

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Jan-14 03:42 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

[attachment=0:2bx3mwvk]Clouded Yellow pupa 022\_4.jpg[/attachment:2bx3mwvk]2nd day into pupation.[attachment=1:2bx3mwvk]Clouded Yellow pupa 089\_4.jpg[/attachment:2bx3mwvk]3rd day, pupation complete.[attachment=2:2bx3mwvk]Clouded Yellow pupa 217-7\_1.jpg[/attachment:2bx3mwvk]This photo shows how well camouflaged the pupa would be in the wild.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-14 10:00 PM GMT

The photos in this series just keep getting better and better Nick and that last one is sublime, the effectiveness of the mimicry is wondrous 😎 , there certainly is grandeur in this view of life 😊 I can't wait to see what happens next...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jan-14 01:10 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comments Wurzel, much appreciated. 😊 The secret lives of these insects really fascinate me in the way that they live, so i`m glad you are enjoying these posts. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-Jan-14 09:50 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

[attachment=3:1ffwx8yc]pupalarva 009\_4.jpg[/attachment:1ffwx8yc]5 days before emerging.[attachment=0:1ffwx8yc]pupa 003\_5.jpg[/attachment:1ffwx8yc]4 days before emerging.[attachment=2:1ffwx8yc]pupas 071\_3.jpg[/attachment:1ffwx8yc]3 days before emerging.[attachment=1:1ffwx8yc]pupass 022\_2.jpg[/attachment:1ffwx8yc]About 44 hours before emerging.

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 06-Jan-14 10:02 PM GMT

This is wonderful. I hope the next set will be posted tomorrow?

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 07-Jan-14 12:58 PM GMT

Thank you David for your kind comments, as always appreciated. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Jan-14 07:43 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, final part.[attachment=0:1umkucpr]Clouded Yellow empty pupa case 001.jpg[/attachment:1umkucpr]Empty pupa membrane.[attachment=1:1umkucpr]Clouded Yellow just emerged 008\_2.jpg[/attachment:1umkucpr]Newly emerged female Clouded Yellow.

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 08-Jan-14 09:39 PM GMT

Lovely specimen. I can only surmise that you weren't present for those 'inbetween' moments?

Nevertheless, what you have posted is a wonderful commentary. Thanks for sharing.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-Jan-14 01:19 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comments again David, its really appreciated. 😊 You surmised correctly about not being present for `those

inbetween` moments. Work got in the way of proceedings as usual, and right at the most important stage, the emergence, but at least i managed to get all the other sequence of photos to make this life cycle worth while. Maybe another time.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 09-Jan-14 06:50 PM GMT

Lovely series of photos of the life cycle of a Clouded Yellow Nick 😊

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 09-Jan-14 10:51 PM GMT

Absolutely fantastic finale and what a cracker she is, well worth the patience and looking after I'll bet 🍷 😊  
So what species are you trying for this year?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Jan-14 01:35 PM GMT

Thank you Mike and Wurzel for you kind comments, much appreciated. 😊 😊

Wurzel, i have no idea as yet to what species i will be doing a life cycle report on later this year. I have a couple of butterflies in mind that i would like to study, but i will just have to wait and see what materializes. 😊

I still have the life cycle of the Small White to post, with a couple of surprises thrown in. I will start the report as soon as i start to sort the photos out.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by William, 11-Jan-14 07:55 PM GMT

Absolutely magnificent Hideandseek – I have thoroughly enjoyed every instalment, I particularly like the pupa a few hours before emergence, just brilliant 😊 .

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Jan-14 01:16 PM GMT

Hi William,

Thank you so much for your very kind comments, really appreciated. 😊 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 13-Jan-14 07:10 PM GMT

Great stuff Nick and superb images, I really enjoyed following the sequence 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Jan-14 05:29 PM GMT

Hi Neil,

Thank you for your kind comments, as always appreciated. 😊 😊 I`m really pleased that you and a few others enjoyed my life cycle of a Clouded Yellow. Not the easiest of projects to undertake, especially when one has to work.

Apart from the emergence of the butterfly i only missed one photo of the pupa, 24 hours before the hatching of the butterfly. Due to it raining. I wanted to make sure that all the photos were taken in the same light conditions, [outdoors] to achieve the correct colours of the subject at any stage of the life cycle, which i believe i have achieved, including the newly emerged butterfly.

So thank you all again for your comments. 😊 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Jan-14 02:11 PM GMT

Here are a collection of some of my favourite wing shots, so a little teaser. Can you put the correct name to the butterfly wings, or in some cases a small section of the wing as in a couple of the photos. Some of them are very easy, some not. And are they male or female?

[attachment=7:di7q8don]3.8.2013 062-13\_5.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don][attachment=6:di7q8don]7.7.2013 CW 215-1\_3.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don]  
[attachment=5:di7q8don]3.9.2013 084-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don][attachment=4:di7q8don]11.7.2012 C.W. 029-2\_2.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don]  
[attachment=3:di7q8don]11.8.2013 CW 071-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don][attachment=2:di7q8don]18.8.2013 032.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don]  
[attachment=1:di7q8don]IMG\_9968-3\_3.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don][attachment=0:di7q8don]31.7.2013 116-5\_8.jpg[/attachment:di7q8don]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 19-Jan-14 07:21 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

Can you put the correct name to the butterfly wings, or in some cases a small section of the wing as in a couple of the photos. Some of them are very easy, some not. And are they male or female?

Going to make a fool of myself but here goes:

1. Clouded Yellow male
2. Brimstone male
3. White Admiral (no idea which gender....or even if it's a WA!)
4. Purple Emperor male (only because females are so seldom photographed)
5. Clouded Yellow female
6. Large White (again, I'm unsure of the gender)
7. Silver Washed Fritillary? (again I'll say male because they're more ubiquitous)
8. Common Blue female (Brown Argus a possibility)

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Jan-14 09:25 PM GMT

David, you certainly have not made a fool of yourself. You have five correct answers, including the sex of the butterfly. So well done. 😊 I will tell you that number 3 is wrong, [by a mile] but it is the most difficult one there. The section of the wing in photo no. 3 is only about 1/20th of the actual wing, which is in pristine condition. The two other answers that were incorrect, you have the right family, but the wrong butterfly.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 20-Jan-14 06:14 PM GMT

Could 3 be a Pearl Bordered Fritillary, and 8 a Chalkhill Blue (male)? All are lovely photos 😊.

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 20-Jan-14 08:35 PM GMT

### "William" wrote:

Could 3 be a Pearl Bordered Fritillary, and 8 a Chalkhill Blue (male)? All are lovely photos 😊.

Good shout, William. I was erring towards Duke of Burgundy for number 3 but PBF may well be the better bet.

Are these butterflies all found in the UK, by the way?

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 20-Jan-14 11:20 PM GMT

Could the Large White actually be a Small White, I was thinking about Wood White for some reason as I remember seeing the black flecks on their wings but then seeing David put Large White got me thinking that perhaps it could be a Small? As for the last one I would go for Chalkhill too not sure why though?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Jan-14 05:54 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comment, William, appreciated as always. 😊 You are spot on for photo No. 8, it is indeed a male Chalkhill Blue. 😊 As for photo No. 3 being a Pearl-bordered Fritillary, not even close i`m afraid. David the Duke of Burgundy is wrong as well. And Wurzel the Small White is wrong too for photo No. 6, but the right family. The Large and Small White`s wings, where they have small specks of black on the undersides, has a yellow background as shown in the photo below of a Small Whites hindwing undersides.[attachment=0:1ittor02]Small White [3] just emerged 203-6\_2.jpg[/attachment:1ittor02] I know there is a small covering of black specks on the forwings, right down by the Thorax on both the Small and Large Whites, but it`s not this area portrayed in photo No. 6. Photo No. 6 is a small section of the underside of the hindwing. And to answer your question David. They are all butterflies found in Britain. If no one gets the ID of photo No. 3 by tomorrow, i will post a photo with slightly more of the wing showing, but not to much, 😊 which in my view, will give the ID of this butterfly away.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 21-Jan-14 07:50 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

Thank you for your kind comment, William, appreciated as always. 😊 You are spot on for photo No. 8, it is indeed a male Chalkhill Blue. 😊 As for photo No. 3 being a Pearl-bordered Fritillary, not even close i`m afraid. David the Duke of Burgundy is wrong as well. And Wurzel the Small White is wrong too for photo No. 6, but the right family. The Large and Small White`s wings, where they have small specks of black on the undersides, has a yellow background as shown in the photo below of a Small Whites hindwing undersides.[attachment=0:2xhny4wz]Small White [3] just emerged 203-6\_2.jpg[/attachment:2xhny4wz] I know there is a small covering of black specks on the forwings, right down by the Thorax on both the Small and Large Whites, but it`s not this area portrayed in photo No. 6. Photo No. 6 is a small section of the underside of the hindwing. And to answer your question David. They are all butterflies found in Britain. If no one gets the ID of photo No. 3 by tomorrow, i will post a photo with slightly more of the wing showing, but not to much, 😊 which in my view, will give the ID of this butterfly away.

All the best, Nick.

Okay, Nick. You've got me with number 3.

I've actually been through the entire list of UK species and I can only see possible correlation with two:

Brown Hairstreak or Painted Lady.

That's me out now and I'll await the new photograph with interest.

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 21-Jan-14 09:13 PM GMT

I've been staring at picture 3 like a complete zombie and find it completely baffling too. My best guess is that it shows part of the forewing of a very bright *hutchinsoni* comma. That is the only species I can even begin to make the markings fit ...

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 21-Jan-14 09:32 PM GMT

### "padfield" wrote:

I've been staring at picture 3 like a complete zombie and find it completely baffling too.

That's the most reassuring comment I've ever seen on this forum.

If Guy Padfield is baffled, what hope do we mere mortals have?

Roll on the expanded image tomorrow!

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 22-Jan-14 07:56 PM GMT

Hi Nick, picture number three is a real teaser and I must admit to spending some time looking at it. Cathy thinks its a female Brown Hairstreak 😊 but I have no idea 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 22-Jan-14 08:23 PM GMT

If it's not a Fritillary, could picture 3 be a very fresh Gatekeeper or Speckled Wood 😊?

## Re: hideandseek

by Pete Eeles, 22-Jan-14 08:24 PM GMT

I must admit, I would have gone with Gatekeeper 😊 Especially since the black "lines" seem to be missing scales!

Cheers,

– Pete

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Jan-14 09:43 PM GMT

I said last night "i would post a photo showing a bit more of the wing to photo 3" if no one had come up with the correct answer. But some clever cloggs has only gone and got the answer right. And so after all the trouble i went to of preparing not one photo, but two, would you believe, just in case i needed to post a further clue, i`m still going to post both photos, [my diary]. 😊 So here they are.[attachment=1:169d82jm]Image 084-3\_4.jpg[/attachment:169d82jm][attachment=0:169d82jm]Image 084-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:169d82jm]These two photos should give the ID to this butterfly away, as it is the only British butterfly with these markings of this colour in the bottom left hand corner of the photos. The person who got the answer right will definitely know who he is. 😊 I will give the answer later. 😊😊 I know its a bit cheeky, but as i said its my diary. 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 22-Jan-14 09:51 PM GMT

Okay. Gatekeeper or Speckled Wood it is then?

## Re: hideandseek

by Pete Eeles, 22-Jan-14 09:53 PM GMT

Or Comma 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Jan-14 12:58 PM GMT

I have to take my hat off to you Guy. It is a small section of a Comma`s forewing, [male]. I can see how you arrived at your answer, so a big well done. 😊

Whether it is a Hutchinsoni or not, i have no idea, as i have never seen a variation of this kind in a Comma before.

Pete, well done to you as well. 😊

Wurzel, i forgot to congratulate you for identifying the male Chalkhill Blue, so well done. 😊 If you had stuck to your original instincts with photo 6, instead of going for a Small White you would of been correct. 😊

I would like to thank everyone who participated, so thankyou. 😊

I will post photos of all eight butterflies in full.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 23-Jan-14 03:11 PM GMT



Thanks, Nick! I'm very curious to see the whole butterfly. It's obviously a tremendous picture and it looks as if it's a very special insect too.

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 23-Jan-14 05:33 PM GMT

No wonder I was non-plussed – I thought they were all UNDERWING shots!! 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 23-Jan-14 06:09 PM GMT

I think you'll find this *is* an underwing shot, David ... But I don't think you need an excuse for being confused. It was a very clever crop, which hid almost everything you might normally use to recognise comma. For the record, I first identified which bit of which wing it was, from the venation, then downloaded the picture and reorientated it, then just stared, filling in the rest of the butterfly in my mind until something fitted. It had to be the tortoiseshell group, from the position of the pale patch, and comma was the only tortoiseshell that seemed to work.

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 23-Jan-14 06:45 PM GMT

Aah! Forewing **uns**.

I can't wait to see the broader image.

Excellent teaser, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 23-Jan-14 11:44 PM GMT

That was a great little brain burner Nick and it's reminded me to listen to my gut, (especially when it says I'm hungry 😊) 😊 Loved the scale detail on the close-ups 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Jan-14 10:13 PM GMT

Thank you for the very kind comments David, and Wurzel. As always appreciated. 😊😊😊

David, the original photo i posted of the underside of the Comma`s wing was misleading from the start, as the butterfly was upside-down when i photographed it. I thought the curve of the veins on the wing would have given this away. So if you had turned the photo around 180 degrees [ as i`m sure Guy had done] it would have been in the position one is normally familiar with, up-right and, given you a totally diferent prospective. The wing markings at the bottom of photos 2 and 3 would then have been at the top of the photo and, i`m pretty sure this would have given the identity of the butterfly away. Here are the three original photos turned 180 degrees.[attachment=2:2xdxvbi3]3.9.2013 084-2\_2.jpg[/attachment:2xdxvbi3][attachment=1:2xdxvbi3]Image 084-3\_4-2.jpg[/attachment:2xdxvbi3][attachment=0:2xdxvbi3]Image 084-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:2xdxvbi3]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 25-Jan-14 12:07 PM GMT

You schemer, Nick. Yes, it's all very simple when you get the clues! 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Jan-14 08:13 PM GMT

Me, a schemer, never David. 😊😊 Here is the final photo of the Comma`s wing. Turned 180 degrees. 😊[attachment=0:3vf87v46]comma 084\_6-2.jpg[/attachment:3vf87v46]

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 25-Jan-14 10:02 PM GMT

Just catching up on your little brain teaser Nick, unfortunately too late to have a go myself but some superb close up images of butterfly wings, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 26-Jan-14 02:08 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comments Neil, as always appreciated. 😊 I hope to do a lot more close up photography this year, but then i`m relying on the butterflies to play ball. They had better. 😊

All the best,Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 27-Jan-14 05:18 PM GMT

As promised, the photos of the butterflies in full from my little tease of identifying the butterfly from the wing, or at least a small section of it.

Here are the first four.[attachment=3:3gfbkezw]3.8.2013 062\_5.jpg[/attachment:3gfbkezw]No. 1, male Clouded Yellow.  
[attachment=2:3gfbkezw]7.7.2013 CW 216-3.jpg[/attachment:3gfbkezw]No. 2, male Brimstone.[attachment=1:3gfbkezw]comma  
120\_2.jpg[/attachment:3gfbkezw]No. 3, male Comma.[attachment=0:3gfbkezw]11.8.2013 CW 072-2\_3.jpg[/attachment:3gfbkezw]No. 5, female  
Clouded Yellow.

The reason for entering the male Brimstone, is that it is the oldest butterfly i have ever seen. It is about a year old, give or take a few days and, was photographed on 7th July 2013, [the earliest i have photographed a summer brood Brimstone was on 11th July]. So i thought it deserved its place in my little tease. 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 27-Jan-14 06:40 PM GMT

Lovely pictures, Nick! The comma is certainly *hutchinsoni* – beautifully marked.

If that stubborn old brimstone was around for just a bit longer – which is perfectly possible – he might have had an encounter with his own children! That's quite a rare thing for a butterfly ...

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Jan-14 01:02 PM GMT

Thank you Guy for your kind comments, and the confirmation of the Comma being a Hutchinsoni. Appreciated. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Jan-14 01:07 PM GMT

The last four photos of the butterflies in full from my little teaser.[attachment=3:5uq566nn]11.7.2012 C.W. 029-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:5uq566nn]No. 4, male Purple Emperor.[attachment=2:5uq566nn]4.8.2013 138\_2.jpg[/attachment:5uq566nn]No. 6, female Wood White.  
[attachment=1:5uq566nn]IMG\_9968 ab. Silver-Washed Fritillary, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey, 26.6.2010.jpg[/attachment:5uq566nn]No. 7, male  
Silver-washed Fritillary aberration.[attachment=0:5uq566nn]31.7.2013 Denbies 102-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:5uq566nn]No. 8, male Chalkhill Blue.

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 30-Jan-14 04:03 PM GMT

That silver-washed fritillary is very special indeed! I notice it's not among the aberrations on the species page yet ...

There is something similar in the Cockayne collection, here:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/scientific-resources/biodiversity/uk-biodiversity/cockayne/database/image.dsml?filename=500027X&includeInfraSubspecific=on&nametype=scientific&searchtype=taxon&sort=taxon-euro&taxonname=Argynnis+paphia&sex=%25&side=under&provenance=native&reLimit=20&format=gallery&taxonID=8551>

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 30-Jan-14 11:25 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Nick, that Silver Washed is something else 😊👍 Mind you putting that in your close up quiz could be considered a slight cheat, almost as bad as cropping most of the butterfly out 😊😂 Mind you seeing that lush Wood White makes up for it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 31-Jan-14 07:39 AM GMT

That Silver – Washed fritillary is mind boggling, and what a great photo to do it justice 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Feb-14 09:42 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comments gentlemen. Appreciated. 😊😊😊

Guy, thank you for finding that photo of the similar aberration, on the Cockayne collection, again appreciated. I will try and post a drawing of the upperwing, alas no photo, just a good memory. But not something one would forget in a hurry.

Wurzel, me cheating a little, never. 😊 Just a little tease. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Feb-14 03:18 PM GMT

As i said yesterday i would try and draw the wing uppersides of this Silver-washed Fritillary aberration.[attachment=1:3ebzrhyc]IMG\_9968 ab. Silver-Washed Fritillary, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey, 26.6.2010.jpg[/attachment:3ebzrhyc] Well, here is my very poor attempt at becoming a butterfly artist. 😊 It was drawn with kiddie colouring pencils, i think i should have let a child draw the picture for me, 😊 probably would have been a lot better. 😊[attachment=0:3ebzrhyc]Silver-washed Fritillary aberration\_1.jpg[/attachment:3ebzrhyc]My drawing of the wing uppersides of the ab. SWF. Now you can see why i could never forget the beauty and the abnormality of this butterfly, and why its stuck in my memory for ever. The wing upperside is a very accurate account of what i saw that gorgeous summers day back in 2010, apart from the fact that i could`nt match the colours with the pencils i had available to me, but then you can see that for yourselves. 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 03-Feb-14 10:53 PM GMT

It's a pretty clear drawing Nick and a tantalizing glimpse of how spectacular it must have been 😊👍  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Feb-14 05:12 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. It certainly was a beauty and, when he opened his wings to reveal the uppersides i was gobsmacked, [but he only did it the once then just sat there quite high up in an Oak]. The expression on my face was one of total surprise, and a whopping WOW, with my eyes jumping out in front of me, [thought i was going to have to pick them up off the ground]. 😊 It was a complete privilege to have seen and photographed him, even if it was only a closed wing shot. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 04-Feb-14 06:18 PM GMT

What an amazing Silver-washed Fritillary ab Nick, and you stayed calm enough to get a great photo 😊😊 lucky you've a good memory for detail too, those upperwings are incredible, your drawing shows them nicely 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Padfield, 04-Feb-14 08:06 PM GMT

I love your drawing, Nick.

There is something similar here: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/scientific-resources/biodiversity/uk-biodiversity/cockayne/database/image.dsml?filename=500022X&taxon=Argynnis+paphia&taxonID=8370>.

I'm not sure you should look at it though - it might pollute your obviously crystal clear memory of the butterfly! 😊

Guy

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 04-Feb-14 08:38 PM GMT

A lovely looking SWF Nick and nice drawing too, it certainly gives a good impression of what must have been an amazing butterfly 😊 .

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-Feb-14 01:05 PM GMT

Thank you Mike, Guy and Neil for your unexpected kind comments. Much appreciated. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Feb-14 09:44 PM GMT

Three weeks ago i went out looking for both Brown and Purple Hairstreak ovum with a friend, leaving my camera at home. I only planned on being out for a couple of hours but, it turned into a four hour stint. A very enjoyable and relaxing time was spent poking about Blackthorn Bushes and Oak trees. I had never looked for Purple Hairstreak ovum before and, never looked for Brown Hairstreak ovum at this site, even though i new they had been found here before, and knew the location. But on arrival the known site was no longer in evidence, having been cut down. So it was off to find a new site, and eventually came up trumps even though the site did `nt look suitable, with no new shoots of Blackthorn which the Brown Hairstreaks prefer to lay their eggs on. These photos were taken on a return trip a week later. [attachment=3:c96unjtf]Brown Hairstreak ovum 048\_3.jpg[/attachment:c96unjtf] [attachment=2:c96unjtf]Brown Hairstreak ovum 053-2\_2.jpg[/attachment:c96unjtf] We tried two sites in this wood for the Purple Hairstreak ovum where i had seen this elusive butterfly two years before, [did `nt see any here last year] and, the odd Oak tree walking between these sites. We found ovum at both locations, but they were not easy to find due to the sharp fall in numbers of this butterfly over the last few years locally. [attachment=1:c96unjtf]Purple Hairstreak ovum 059\_1.jpg[/attachment:c96unjtf][attachment=0:c96unjtf]Purple Hairstreak ovum 039-1\_5.jpg[/attachment:c96unjtf]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 09-Feb-14 10:41 PM GMT

Interesting shots Nick 😊 I might have to try my hand at finding ovum next year. It was interesting to read that Purple Hairstreak numbers are down in your neck of the woods too – they've had a few bad years over this way too – though this year was good but only compared to last year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 10-Feb-14 12:08 AM GMT

Very nice shots Nick, glad you found both Brown and Purple Hairstreak ovum, shame sites get bu\*\*ered up, really should'nt happen in this 'supposed' enlightened age 😞

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Feb-14 09:00 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments Wurzel and Mike, appreciated as always. 😊😊

Wurzel, its great getting out during the winter months and, its even better when you are looking for the future generations of our butterflies. And like some forum members, saving a few from certain death, by searching storm damaged branches and rearing them for themselves. Also a great way to observe and learn. 😊

Mike, it is a shame that vegetation is still being destroyed knowing that butterflies are laying their eggs here, [or a lack of communication]. I have witnessed this soul destroying act on woodland sites that are managed for these insects. 😞 So what hope have we got.

All the best, Nick.