

About the trail

Follow the numbered trail and discover these fascinating creatures. The walk should take approximately 1 ½ hours and takes you through a variety of habitats.

Most footpaths are suitable for pushchairs and those using wheelchairs with assistance throughout the summer months.

It is recommended that wheelchair users leave out sections from posts 6, 7, 8 and 10 but feel free to try and let us know how you get on. We are always grateful for feedback and will make improvements where we can.



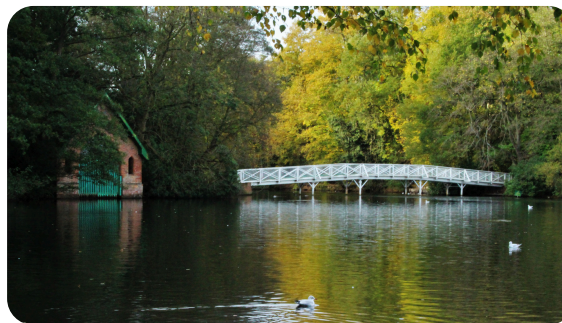
Start at post 1, the start of the disabled path outside the Visitor Centre. This will take you across a lawn and past a wildflower area to your right.

Butterfly Facts

Butterflies have an amazing lifecycle. They begin as tiny eggs which hatch into caterpillars. A caterpillar spends most of its life feeding before it turns into a pupa or chrysalis, and finally emerges as a butterfly. This process is known as metamorphosis.

When butterflies stop to rest, they fold their wings together, unlike moths who rest with their wings open. Butterflies roost at night, or in bad weather, finding sheltered places on leaves or grass stems to hang upside down.

You can tell the difference between butterflies and moths because moths are not usually brightly coloured and they have feather-like antennae.

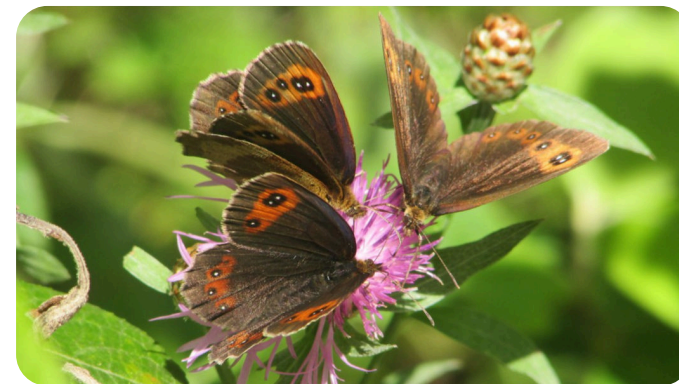


Throughout the spring and summer months Park Rangers use this route to record the butterfly numbers at Hartsholme Country Park. The results are then passed to county and national biodiversity record databases.

For further information about the Country Park or Nature Reserve, please contact hartsholmecp@lincoln.gov.uk or call 01522 873577



Discover the common Butterflies of Hartsholme Country Park



Butterflies are a common sight in the summer. They have four wings which are covered in tiny scales which give these insects their colourful patterns.

25 species of butterfly have been recorded at Hartsholme Country Park. Park rangers regularly count the butterflies on the route shown in this guide. We are always interested in what you can see too!





Small White

1 Apple trees and many wild flowers such as Meadow Cranesbill and Tansy are planted here, providing a source of nectar to many insects throughout the spring and summer months. The Whites as well as Peacock butterflies favour the Buddleias also planted here. Peacocks along with many other species like the nettles we allow to flourish.

You will also notice an ivy-clad wall, this attracts Holly Blue in spring and summer and in late summer many Red Admirals can be found feeding. Continue walking down the footpath and veer left down a slope. As you pass underneath an arch of Irish Yew trees you should see post number 2 to your right near the lake.



Holly Blue

2 From post 2 it's a short walk through the woodland where you need to turn left opposite the platform near the lake, as you do you should see post number 3.



Red Admiral

3 The walk now takes you past our log wall and along the edge of a lawn with woodland to your right. As well as the many butterflies you should see, also keep an eye out for Hawker Dragonflies patrolling the edge of the woodland. As you reach a stone track you should see post 4, turn right along the track.

4 The route along the drive takes you past a layered hedge with a meadow beyond on your right. Wild flowers can be found at the base of the hedge, species such as Meadow Cranesbill, red and white Campion as well as the many grasses along here are favoured resting places for butterflies.

Elm tree suckers grow from the hedge. The Elm along with nettles are a favourite food of the Comma since the decline of breweries and the hops they used to make beer.



Comma



Brimstone

Hedges border both sides of the tracks, such as Alder Buckthorn grow here, a favourite food of the Brimstone caterpillars. You will eventually reach a crossroads, turn left and post 5 will be found on your right.

5 This section takes you along the margin of the sports field. The margin is left uncut until September, this enables many species of flower to flourish and provide an ideal habitat for many invertebrates.

Butterflies here include Meadow Browns feeding on Ragwort. This unpopular plant is of great value to wildlife and is eaten by over 70 species of insect; the easiest to spot are the colourful yellow and black caterpillars of the Cinnabar Moth.



Meadow Brown



Common Blue

Other butterflies in this area include the Common Blue and the Gate Keeper. Follow the edge of the woodland, eventually veering right until you cross a picnic area and find yourself back on the track.

Turn left and walk towards the entrance to Swanholme Lakes, you should see post number 6 on the grass area to the right of the entrance.



Gate Keeper

6 Follow the bumpy path and enter the woods to the right. This section takes you through the woodland where you will see many White and Speckled Wood butterflies.



Speckled Wood

The Speckled Woods love the damp shaded glades, feeding on the honeydew in the treetops. The Whites will feed on Garlic Mustard although they still prefer some of the plants in your garden!

Keep on through the woodland path, and eventually you will again find yourself on the track. Turn left and walk towards the meadow mentioned earlier. Post number 7 can be found just inside the meadow at the end of the brash hedge.

7

Skipper butterflies love this meadow, on a sunny day you can find them basking and feeding on the grass stems. Large, Small and Essex Skippers are all found on the meadow. Continue across the meadow following the left hand path to the beech woodland.



Small Skipper

8 Post number 8 leads you through the woodland passing underneath the large oak tree; many more Speckled Wood butterflies may be seen here.



Ringlet

Cross the bridge and turn left, it's a long walk up to the 'Black Bridge' now. The habitat in this section is favoured by the Speckled Wood and the White butterflies but look out for other species. The verges are lined with nettles, a favourite food for many butterflies. Other plants are found too, such as Cow Parsley, Garlic Mustard and Cuckoo flower. These are favoured by the Orange Tip butterfly for food and shelter.



As this section of the walk borders the lake you may also see different species of dragonflies and damselflies patrolling the water's edge. As you near the 'White Bridge' there is a small area of wild privet on the right. You may spot Ringlets resting on this plant.

Another butterfly to look out for are the rarer Purple Hairstreak which may be seen flying around the top of the tree canopy. Oak is the only food source for their larvae and during long dry summers the butterflies may be seen lower down in the canopy feeding on honeydew.

You could see this butterfly in any of the wooded areas of the walk. When you reach White Bridge you have finished the butterfly walk. Either turn right over the bridge and find your way back to the Visitor Centre or carry straight on and complete a circuit of Hartsholme Lake.



Small Copper

Also look out for Ringlets with many eye spot patterns on their wings. These can be seen from July onwards. As you reach a small stream you should see post 9 on the left.

9



Orange Tip

10

As you cross the 'Black Bridge' you should see the final post 10 on the left of the path. The dappled shade along this path, again attracts the Whites and Speckled Woods to the area.



Purple Hairstreak