



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

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Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

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Protect local wildlife



Wildlife > Invertebrates > Butterflies and moths > Small Copper



Species information

i **Common name**
Small Copper

Latin name
Lycaena phlaeas

Category
Invertebrates
Butterflies and moths

Statistics
Wingspan: 2.5-3.6cm

Conservation status
Common.

About

The Small Copper lives up to its name in both colour and size. Adults fly throughout the summer between April and October. Male Small Coppers are territorial and can be seen basking on bare ground or rock waiting for females, every now and again chasing off other insects that encroach on their space. Adults can be seen feeding on Ragwort and thistles, while the caterpillars feed on Common Sorrel and Sheep's Sorrel. Found in dry, sunny habitats, including heathland, woodland edges, waste ground and downland.

How to identify

Unmistakeable: the Small Copper has orange forewings with dark brown spots and margin, and dark brown hindwings, with a band of orange.

Where to find it

Found across the

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When to find it



How can people help

Butterflies such as the Small Copper will happily visit your garden and are a joy to watch. To attract butterflies into your garden, plant nectar-rich borders for them to feed along and climbing Ivy and shrubs for overwintering insects. To find out more about encouraging wildlife into your garden, visit our Wild About Gardens website: a joint initiative with the RHS, there's plenty of facts and tips to get you started.

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