

## Andrew555

by Andrew555, 19-Oct-17 09:36 AM GMT

Hi everyone, after discovering this site, through a chance meeting with Trevor, I thought I'd start my own personal diary.

My interest in butterflies is relatively recent, growing over the last 2-3 years.

I've gone from just enjoying walking in the countryside to seeking out specific sites and species, and upgrading camera's along the way.

I'll start off with a few pre-2017 pics if I may.

Cheers

Andrew



When I took this shot I hadn't seen an Orange Tip or many other butterflies up close, it really opened my eyes to their beauty. Taken near Godalming Surrey.



Visiting family in Dorset is always fantastic, doubly so now as it turns out to be a great place for butterflies! Graylings, on Portland and near Bovington.



One of the first times I went out just to try and see and photograph butterflies.  
Large(?) White, Brimstone and Painted Lady, taken at Polhill Bank Nature Reserve in the Darent Valley north of Sevenoaks Kent.

For those interested the camera's used were..

Pics 1 & 2 Panasonic fz200 bridge camera  
Pic 3 Panasonic lx7 compact camera  
Pics 4,5 & 6 Panasonic fz1000 bridge camera

Thanks, more to come!

## Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 19-Oct-17 02:17 PM GMT

You took the plunge then Andrew !. A warm welcome from me.  
This season is all but over, even here it is slowing down now.  
Hope you will post some more of your work over the coming months  
to help make the winter more interesting in the dark evenings ahead.

Love the Grayling shots, they earn you your first mrgreen 🍀.  
Trevor.

**Re: Andrew555**

by millerd, 19-Oct-17 03:11 PM GMT

Very much looking forward to future selections, Andrew, if those are typical... 😊 I also like your Graylings – I think almost every shot I have of them they are either on the ground or on a piece of heather. By the way, your White is a Large one as you guessed (I think the grey smudge on the top of the hindwing is a good pointer).

Dave

**Re: Andrew555**

by Chris Jackson, 19-Oct-17 05:58 PM GMT

Welcome from me too, Andrew.

Looking forward to more of your photos.

I also have just upgraded from the FZ150 to the FZ1000 – a nice bit of kit – ready for 2018.

Chris

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 19-Oct-17 06:49 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, yup and it's entirely your fault! 😊

Thanks for the welcome and don't worry, plenty more pics to share.

I am honoured to receive a mrgreen 😊

Hi Dave, thanks very much, I kind of take 20+ shots and if 1 turns out good I'm very happy!

But I try to learn as I go along, I'm definitely better at 'stalking' butterflies now 😊

Thanks for the clarification regarding the White.

Hi Chris, thank you, congratulations on your purchase.

I really liked the fz200, pretty similar to the fz150 I \*think\*

But no regrets on switching to the fz1000, I love it.

Cheers all

**Re: Andrew555**

by bugboy, 19-Oct-17 07:15 PM GMT

Welcome from me too 😊. I'm still a relative newbie on here myself, only about 3 years or so but it feels like I've been posting much longer. Looking forward to seeing what else you've managed to stalk up on in the coming gloomy months 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 19-Oct-17 08:11 PM GMT

Some great stuff to start with Andrew, looking forward to future postings 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by MikeOxon, 19-Oct-17 08:54 PM GMT

Always good to see a new diary. I agree that close-up views of butterflies, on camera, reveal a beauty that can be missed during field observations.

Some small species, such as Marsh Fritillary, can just look like an orange-ish blur but a photo brings out the amazing detail.

All the best for the coming season 😊

Mike

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 20-Oct-17 08:16 AM GMT

Thanks bugboy, I'm looking forward to learning more from others on this site.

Hey thanks Wurzel, cheers.

Hi Mike, I've not seen a Marsh Fritillary yet, it's on my list for next year.

Hopefully a well timed visit to Dorset will bring success.

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 20-Oct-17 09:25 PM GMT

A warm welcome from me as well, Andrew. I like the level of detail you obtain in your images and will look forward to many more! 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 21-Oct-17 02:08 PM GMT

Thanks very much David, I appreciate it 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by essexbuzzard, 21-Oct-17 10:06 PM GMT

And a very warm welcome from me too. If you've met Trevor, I'm guessing you live down south? If so, I can thoroughly recommend the new 'Butterflies of Sussex' book, with Michael Blencowe and our very own Neil Hulme, for a wealth of information on sites, flight times and much more. 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Janet Turnbull, 22-Oct-17 10:56 AM GMT

Hi Andrew, welcome from me too!

I'm a relative newbie, joined just over a year ago in order to take photos of butterflies but being here produced a much deeper interest. Love your Graylings! Looking forward to seeing more of your pics.

Best wishes, Janet

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 23-Oct-17 08:44 AM GMT

Hi essex, thanks for the welcome! Yes I am in the south, Orpington to be precise, most of my wanderings are in Kent/Surrey/Sussex. I've already bought it! 😊 arrived a week or so ago, and a fantastic piece of work it is to. I will certainly be using it to see more next year.

Cheers

Hi Janet, yes it's great hearing the stories, seeing the pictures and learning from the like minded people here. Thank you for the welcome, more pics to come.

All the best

Andrew

**Re: Andrew555**

by Neil Freeman, 24-Oct-17 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Andrew,

Just caught up with your new dairy and a welcome from me too.

Some great photos so far, looking forward to seeing more. I use a Panasonic FZ200 myself and notice you have moved on to the FZ1000. Just out of curiosity, how do you find the 1000 in comparison to the 200?

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 25-Oct-17 09:57 AM GMT

Hi Neil, thanks very much for the welcome.

The 1000 is bigger and heavier than the 200, but not so much that it has ever been an issue for me.

The electronic viewfinder in the 1000 is so much better than the 200.

You lose some optical zoom range (400mm vs 600mm) but I don't really miss that extra reach, it's worth it for me to get the bigger 1" sensor.

And I find I can get very passable shots in the 400-600 digital zoom range anyway.

Overall I am super happy with the fz1000 and have never looked back.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 26-Oct-17 09:20 AM GMT

Exmoor is one of my favorite places in the country, and I've been there many times. But it wasn't until I starting reading more about butterflies I realized it was home to one of Britain's rarest. I had to go and have a look, these pics were taken in June 2016 at Heddon's Mouth on the North Devon coast.

The formation landing of these Dark Green Fritillaries was much appreciated!



A nice male Large Skipper.



The wind was playing havoc with this Small Tortoiseshells hair!



A Golden-ringed Dragonfly, just hanging around.



High Brown Fritillary sighted!



These last 3 shots are of 2 individuals.  
The sex brands and third spot alignment on the upper forewing make them High Brown males, I think!





All in all a fantastic day in magnificent surroundings.

**Re: Andrew555**

by millerd, 26-Oct-17 01:22 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the fritillaries, Andrew, from a terrific spot down in Devon. 😊 The HBF is on the increase down there, which is a testament to successful management of the area.

Dave

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 26-Oct-17 08:23 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, that's really good to hear.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 26-Oct-17 10:22 PM GMT

High Browns without a doubt, Andrew. Sounds like you had a wonderful day down there.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 27-Oct-17 09:34 AM GMT

Ah thanks David, I was fairly sure they were.  
It really is a beautiful area, I will defiantly return, would love to see some females and get some good underside shots.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 27-Oct-17 11:20 PM GMT

A great report Andrew on a species I've yet to encounter in the UK 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 28-Oct-17 11:25 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, they were dare I say easy to see that day, along the higher path on the west side of the valley, maybe I just got lucky.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Goldie M, 28-Oct-17 05:32 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, I'm a bit late to welcome you, 😊 love your shots! Goldie 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 29-Oct-17 11:44 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, thank you very much! 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Gary.N, 29-Oct-17 04:44 PM GMT

Hi Andrew,

Welcome. It is always nice to see a new diary. Just seen some of your photos don't be tempted to change your camera or what you are doing. They are fantastic. 😊

Gary

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 29-Oct-17 05:34 PM GMT

Thanks for the welcome Gary, you are very kind! 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by trevor, 29-Oct-17 06:28 PM GMT

Those High Browns earn you another mrgreen, a species I've never seen.

And you managed to find them in pristine condition. 🌿.

Apparently there was once a colony here in East Sussex, hope for a re-introduction one day !.

Trevor.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 30-Oct-17 12:53 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, wouldn't that be great 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Neil Freeman, 30-Oct-17 08:06 PM GMT

**Andrew555 wrote:**

Hi Neil, thanks very much for the welcome.

The 1000 is bigger and heavier than the 200, but not so much that it has ever been an issue for me.

The electronic viewfinder in the 1000 is so much better than the 200.

You lose some optical zoom range (400mm vs 600mm) but I don't really miss that extra reach, it's worth it for me to get the bigger 1" sensor.

And I find I can get very passable shots in the 400-600 digital zoom range anyway.

Overall I am super happy with the fz1000 and have never looked back.

Cheers

Thanks for that Andrew, interesting comments.

Great Fritillary shots from the Heddon Valley, I have been there myself a number of times now 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 31-Oct-17 07:42 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Neil, it is great, as is all of Exmoor 😊

Cheers

### Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 03-Nov-17 10:25 PM GMT

These shots were taken on 15th October at Lullingstone Country Park near Eynsford in Kent. It's a good butterfly area local to me, although I wasn't expecting to see much as the weather wasn't good. But I did manage to locate a single Comma, unmoving and with wings resolutely shut. I took a few shots, and then as I was focusing in for another it opened its wings, raised its abdomen up and produced three clear drops of liquid that fell to the ground. I've never seen this, or thought about butterfly excretion before! And by chance I caught it on camera, I feel quite happy about that 😊

Cheers



**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 04-Nov-17 11:58 PM GMT

Great detail in those shots Andrew 😊 Extruding fluid has been commented on in the past but for the life of me I can't remember what the conclusion was – excretion or excess water? Either way it's still great to capture different behaviour 'on film' 🤔👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 05-Nov-17 03:03 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊 interesting, I need to do some reading up.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Chris Jackson, 05-Nov-17 05:05 PM GMT

Great behavioural shot of the Comma, Andrew!  
Still FZ1000? I can't delve into your camera settings because the image is .PNG.  
Chris

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 05-Nov-17 07:36 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Chris, right time right place 😊  
Yes still the fz1000 (they are jpeg for me?)

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by MikeOxon, 05-Nov-17 10:40 PM GMT

As others have already said, those are very beautiful Comma photos, Andrew. Your FZ1000 does a great job, with good separation of the subject from the background and low noise, resulting in very 'clean' images. I see that there is now an FZ2000 but what a price 😞

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 06-Nov-17 08:31 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, I'm happy with the shots considering how dull that day was.  
It is a great camera, I don't think you can do better at the price point.  
I looked at the 2000 but it has nothing over the 1000 to justify a purchase for my needs.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Goldie M, 06-Nov-17 09:29 AM GMT

Hi! Andrew, I took a shot of a common Blue doing the same thing 😊 My shot not as good as yours and I was surprised when they told me what it was doing 😊 I thought it was laying an egg, then thought impossible it's a Male!!!! 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 06-Nov-17 03:36 PM GMT

Hi Goldie! Nice 😊 it took me by surprise that's for sure! 😊😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 06-Nov-17 09:10 PM GMT

Abbot's Wood near Hailsham is a place that some of you here are familiar with I think, I went there for the first time last year and returned this year. I didn't actually know that the Pearl-bordered Fritillary could be found there, only discovering this fact after I read the information board in the car park! But being July it was too late to see them.  
The aim was to have a good walk around, see what was about and learn the area.  
I did a circuit of the main paths, visited the lake and also explored some of the lesser paths that branched off.

At a small clearing with some thistles in it, something big and orange caught my eye, a male Silver Washed Fritillary was busy feeding.  
This was the first one I'd seen up close, a very impressive butterfly!



I came across an area with Ringlets.





And a lovely Leopard Slug on the path nearby.



An Angle Shades moth caterpillar ? maybe..



Comma, Meadow Brown, unknown White and some moths and dragonflies also seen before the end of a very enjoyable day. With the SWF as a highlight.

I returned in May this year with the hope of seeing some Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

There were lots of these Speckled Yellow moths about.



Green Veined White and Orange Tip by the side of the paths.



Then in a larger open area, a PBF!



The best side view I was able to get.. damn you twigs!



Then I saw these, which look like Small PBF's to me, an unexpected but welcome addition!





I spent a while watching them, and getting a few shots, Painted Lady and Small Copper also dropped by. It was fantastic to see all these lovely butterflies, Abbot's Wood is somewhere I will definately return to.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by bugboy, 06-Nov-17 10:28 PM GMT

Lovely shots Andrew. You got lucky with those SPBF, newly reintroduced to Abbots Wood but kept hush hush in their first season to give them their best chance of settling in 😊. You did well to get that Speckled Yellow as well, they really are very skittish little sods!

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 07-Nov-17 08:52 AM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, ah I see, in that case I'm glad I didn't join UKB earlier and post them as soon I took them! Agreed on the Yellows, there was a large mass of cloud passing over, that seemed to calm him down. 😊

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 07-Nov-17 11:26 PM GMT

Great images, Andrew, and although your butterflies are magnificent, that Leopard Slug has to be the pick of your presentation.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 08-Nov-17 11:35 AM GMT

Ha! Thanks David 😊 Glad you like it, it was another first for me. 😊

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 08-Nov-17 07:31 PM GMT

Great set of shots Andrew, the Pearls and Small Pearls are lush but that first Silver-washed is a real cracker of a shot, to my mind it really captures the butterfly and the season it flies in 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 09-Nov-17 09:06 AM GMT

Hi Wurzel, thanks a lot m8! 😊

### Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 09-Nov-17 09:27 PM GMT

What a great selection of fritillaries, Andrew, particularly the SPBF. Lovely shots. 🍷🍷

Dave

### Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 10-Nov-17 12:55 PM GMT

Thanks a lot dave 😊

### Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 10-Nov-17 09:05 PM GMT

And I forgot to say – that is one splendid slug! I've never seen such a beast... 😊

Dave

### Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 15-Nov-17 07:51 PM GMT

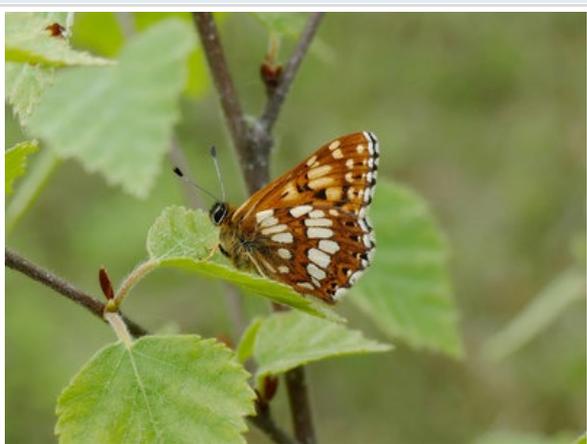
Here are some shots taken over several visits to Denge Wood in Kent. Located to the south west of Canterbury, conservation work has been done here in support of the Duke of Burgundy butterfly.



I saw my first Duke's in an area called The Warren, at the edge of a grassy path two males were chasing each other, and a Dingy Skipper, around. I managed to get a shot of one in a pause between bout's, with some daisy's for scale.



Another Duke area is the Bonsai Bank, here are a male and a female, always nice to see both.



During my circular-ish walks around I saw plenty of other butterflies. Green Veined White, Comma, Dingy Skipper and Brimstone.



Peacock, Wall (my first female 😊) and Small White.  
Meadow Brown and Common Blue also spied along the way.



Lots of other insect life to see, like this Common Darter Dragonfly.



This really caught my eye, this bug had just shed it's skin. But I don't know what it is, one of the shield bugs ?



So Denge Wood, a great place to visit if you want to see the Duke of Burgundy, and a very pleasant place to explore in general. All credit to those involved in the conservation work.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-17 11:27 AM GMT

Hi! Andrew, I visit my daughter every year in Kent but always usually in Summer time, we've visited Denge Woods a couple of times then and that's the first time I ever saw a Silver Washed fritillary, also there we saw White Admiral all near the entrance, we stopped going there because the road through the woods was always full of thick mud and we didn't know of a better entrance so we'll certainly take a good look at the map you've posted. 😊  
Love your shots of the Duke and the other other Butterflies Goldie 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 17-Nov-17 12:57 PM GMT

Great report there Andrew I always find it fascinating hearing about sites from around the country that I've not visited before, great set of Duke shots as by the way 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 17-Nov-17 06:41 PM GMT

Beautiful presentation, Andrew and many thanks for the site overview image which is something I always appreciate.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Neil Freeman, 17-Nov-17 07:57 PM GMT

Great reports and photos Andrew, they certainly brighten up a cold dark night 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Andrew555**

by trevor, 17-Nov-17 08:48 PM GMT

Great selection of shots Andrew, particularly like the female Wall, nice neutral, uncluttered background.

Trevor.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 18-Nov-17 11:47 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, very nice 😊

I know what you mean, Penny Pot Lane is certainly long, winding and narrow!  
Glad you like the shots 😊

Hey Wurzel, thanks buddy 😊

Thanks a lot David 😊

Hi Neil, that's good to hear! 😊

Thanks Trevor, now I always associate Walls with High and Over and your good self 😊

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by Paul Harfield, 18-Nov-17 12:30 PM GMT

Hi Andrew

It is always nice to see a new diary taking shape. Lovely female Duke of Burgundy from your last post 😊 .

**Re: Andrew555**

by millerd, 19-Nov-17 09:56 PM GMT

All the years I lived in Dover, and I had no idea Denge Woods existed... what a waste! Great Shots, Andrew, particularly the Duke and Duchess selection! 😊

Dave

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 20-Nov-17 10:35 AM GMT

Hi Paul, thanks a lot. 😊

Thanks Dave. 😊

I'm certainly learning about new places to go through UKB. 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by bugboy, 20-Nov-17 07:27 PM GMT

Great recent set of shots Andrew, pick of the bunch for me is that Duke perched on the Daisies 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 22-Nov-17 01:15 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy. 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 02-Dec-17 10:22 AM GMT

White Hill is a Butterfly Conservation site fairly near to me on the east side of the Darent Valley at Shoreham, Kent. Chalk downland in nature, it's one of those handy local places that you can just pop to for an hour or two. Easy parking in a lay-by off the main road through the valley, a short walk up a footpath and your there, here's a selection of what I've seen.

The main path running through the reserve.





I've seen 17 species at this site, including Large White, Speckled Wood, Common Blue and Brown Argus.



Male and female Common Blue.



Brimstones on Knapweed, lots of both to be seen.



Despite this a decent open wing shot still eludes me.



There is a Chalkhill Blue colony in residence, male and female here.





It's also a great place if you like your moths, any id corrections welcome btw!  
Clockwise from top left, Burnet Companion, Small Purple-barred, Anania crocealis (maybe) and Treble-bar.



Small Purple and Gold (Mint Moth).



One of the Longhorns, *Nemophora metallica*.



A Silver-y.



The view across the valley.



**Re: Andrew555**

by Chris Jackson, 02-Dec-17 07:37 PM GMT

Great photos Andrew.  
All with the FZ1000 ?  
Can't wait till next Spring.  
Chris

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 03-Dec-17 10:05 AM GMT

Great set of shots Andrew especially the Chalkhill pairing - brill!!! 🤔👍👍 You've also featured by favourite named moth Nemophora METALLICA 🤩😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by philm63, 03-Dec-17 07:08 PM GMT

Nice shots Andrew, I would love to have a site that like that locally

Phil

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 04-Dec-17 08:50 AM GMT

Hi Chris, thanks and yes all FZ1000 shots.  
Looking foward to seeing some of yours next year. 😊

😄 Wurzel, that's the first thing I thought of when I looked up the name of that moth!  
Thanks m8. 😊

Thanks a lot Phil, yes it is great to have somewhere close that you don't need to put aside a whole day to see.

Cheers

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 05-Dec-17 07:35 PM GMT

Fabulous stuff, Andrew. Shame about the near miss with the Brimstone in flight as the image is pretty sharp. I love those Chalkhills too.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 07-Dec-17 08:26 AM GMT

Thanks a lot David, one day! 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 17-Dec-17 06:03 PM GMT

Here are some pics from Portland in Dorset. The combination of sea, the scenery and abundance of butterflies make it a fantastic place to visit.

From the north of the Isle, in fields and along pathways around the Admiralty Quarries.  
Chalkhill Blue, Gatekeeper, Green-veined White and Meadow Brown.



Red Admirals on the larger plants.



At Tout Quarry and the nearby coastal paths Graylings can be found.



I've seen Silver-studded Blue there as well.



Lots of Knapweed on Portland, much visited.

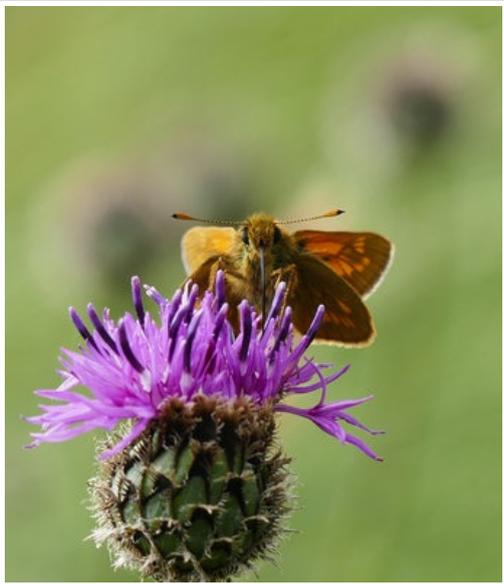


Marbled White, Large Skipper, Lulworth Skipper and Large White.





Incoming!





This pale Knapweed stood out from all the purple.



Kestrels are a common sight along the west coastal path. I got lucky when this one drifted close to me.



You can sometimes get a view level with or above them, as they hunt the slopes below.



Along the coast path near Weston there is an area dominated by these yellow flowered plants. Not sure what they are, a variety of Hawkweed maybe ? They seem to be favoured by Whites, Small here.



Some other wildlife, Oystercatcher at Portland Bill, Common Lizard at Church Ope Cove.





Scarlet Tiger Moth.



I've got more, but I'll leave them for another time! 😊

**Re: Andrew555**

by Wurzel, 17-Dec-17 06:53 PM GMT

Looking forward very much to 'another time' Andrew, a fantastic taster of what Dorset has to offer, so much so I'm feeling slightly homesick now 🤔😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Andrew555**

by David M, 17-Dec-17 09:35 PM GMT

Your local area seems to have a lot going for it, Andrew.

Makes mine seem comparatively bereft in comparison (except for Marsh, Small Pearl Bordered and High Brown Fritillaries).

Yours is a practically unique stretch of coastline, and the rewards on offer are hard to beat anywhere in the UK from a wildlife perspective.

**Re: Andrew555**

by Andrew555, 19-Dec-17 08:39 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊.  
(and sorry! 😊😄)

Not strictly speaking my local area David. Although it kind of feels like it since I have family there and visit as often as I can. 😊  
It is wonderful.

Cheers