



Butterflies of Gaddon and Birnie Lochs

S.T. Buckland

Butterflies of Gaddon and Birnie Lochs

S.T. Buckland

The grasslands around Gaddon Loch especially are a haven for butterflies. This covers the species that I have been able to photograph at Gaddon and Birnie Lochs.

Steve Buckland

steve@st-andrews.ac.uk

13/September/2026

Contents

Large white	4
Small white	5
Green-veined white	6
Orange tip	7
Small copper	8
Common blue	9
Dark green fritillary	10
Red admiral	11
Painted lady	12
Small tortoiseshell	13
Peacock	14
Comma	15
Speckled wood	16
Meadow brown	17
Ringlet	18
Small heath	19



Large white

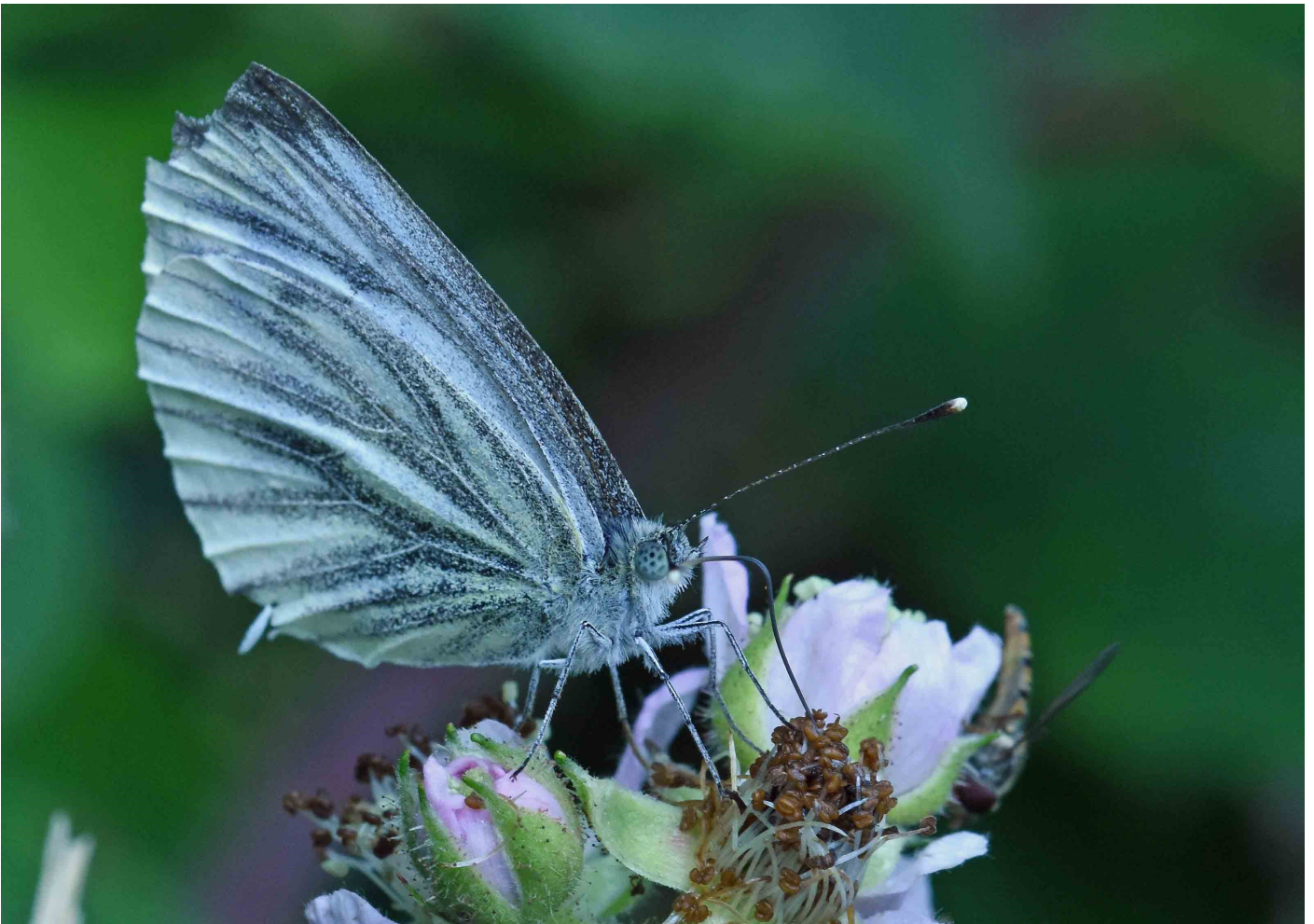
Can be common in farmland, with individuals sometimes appearing at Gaddon and Birnie.





Small white

Common, but appreciably less common than the green-veined white.



Green-veined white

Common wherever there is suitable habitat.





Orange tip

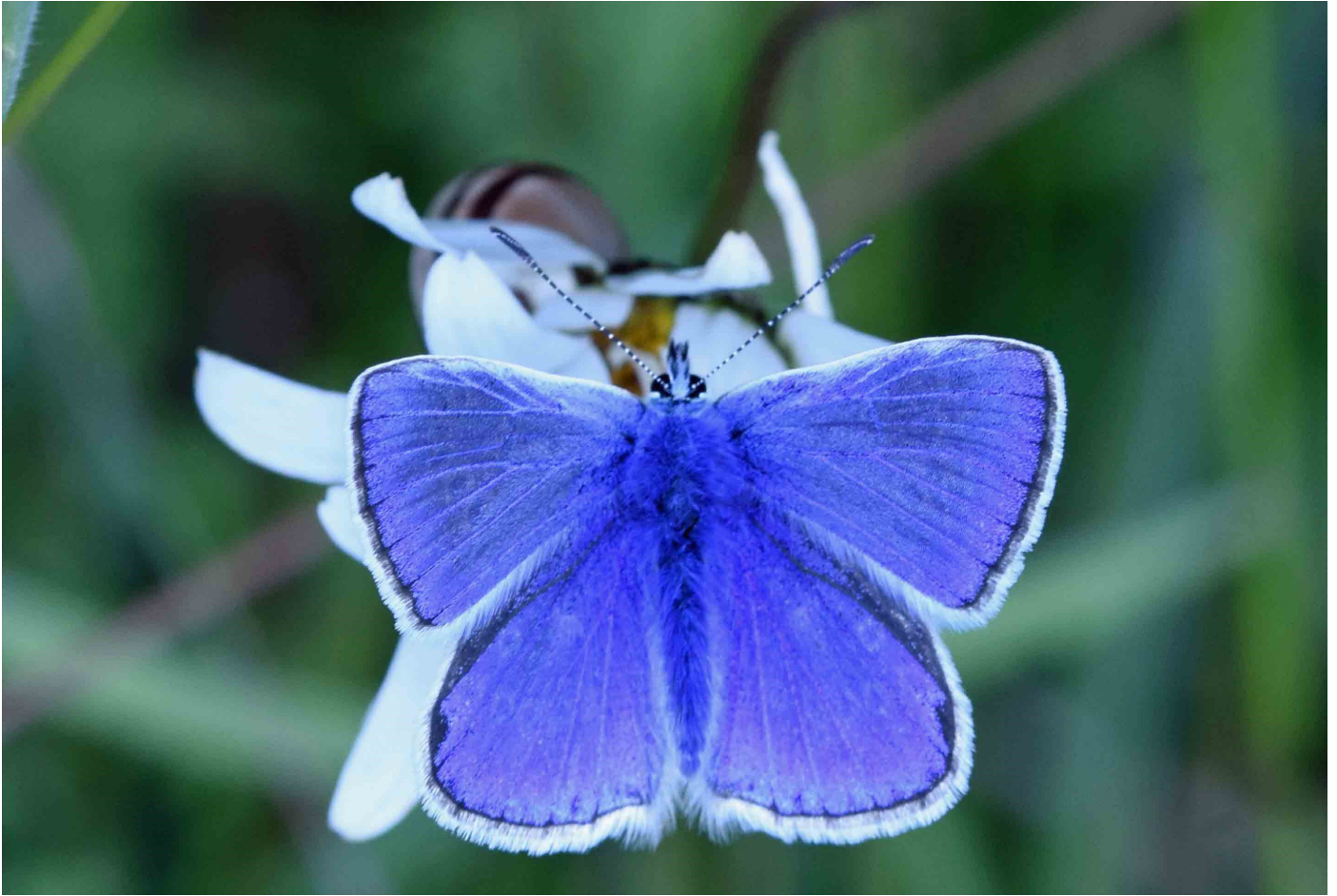
A late spring and early summer species, common in grassland.



Small copper

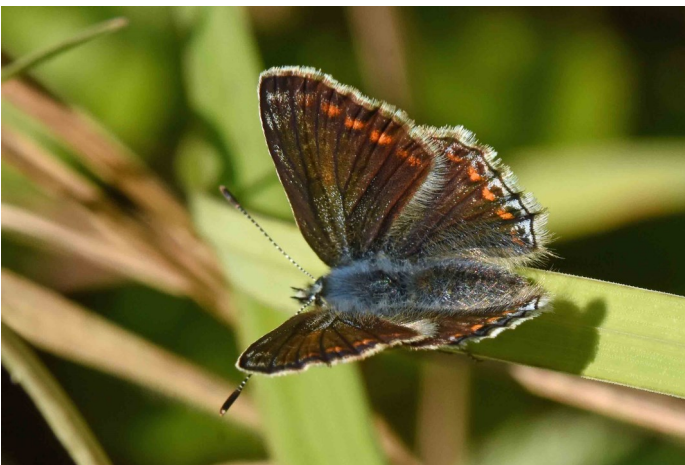
Small numbers occur at Gaddon Loch.





Common blue

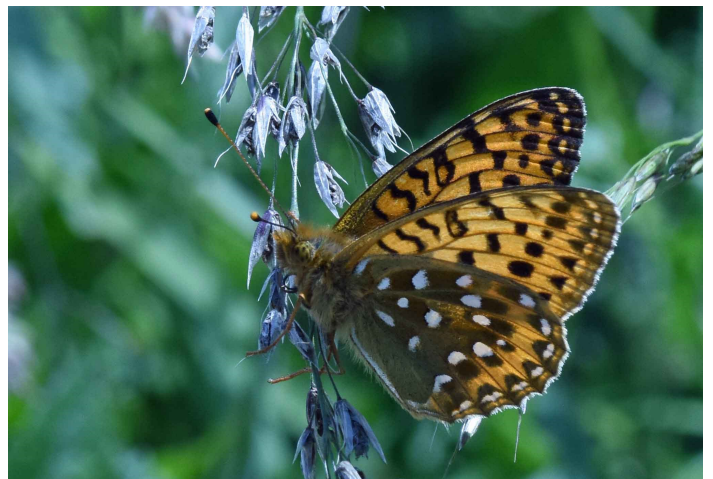
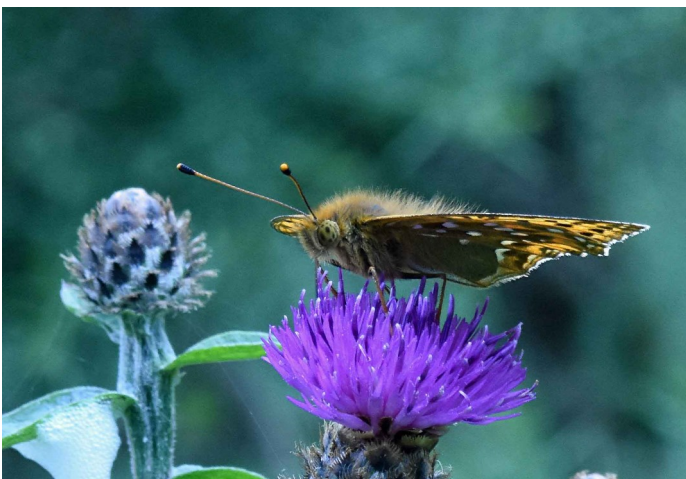
Locally distributed, but occurs where its food plant, bird's foot trefoil, is plentiful. These (male above, female below) were at Gaddon Loch.





Dark green fritillary

Uncommon. These were at Gaddon Loch in early July 2019.





Red admiral

A common species especially in late summer.





Painted lady

A migrant species that sometimes arrives in Britain in large numbers. This individual was at Gaddon Loch.





Small tortoiseshell

Common in suitable habitats.



Peacock

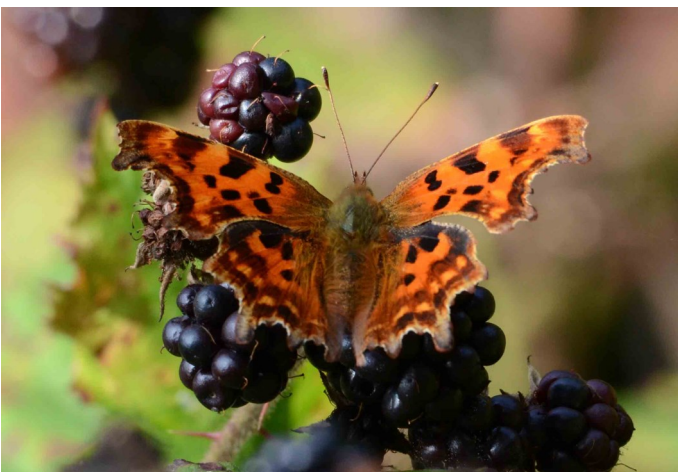
The peacock has spread north in recent years and is now one of the most common butterflies in Fife.





Comma

A distinctive species that has spread northwards into Fife.
These were at Gaddon Loch.





Speckled wood

A recent arrival in Fife which has spread rapidly. These images were taken in September 2026, by which time the species was common at the lochs.





Meadow brown

A common species of grassland.





Ringlet

Another common grassland species.





Small heath

A few occur at Gaddon Loch; this was one of five recorded there in July 2019.