



Camberwell Beauty



Swallowtail



Monarch

### SBRC DATA SHEET

Name:

Address & Tel:

Species	Location (inc. grid ref.)	Date	Habitat
Red Admiral	Virkie HU 392124	24/07/12	Garden Flowers

Please provide as much detail as possible (include a grid reference with your record if you can) and return to SBRC at: Shetland Amenity Trust, Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0NY. Tel:(01595) 694688

For further information on butterflies please visit <http://www.leps.it> or <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>. Special thanks to Paolo Mazzei, Illaria Pimpinelli, Jens Christian Schou, Bernard Fransen, Raniero Panfili & Fabio Cavallini for use of their pictures.



Shetland  
Amenity  
Trust



## Survey Sheet No. 7

# Butterflies

Butterflies, with their colourful wings and day-flying habit, are among the most obvious and popular members of the insect world. They are also one of the easiest insect groups to identify.

This leaflet illustrates the species you are most likely to see in Shetland and also highlights some of our rare visitors, and some that could conceivably occur in the future.

By filling in the survey form on the back of this leaflet and returning it to us you can help us find out more about the distribution of butterflies in the islands. Ideally, records of very rare species should be supported by photographs



The Large White breeds in Shetland in variable numbers but we have little information on its distribution or changes in population size.

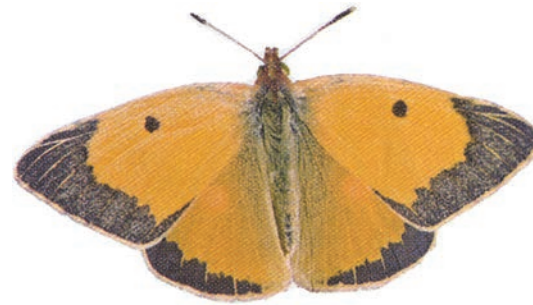
Presently Shetland is home to just one resident butterfly - the notorious Large White, whose caterpillars often wreak havoc among cabbages. Another former resident, the tiny Common Blue, seems to have become extinct in the islands during the late 20th century. In addition, a further four very colourful species - Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock are regular immigrants to the islands, and several other species have been recorded as windblown vagrants.



Peacock



Red Admiral



The Clouded Yellow is an immigrant occurring in vast numbers in Britain in some years. There are no recent records from Shetland but in a good summer it could be expected to occur.



Small Tortoiseshell



Painted Lady

The Common Blue could still survive unnoticed in some more remote parts of Shetland. It tends to favour flower rich meadows. We would also welcome any historical records of this species.



Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Painted Lady are all immigrants to Shetland. The Painted Lady and Red Admiral are recorded annually, sometimes in large numbers, but the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock are much scarcer.



Small Heath



Meadow Brown



Small Copper

Small Heath, Meadow Brown and Small Copper are all essentially brown butterflies. The Meadow Brown is quite a large butterfly and breeds in Orkney. The other two are smaller, and occur on mainland Scotland. There have been unconfirmed reports of all three species in Shetland.



Green-veined White



Small White

The Green-veined White and Small White could easily be confused with their more common cousin, the Large White. Note their smaller size, however, and different wing-markings, especially the dark green veins on the underside of the Green-veined White (see inset), which breeds as close as Orkney.

Camberwell Beauty, Swallowtail and Monarch - This trio of spectacular butterflies (shown overleaf) have been recorded less than a handful of times in the islands. The former two are visitors from the Continent, but the Monarch breeds in North America. It seems almost unbelievable that a butterfly can cross the Atlantic unscathed.