

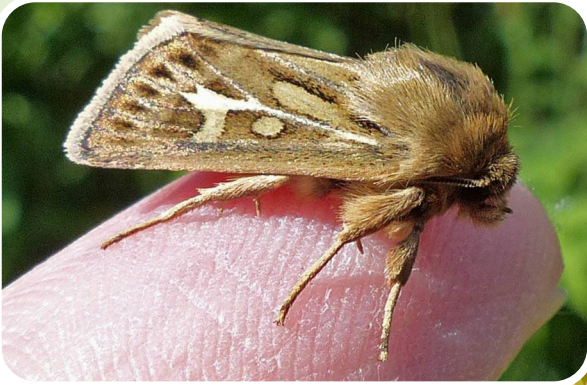
WILD YOUR SPACE

Wild your school
Rewild your children

Butterflies and Moths

Children love butterflies (as we all do). We think that children can learn to love moths too!

The world is a far less butterfly and moth friendly place than it used to be. People have destroyed habitats and excessively used pesticides, and the result is a huge drop in numbers of these beautiful and incredibly important creatures. Declining numbers of moths in particular is a threat to birds and bats that need them for food.



But simply by planting a few of their favourite native plants in your school gardens you can welcome them, and encourage them to become regular visitors. Nature restoration work is vital, but it doesn't need to be difficult, and small scale projects have the power to make big changes.



Funding

Also, don't forget our Wild Your Space Microgrant, which is unique to the Scottish Borders and which has already helped numerous local schools to make their play-grounds more wildlife (and child) friendly.

So, if you need some funding to help you to turn your vision into reality, have a look on the **Bright Green Nature** website

www.brightgreenature.org/microgrant

www.brightgreenature.org/wildyourspace

One of our favourite websites is butterfly-conservation.org

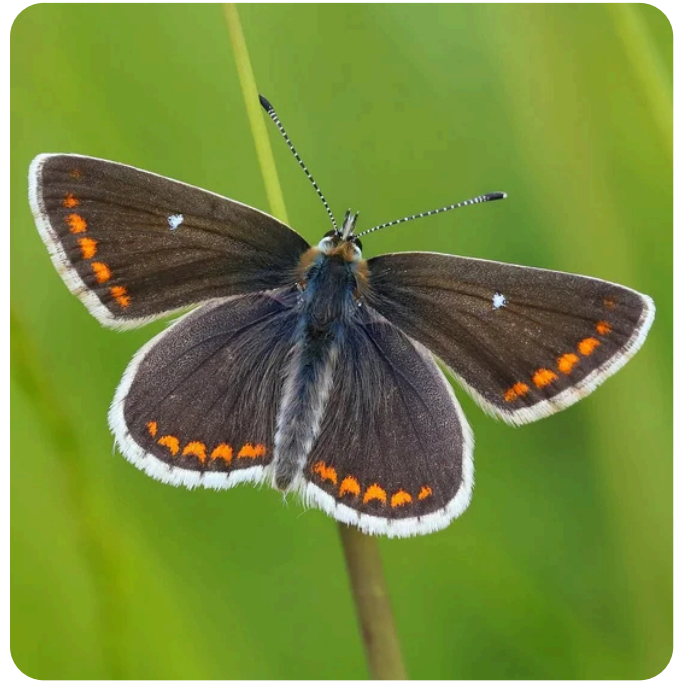
Here you will find everything that you ever needed to know about butterflies and moths, such as –

- Species identification (there are so many species of both)!
- How to report sightings (important for rarer species especially).
- Loads of fascinating facts that your kids will love to hear about, i.e. Did you know that moths are actually better pollinators than bees?
- News of national and local events.
- Amazing ways on how to make your garden space as butterfly and moth friendly as possible.
- The best ways to help protect butterflies and moths as they hide away in the winter.
- How to take part in the in the annual **Big Butterfly Count** (a must do activity for any school).

Words of Advice

We'd suggest that any rewilding project at your school includes planting some favourites for butterflies and moths, then you can enjoy seeing, and recording, the new visitors as they grow in numbers.

Be careful in the winter months however! During the winter it can be tempting to tidy up your wild space, **BUT**, take a closer look... Beneath dead leaves and old stems, butterflies and moths (in their various life stages) will be sheltering from the cold and the wet. Approach these areas with awareness and caution – and **NEVER** burn dead leaves.



Recommended Native Plants

Butterflies love **Woodland Scabious**, **Purple Loosestrife**, **Birdsfoot Trefoil** and many more. They also clearly love **Buddleia** (otherwise known as the Butterfly Bush!). The problem with Buddleia (from a nature restoration and ecology point of view) – it's considered to be a "naturalised invasive alien species", because it spreads vigorously and can out compete native plants, which can result in the loss of vital habitats for some native invertebrates. We'd say that if you already have one or two Buddleia bushes that are regularly visited by butterflies then just leave them, but don't allow others to grow and don't introduce any more.

Moths love **Clematis**, **Honeysuckle**, **Night Flowering Catchfly**, **Bladder Campion** and many more – obviously plants which flower through the night are going to appeal most for moths (which are mostly nocturnal). You may even consider planting a dedicated Night Garden, especially for these delightful pollinators. It's important to note that moth larva (caterpillars) feed on totally different plants compared to fully formed moths and often thrive on **Holly**, **Ivy**, **Stinging Nettles** and **Oak**, amongst others.

www.brightgreennature.org/wildyourspace

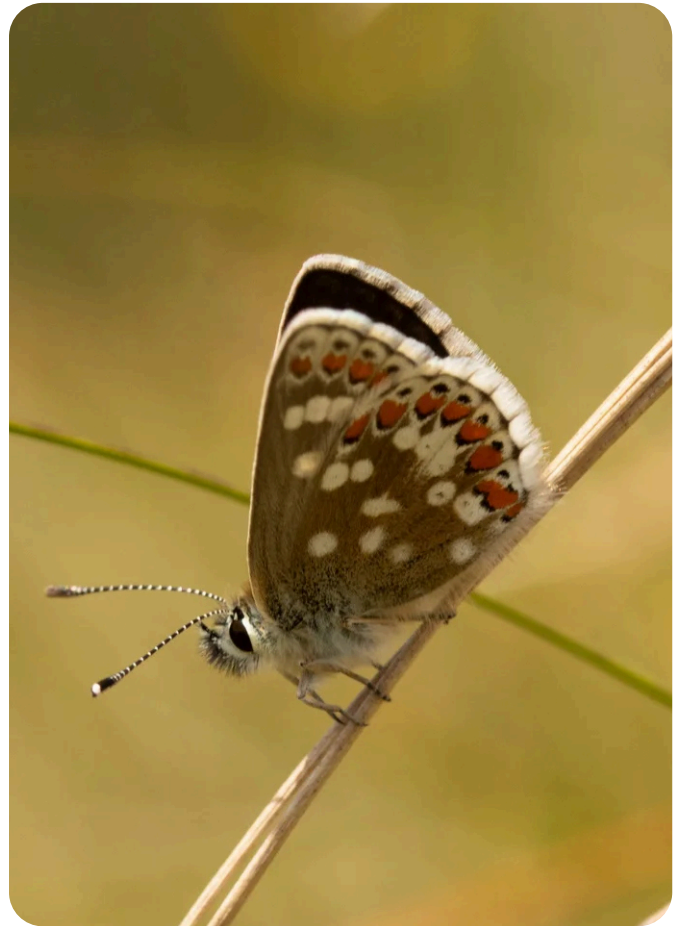
Learning Opportunities/ Lesson Ideas

Every child will be absolutely fascinated to learn the lifecycle of butterflies and moths (which is easily a match for the possibly better known spawn/tadpole/frog story). This should involve getting the kids outdoors looking for and finding out lots more about each of the four stages of life for these truly incredible beings.

The four stages are:

- Eggs
- Larva/Caterpillars
- Pupae/Cocoon
- Adult Moth or Butterfly

Most of the information that you need will be found on the Butterfly Conservation Website, and if you'd like **Bright Green Nature** to produce and share any specific learning plans, then just ask!



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