



COMMA

Often seen basking in the sun on pathways and along the woodland edge.

Dependent on nettles and willow as a food source.

It over winters amongst the leaf litter and emerges in fine weather.

Most commonly seen on top of the hill.



GATE KEEPER

Likes mixed habitat of tall grasses near hedges and woodland edge.

Dependent on common fleabane, ragwort and bramble as a food source.

Colour pattern on wings may vary, but will always have the black spot with two white spots.

Most commonly seen within the tall grasses around Cooper's Wood.



SMALL AND LARGE SKIPPER

Both the small and large skipper can be seen in abundance on top of the hill near the water reservoir.

Like areas of uncut grass and wild herbs, both found in this area.

The large skipper is not much bigger than a 1p coin and the small skipper is only slightly smaller but more uniformed in colour. Difficult to tell the difference when in flight.

No Lulworth Skippers have been recorded yet!



MARBLED WHITE

Enjoys unimproved grasslands such as the area near the water reservoir on the top of the hill, also seen in Jubilee Wood area.

About the same size as a small white (cabbage white).

Attracted to purple flowers including thistles.

Not recorded on the hill on previous butterfly counts



LARGE WHITE

The largest of the white butterflies and is found mostly in the large expanse of grass in Coopers Field. Also seems to like the top section of The Drive.

Strong black markings on tips of wings distinguish it from the small white when in flight, as well as it's size.

Depends on wild forms of cabbage plants, oil-seed rape and fond of nasturtium.

One of the more common butterflies on the hill.



SMALL WHITE

Smaller and paler than the large white. They tend to "flutter" in flight where the large white has a much stronger wing beat.

Also dependent on wild forms of cabbage for food.

Found in the same areas on the hill as it's larger cousin, such as Coopers Field.

Can be confused in flight with the female orange tip (which has no orange tips on it's wings,) although these are smaller.

Also a common sight on the hill.



RINGLET

This butterfly loves long damp grass areas in semi shade.

Looks a dark sooty black when bobbing about in flight.

Mostly seen around the edges of Cooper's Wood.

The most common butterfly on the hill.

It loses its white edge with age and begins to look a softer brown colour.



MEADOW BROWN

Often confused with the ringlet. The female is a much brighter slightly orange colour.

When in flight looks a lot paler in colour than the ringlet.

Abundant around Coopers Wood and seen in most areas on the hill.

Prefers tall grasses, woodland rides, but found in most habitats.



SPECKLED WOOD

Often seen in larger numbers on the hill in spring, but still seen on the wing during July and August.

Enjoys the same habitat as the ringlet and meadow brown, but also seen in numbers around the Oak Tree Cross area.

Spots on wings make this butterfly easy to identify from the others.



ORANGE TIP

Often overlooked as the female looks very similar to a small white.

Several males spotted on the hill in spring, usually along Orchard Avenue (old blackthorn area.)

Prefer damp habitats and woodland glades.

Only a few have been recorded on the hill, so you are lucky if you see one.



PEACOCK

Easy to identify and name. It tends to live a nomadic life style, so you could see it anywhere on the hill.

Often seen basking in the sun on bramble bushes. Caterpillars feed on nettles.

When wings are folded it looks like a dead leaf.

Not as common on the hill as other butterflies.



RED ADMIRAL

Rarely over winters in this country. Migrants fly in from North Africa and continental Europe, laying eggs in spring.

The butterflies reappear in late July. Often seen flying high up within the trees. Seems to prefer the top part of The Drive and on the very top of the hill.

Caterpillars are very dependent on nettles as a food source.

Possibly the largest of the butterflies seen on the hill.



FIVE SPOT BURNET

One of the most colourful day moths. Mostly found on the top of the hill, on thistle flowers and poor grass areas. Could be mistaken for a red beetle in flight.

Caterpillars feed on Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, found growing on the hill. Hard to identify unless you can count the spots!



SIX SPOT BURNET

A case of spot the difference. The extra spot is at the tail end of the wing. Possibly more common on the hill than the five spot.

Enjoys the same habitat of the five spot, often found sitting on thistle flowers.

An easy moth to observe as it tends not to fly away when approached, unlike butterflies.



HOLLY BLUE

An early spring and late summer butterfly.

Lives off holly and ivy in late summer. Flies high above bushes and in tree canopies, unlike other blues which tend to be ground loving.

Not common on the hill, but has been recorded each year.