

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 02-Feb-17 05:06 PM GMT

Today, following a pretty wet morning I called up to High and Over and as I was passing I had a little look in the grass tussocks for the Wall Brown larvae. So far this year I have had 4 searches with the most found being 9 on Tuesday this week. Today the larva were clearly not keen on the stiff breeze blowing straight onto the site as I only found two Wall Brown larva. One of these was a much brighter green, so much so that I thought for a while that it was a Speckled Wood larva. I have now been put right with this by Pete, Vince and Bugboy, as well as that nagging doubt that I had right from the start!! Vince believes it to be a 3rd instar about to moult, which is probably why it appears a little different.



Wall Brown larva. 2/2/2017.



Wall Brown larva. 2/2/2017.

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk>

## Re: Badgerbob

by bugboy, 02-Feb-17 08:57 PM GMT

Hi Bob, I'm inclined to say that's a Wall cat. Looking through the pictures of Wall cats on here (most of which are taken by you it would seem 😊) it does seem match up closer to them than to the SW's. There is one by you taken on 30/1/13 which you have noted was about 1.5 cm which does look very similar indeed.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 02-Feb-17 09:43 PM GMT

Hi Bugs.

I think I agree now. That stripe down the side seems to be right although the brightness of the larva and the darker marking down the top is what bothered me. It was much brighter than all the others I've seen recently but I think it is down to having just moulted. Thanks for coming back to me.

Bob.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 04-Feb-17 03:51 PM GMT

I can really see now why I struggled to convince myself that the previous larva was Wall Brown. The images attached here from today are without doubt Wall Brown. This one was around 20 feet away from the other one. Note the lack of the darker dorsal stripe which the previous larva has a hint of and was the main reason that I thought it could well be Speckled Wood, this one is also the duller green that is distinctive with the Wall Brown as well as having the small white warts. Certainly the conditions for photographing these tiny creatures was much better today with better light and very little wind.



Wall Brown larva. 4/2/2017.



Wall Brown larva. 4/2/2017.

### Re: Badgerbob

by NickMorgan, 05-Feb-17 07:26 PM GMT

I am always so impressed with your Wall Brown caterpillar sightings. I can't believe that they can be easy to find. Do you find them up on grass stems like that, or are they deep down in clumps of grass?

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 06-Feb-17 08:34 AM GMT

Hi Nick. They are not so easy to find until you really get your eye in!! Most of the time they are in a clump and sometimes they drop out of sight when the grass is moved slightly. I do try to find them though when they are up a grass stem and by very gently moving the grass they stay put. Most of the time I try to get a rough idea of size and then move on, so as not to disturb them at all. As I now have several photos there is not often a need to take more unless they are feeding or covered in dew. They survive by being extremely slow in their movement. Every grass tussock seems to have spiders in them, one of these spiders I found once with a Marbled White larva in its claws. I'm amazed that so many Wall larva seem to remain undetected. Thanks for your interest Nick.

### Re: Badgerbob

by trevor, 06-Feb-17 11:28 AM GMT

Well found and photographed Bob.  
Looking forward to the adults later on.

I had some fabulous audiences with all three broods last year. Here's to this year 😊.

See you around,  
Trevor.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 06-Feb-17 10:09 PM GMT

Interesting Wall cat shots Bob 🍷, this is an area I'd like to look into more but it's finding the time 😊 Absolutely cracking shots of the Shrike from a few posts back as well 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 07-Feb-17 09:33 PM GMT

Lovely early stage images again, Bob. You've certainly got finding these critters down to a fine art!

**Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 15-Apr-17 11:20 AM GMT

A couple of interesting sightings in recent times.

Firstly a very young Marbled White larva found whilst looking for the Wall larva.



*Marbled White larva*

Yesterday I found a Green Hairstreak that proved he was a male as he showed enough of the upper-wing to show off his sex brand. I've seen several show some upper-wing but never this much.



*Male Green Hairstreak*

**Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 16-Apr-17 08:57 AM GMT

Good find with the larvae, Bob, and yes, that's as much as I've ever seen of a Green Hairstreak upperside. Definitely a male!

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 16-Apr-17 02:33 PM GMT

Love that Green Hairstreak Bob but possibly loving the Wall Brown butterfly even more 🍷

### Re: Badgerbob

by bugboy, 16-Apr-17 04:06 PM GMT

That's a saucy Hairstreak, like a Victorian lady showing a bit a ankle 😊

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 08:53 PM GMT

Smashing shot of the Greenstreak Bob 😊 The sex brand is nicely visible, something I've ever seen apart from in illustrations 🇩🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 07-May-17 10:15 AM GMT

Another couple of sightings that I hope will be of interest. Firstly, on Friday with B Rex, looking for Orange-tip ova on the Garlic Mustard, among the many ova a couple of tiny larva including this one that probably came out of the ova in the picture!! Vince has contacted me and he says that as the Orange-tip ova is open on the side this ova has almost certainly been cannibalised by the young larva making this image perhaps more interesting.



*Orange-tip ova and larva. Abbots Wood. 5/5/2017*

Then, on Saturday while doing a butterfly survey in a private woodland I came across a pair of Grizzled Skipper making some 2018 butterflies!! An added bonus was the male Grizzly being a fine *taras*.



*Grizzled Skipper pair. Male ab. taras*

### Re: Badgerbob

by kevlng, 07-May-17 04:22 PM GMT

Bob, I like those Grizzlies, with a *taras* too. Excellent find.

Regards Kev

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 09-May-17 07:14 AM GMT

Wonderful find, Bob! Mating Grizzlies are notable but for one to be a *taras* is exceptional. I suppose the progeny will be *semi-taras*? 😊

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Katrina, 11-May-17 11:59 PM GMT

Definitely worth a few 🍷🍷🍷

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Goldie M, 12-May-17 12:27 PM GMT

Really Great find, 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

**Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 14-May-17 09:19 PM GMT

Thanks all. This Saturday and it was another survey and another *taras*!! Also several of my favourite micro moths. The *Olethreutes arcuella*.



*Ab. taras* Grizzlie on Bugle.



*Olethreutes arcuella*.

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 14-May-17 10:26 PM GMT

Those micros are lush Bob, almost as lush as the *taras* 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 14-May-17 11:08 PM GMT

Moths aren't usually my 'thing', Bob, but I have to concede that your *Olethreutes* is exceptional.

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Goldie M, 15-May-17 10:23 AM GMT

Wow! I don't usually comment on Moths but that one is so colourful it makes me really interested, wish I could find just one Grizzlie , ab or not , yours is great, Goldie 😊