



Butterflies of Bankhead Moss

S.T. Buckland

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I have included just those species I have managed to catch on camera at Bankhead Moss.

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Large white

Less common than the small white, the large white can occasionally be seen on the Moss. It tends to keep moving, making it difficult to photograph!



Small white

Common especially in farmland, but usually less common than the green-veined white.



Green-veined white

A very common species. The photo bottom right was taken at night when I was out moth-ing.





Orange tip

The adult is mostly recorded in late spring and early summer. It is patchily-distributed, favouring marshy areas.





Small copper

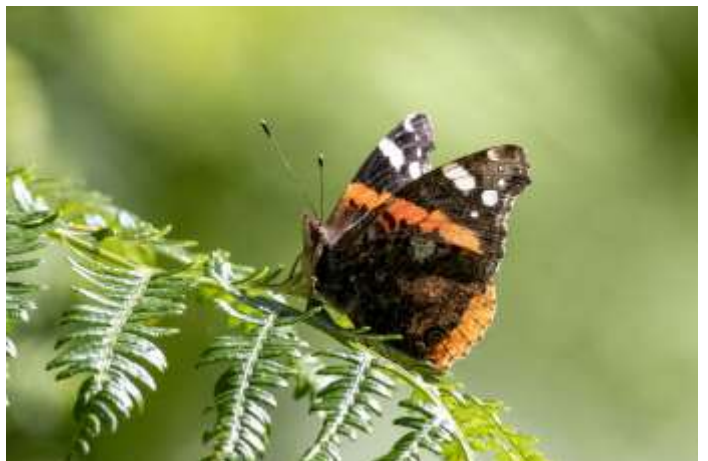
Fairly widely distributed in Fife. The shot on the right was taken with flash after dark while mothing.





Red admiral

A common species especially in late summer.





Painted lady

A migrant from southern Europe and northern Africa that in some years arrives in large numbers. These were at Bankhead Moss in early July 2026, at a time when they were common throughout Britain.





Small tortoiseshell

A common and familiar species.





Peacock

The peacock has spread north in recent years and is now one of the most common butterflies in Fife.





Comma

A distinctive species that has spread northwards into Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss in late September 2018.





Speckled wood

This species is a recent arrival to Fife. The above one was in the mixed woodland in late June 2024, and the one below was there in late September 2024.





Wall

Another recent arrival in Fife, the wall colonised the coast first, and is now becoming established inland. This one was on the marsh at Bankhead Moss in mid-August 2025.



Meadow brown

A common grassland species.





Ringlet

Common in grassland.

