to see half a dozen or so Silver-Washed Fritillaries, a Green Veined White, 2 Red Admirals, and a brief sighting of a White Admiral which quickly disappeared into the trees.

With the weather a little brighter, we decided to pop back to Snitterfield Bushes on the way home to see if we could get any open wing views of the Marbled Whites. While there to our delight there were many Marbled Whites out in the meadow taking advantage of the brief spell of sunshine. We also saw a Small White, a Comma, and a couple more Silver-Washed Fritillaries.



Ringlet



Ringlet



Ringlet



Meadow Brown



Small Skipper



Green Veined White



Silver-Washed Fritillarie



Comma



Marbled White



Marbled White



Marbled White watching a Burnet Moth



Marbled White



Marbled White having a feed



Marbled White



Marbled White



Common Darter



Female Beautiful Demoiselle (i think)

A worthwhile trip despite the bad weather 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Gothic_dreams, 22-Aug-12 06:55 AM GMT

Aston Rowant - 16/08/12

Having not had the time to get out much over the past month or so due to long hours at work I finally managed to get a day off. The father and me decided to take a trip to Aston Rowant as this is a place I hadn't been to before and I was hoping to see some Chalkhill Blues and Silver Spotted Skippers. The weather was lovely being mainly sunny throughout the day with the occasional cloud making it ideal to settle the butterflies down to have a good look at them. Below is a list of things we saw fluttering around throughout the day.

Meadow Brown - Many
Chalkhill Blue - Many
Silver-spotted Skipper - Many
Brown Argus - around a couple of dozen
Small Copper - around a dozen or so.
Gatekeeper - about a dozen.
Small Skipper - around a dozen or so
Brimstone - 4 males, 2 females.
Peacock - 6
Large Skipper - 4
Green-veined White - 4
Small White - 2
Large White - 1
Common Blue - 2
Small Tortoiseshell - 1
Speckled Wood - 1
Ringlet - 1
Small Heath - 1
Essex Skipper - 1 identified by the father



Silver-Spotted Skipper



Silver-Spotted Skipper



Chalkhill Blue underside



Chalkhill Blue underside



Chalkhill Blue



Chalkhill Blue



Chalkhill Blue



Chalkhill Blue



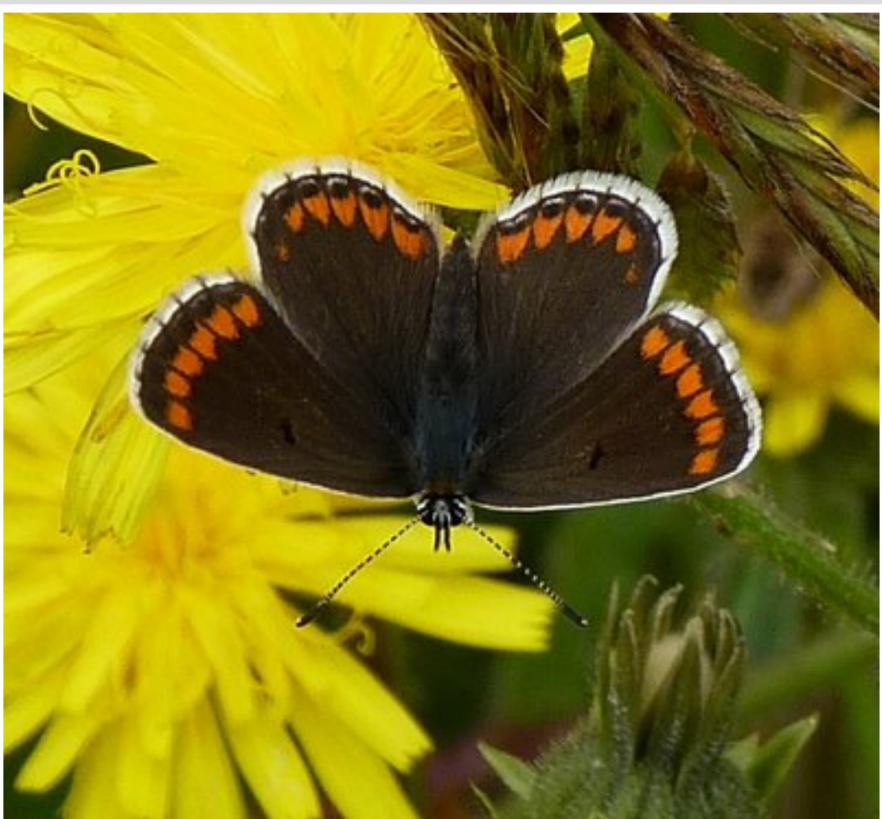
Brown Argus underside



Brown Argus underside



Brown Argus



Brown Argus



Small Copper underside (photo went a little funky)



Small Copper



Small Copper



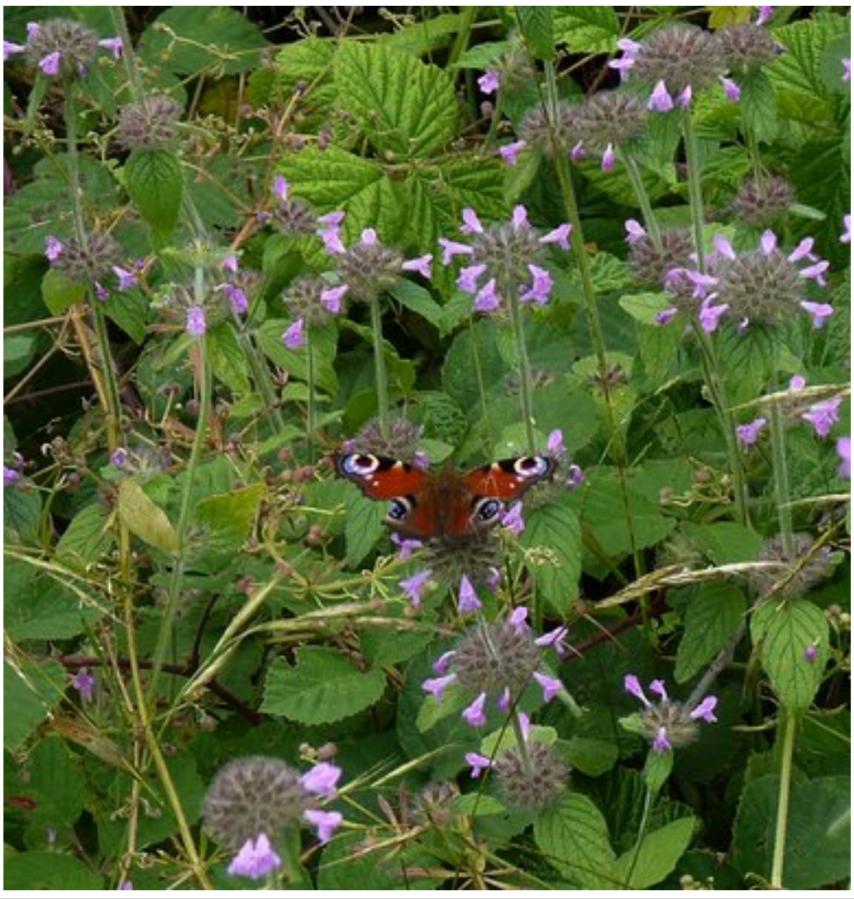
Small Copper



Brimstone



Brimstone



Peacock (because i liked the flowers :-)



Peacock



Small White

On the way home from Aston Rowant we decided to stop off at Bernwood Meadows as last year the father has seen Purple Hairstreaks and Brown Hairstreaks here. We didn't have any luck seeing either of the Hairstreaks but we did see a couple off tatty Silver Washed Fritillaries in the woods.



Silver-Washed Fritillarie



Silver-Washed Fritillarie underside

An enjoyable day and lovely to finally get a day away from work 😊

Chris

Re: Gothic_dreams

by hilary, 08-Sep-12 01:03 AM GMT

Beautiful photos! and a reassuring amount of butterflies. I noticed the 4th Small Copper down had the beginnings of streaks on its hind wing rather than the normal orange marks and I wondered if this was common. I don't see very many S.Coppers, but one I saw a few weeks ago (no camera at hand of course!) had streaks all the way up its hind wing.

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Mark Colvin, 08-Sep-12 01:39 AM GMT

Hi Chris,

Nice to see you posting again.

"Gothic_dreams" wrote:

Essex Skipper – 1 identified by the father

I'd double check that if I were you ... 😊

Nice shot of the ab. *radiata*.

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Gothic_dreams

by Neil Freeman, 08-Sep-12 02:04 AM GMT

"Mark Colvin" wrote:

Hi Chris,

"Gothic_dreams" wrote:

Essex Skipper – 1 identified by the father

I'd double check that if I were you ... 😊

Kind regards. Mark

Ahh, but I learn from my mistakes 😊😂 got a clear head on shot of that one, just not a very good photo with grass everywhere. There may have been more but only got the clear shot of the one.