

BUTTERFLIES SEEN AT BLACK, LANGLEY AND DENHAM COUNTRY PARKS IN 2007-11

Species	Black					Langley					Denham					
	year	07	08	09	10	11	07	08	09	10	11	07	08	09	10	11
Brimstone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Large white	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Small white	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Green-veined white	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Orange-tip				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Clouded yellow																
Green hairstreak																
Purple hairstreak	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
White-letter hairstreak								✓								
Small copper								✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Small blue																
Brown argus										✓	✓					✓
Common blue				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Holly blue		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Red admiral	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
White admiral	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓						
Peacock		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Comma		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Small tortoiseshell			✓		✓											✓
Painted lady			✓	✓					✓					✓		
Purple emperor	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓							
Silver-washed fritillary			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Speckled wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Marbled white	✓		✓		✓			✓								✓
Gatekeeper	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Meadow brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Wall brown																
Ringlet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Small heath																
Small skipper		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Large skipper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Essex skipper									✓		✓					✓
Dingy skipper																
Grizzled skipper																
Total species per year	14	16	18	19	21		13	18	20	21	20		12	13	13	22
Total seen in 5 years	23						26						23			

BUTTERFLIES SEEN AT BLACK, LANGLEY AND DENHAM COUNTRY PARKS IN 2007-10

Here are some observations on my butterfly records:

The figures appear to have improved over the four years mainly because in 2007 I was really only getting to know the parks and probably missed some species. 2008 and 2009 were rather wet summers, whereas 2010 was better. 2011 saw a very warm dry spring followed by a wet summer.

The three parks have good, but not outstanding, numbers of butterflies and all the species common to the south of England are present. Total figures of between 20 and 25 represent a good average.

Summer species, such as common blue, small copper, large and small skipper, did well in 2010 and I was especially pleased to see good numbers of brown argus in Langley and Denham.

Purple Emperor is the rarest species in the parks and a few are seen every year in Black Park, especially in the Strawberry Wood area. Sadly only one (a male) was recorded in 2010, probably because willow trees were felled to prevent them from invading the heathland area. Purple emperor caterpillars feed on willow leaves and hibernate on the twigs in winter.

White admirals are uncommon and it is good to see they thrive at Black Park in the Strawberry Wood area. Care should be taken to preserve the honeysuckle there as their caterpillars feed and hibernate on honeysuckle leaves. They particularly like the wide ride, open to the sun, which goes south from the Convent in Fulmer Common Road and I have seen as many as 13 there all at once.

Silver-washed fritillary is another uncommon butterfly and small numbers are seen regularly in the Strawberry Wood area of Black Park and in woodland areas of Langley Park. They need wide sunny rides through woodland and their caterpillars feed on dog violets.

Purple hairstreaks are elusive little butterflies living up in oak trees and I am pleased they are present in all three parks with good numbers in the Strawberry Wood area of Black Park and in the oak trees around the car-park at Langley. I regularly see their eggs in Black and Langley Parks.

I have not seen any specifically heathland butterflies such as grayling and small heath yet in Black Park's heathland area. Small heaths are present at Stoke Common however, so they may well move in.

Our butterfly event at Langley Park in August 2011 was well attended but the weather was overcast so we saw few species, but participants seemed happy and enthusiastic.

Wendy Wilson, Butterfly recorder for Butterfly Conservation.