

Some useful Butterfly and Moth books and apps

Britain's Butterflies: A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland, Newland & Still

This is a WILDGuides photographic guide with lots of information about each native butterfly and a few migrants. It includes eggs, chrysalises and foodplants.

Britain's Butterflies: A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland, Richard Lewington

Another WILDGuides book. Richard Lewington is the best insect illustrator around and this also includes eggs, chrysalises and foodplants.

British Moths: A Photographic Guide, Chris Manley

This has photos and brief descriptions of all the macro moths and many of the micros.

Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland, Paul Waring and Martin Townsend

Lots of information about the macro moths, excellent for identification. There is also a concise edition which is about half the size and half the price.

Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain and Ireland, Phil Sterling and Mark Parsons

Lots of information about the micro moths, excellent for identification.

Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Great Britain and Ireland, Barry Henwood and Phil Sterling

Richard Lewington illustrations again! Lots of interesting information about caterpillars in general and descriptions of caterpillars of our butterflies and macro moths.

Independent booksellers such as <http://www.pemberleybooks.com/> and <http://www.atroposbooks.co.uk/> often give a better price than Amazon for nature books so it's worth shopping around. <https://blackwells.co.uk> quite often beats Amazon on price.

<http://www.natureguides.com/> have an excellent **British & Irish Butterflies** app for the iPad/iPhone which was produced in association with <http://butterfly-conservation.org/>. (They also created excellent apps based on the three moth books listed above but unfortunately the publishers, Bloomsbury, have withdrawn permission to sell them.)

Ebooks. Some of the books listed above are available in electronic format, this makes it possible to have them always with you on your phone provided you have a suitable e-reader app. Check both Amazon and the publishers.

Here are some websites about moths, butterflies and caterpillars.

<http://ukmoths.org.uk/>

By far the most popular moth website and referred to by other sites all over Europe. There are also a lot of links to moth and butterfly related websites.

<http://www.wildlifeinsight.com/guide-to-british-caterpillars/> and <http://www.ukleps.org/>,

The first website is very good for initial identification of caterpillars and has guidance on rearing them. The second has excellent photographs of the eggs, larvae, pupae and adult stages of butterflies and moths but is not as easy to use for identification.

<http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/>

This is the website of the Gloucestershire **Butterfly Conservation**, you might like:

<http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/moths/mothmap.html> distribution maps for all moth species

<http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/hamearis/butterfly-maps/> maps for butterflies

<http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/rbtour.html> a virtual tour of the Rough Bank Reserve.

Butterfly Conservation website

There is lots to explore on the Butterfly Conservation website, <http://butterfly-conservation.org>, here are some starting points.

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies> This leads to pages for identifying butterflies, getting descriptions and pictures of them and gardening to support them.

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths> This leads to pages equivalent to the butterfly ones plus a moth resources page where various documents can be downloaded such as this set of colourful and informative moth leaflets:



<https://butterfly-conservation.org/events> Butterfly Conservation has 33 branches that all hold events such as guided walks and conservation work parties. All events can be found via this page. (Please note that Covid has had a big impact so events are going to be quite limited for the remainder of 2021.)

Finally ...

Butterflies and moths are at the bottom of the food chain so when they suffer everything else suffers too. Butterfly Conservation is deeply involved in the science and practice of conservation at all levels, if you want to support their work see <https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help>

Miscellaneous:

Big Butterfly Count

This runs for three weeks during July and August each year, just download the identification chart and follow the instructions, see <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Garden Moths Scheme

Interested in recording night flying moths regularly? It's easy but you need a moth trap, see this website for more details <http://www.gardenmoths.org.uk>

Moth Night

Occurs on a different date each year with moth events all over the country, see <http://www.mothnight.info>

Social media

https://twitter.com/BC_Glos, <https://www.facebook.com/BCGloucestershire> **Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire** branch Twitter and Facebook pages.

<https://twitter.com/savebutterflies>, <https://www.facebook.com/savebutterflies> **Butterfly Conservation national** Twitter and Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1429198450736569> - **Gloucestershire Moths**, and

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/736423889859342> - **Gloucestershire Butterfly Group** – are very active but closed Facebook groups that you can apply to join.