



Deer Park Diaries



Butterfly Surveys

This summer has been a true butterfly bonanza on Deer Park. Not only have we added four new species to our list, we also had our highest number of sightings of both northern brown argus butterflies and their eggs.



Exciting discoveries...

During a general survey of the site, Lisa, our Biodiversity Officer, spotted a micro-moth flying around in the grass at Deer Park. This beautiful little moth, *Grapholita lunulana*, has a wingspan of 11-17mm and has a mainly northern distribution in the UK, feeding on vetches. What is most exciting is that not only is this a new record for Deer Park, it is also a new record for the Scottish Borders!



Why are grasslands important?

Grasslands support a wide range of plant and animal species, provide habitat for important pollinators and help form wildlife corridors to enable plant and animal species to disperse easily. They also help prevent climate change by storing carbon, regulating water and helping prevent soil erosion and flooding.



Comma Butterfly
Aricia artaxerxes
Photographed on Deer Park



Volunteers

Our enthusiastic team of volunteers have been busy over June and July, carrying out basic site maintenance, assessing the health of trees that were planted at the end of last year and carrying out surveys.

We're taking a short break during August before sessions start again in September.

Everyone is welcome to join in. If you would like to volunteer with us please contact our Biodiversity Officer Lisa on lisa@brightgreennature.org to be added to the contact list.

School Visits

During May we welcomed a small group of pupils from Newtown Primary School, as part of their outdoor learning sessions. The group helped us carry out an invertebrate survey using sweep nets. The group were amazing and thoroughly enjoyed their visit - saying it was second only to the zoo!

Form 7 from St Mary's School in Melrose also visited for a series of 5 sessions. Helping to survey for invertebrates, carrying out a FIT count, scoring our ponds for biodiversity and helping with some maintenance jobs. It was a real pleasure having them along and we hope they can join us again very soon!



Upcoming events

June 5th - Volunteer Session from 10am to 12pm.

June 12th - Butterfly walk/survey from 1pm to 2.30pm.

June 19th - Volunteer Session from 10am to 12pm.

June 23rd to 29th June - National Insect Week 2025. Keep an eye on our facebook page for activities.

Details of all our upcoming events can be found on our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/brightgreennature/> or contact our Biodiversity Officer Lisa on lisa@brightgreennature.org for more details.



Large Skipper
Ochlodes sylvanus



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