



A Sadeh science project

## Butterfly spotting at Sadeh

Put a tick in the right column if you see one of these butterflies at Sadeh. Don't forget to hand your sheet in to one of the farmers so they can save all your information.

### Comma

Appearance: The adult resembles a tattered leaf with its scalloped edges and rust-coloured hue. There are two generations a year, around April-May and in September.

They live in open woodland and woodland edges.



### Cabbage white

The large white caterpillar is pale green-yellow with striking black spots and visible hairs on its body. Its bold appearance is a warning to predators of its unpleasant taste. This is due to the poisonous mustard gas its body accumulates. Usually found anywhere near cabbages!



### Cinnabar moth

The cinnabar moth has distinctive black and orange/yellow stripes. Like many other caterpillars, its stripes are a warning to birds and other predators of its unpleasant taste.

Diet: This caterpillar feeds on a diet of common ragwort. However, it has been known to eat other caterpillars if very hungry!



### Peacock butterfly

The caterpillar is a velvety jet-black peppered with small white spots. It has short spines, which help to protect it from predators. Peacock caterpillars also ward off predators by coming together and jerking their bodies in unison. This gives the illusion they are a much bigger animal. They will also curl up in a ball and drop to the floor or regurgitate a green substance to keep predators away.

Diet: Stinging nettles are their main food source.



### Sycamore moth

The caterpillar is one of the hairiest and brightest caterpillars in the UK with yellow and orange hairs and a strip of black-edged white spots along the centre of its back.

Diet: It is named after its diet of sycamore, field maple and horse chestnut.



### Speckled wood butterfly

Bright green with dark green and yellow stripes.

Diet: It feeds on a variety of grasses, including cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, common couch and false brome.

When to see: They are seen all year round, except for April.



### The small tortoiseshell butterfly

The small tortoiseshell caterpillar is long, black and yellow and covered in bristles. It uses the same technique as the peacock caterpillar to ward off predators.

Diet: It feeds on stinging nettles.



### Elephant Hawk Moth

The elephant hawk caterpillar is named because of its likeness to an elephant's trunk, this chunky caterpillar is usually brown, although some are green in colour. It has large eye spots, a spiky tail and scale-like markings. This makes it look somewhat snake-like in appearance. When threatened, it can swell up, making itself appear bigger. The caterpillar will also make the most of its large eye spots if in danger.

Diet: It enjoys a diet of rosebay willowherb, bedstraw and Himalayan balsam.



### Emperor moth

The caterpillar is bright green and covered in hairs and black-ringed yellow wart-like spots, sprouting from the body. These are known as spiracles: external openings which allow the caterpillar to breathe.

Diet: It feeds on the leaves of woody plants, including bramble, heather, hawthorn and blackthorn.



**Meadow brown**

Widespread and common throughout Britain and Ireland. The Gatekeeper is generally smaller and more orange with a row of tiny white dots on the hind underwings.

**Common blue**

The brightly coloured males are conspicuous but females are more secretive. The colour of the upper wings of females varies from almost completely brown in southern England to predominantly blue in western Ireland and Scotland, but the colour is variable within local populations with some striking examples.

**Brimstone**

Habitat: woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens  
Caterpillar foodplants: leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn  
Predators: birds and predatory invertebrates.

**Red admiral**

A large, robust butterfly and strong flier. The wings are mostly velvety black with orange-red bars on the forewings and blocks of white towards the tips. The fringes of the hindwings are also orange-red and contain small blue eye spots nearest the body. Females are slightly larger than males and can measure up to 78mm from wing tip to wing tip. Adults feed during the day, feeding on the nectar of flowers such as ivy, buddleia and other garden plants. Towards the end of summer and into autumn, fallen and rotting fruit also provides an important source of sugar.

