

Small White

Pieris rapae

Insects · On the wing Apr-Sep · two broods



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A medium-sized white butterfly with grey-black wingtips that do not extend far down the wing edge, and a creamy-yellow underside. It is smaller and less boldly marked than the large white, and unlike the green-veined white has no dark scaling along the veins. Small whites are abundant in gardens, allotments and open ground throughout the Dumfries area.

BEHAVIOUR

Eggs are laid singly rather than in batches, and the caterpillar is plain green with a faint yellow line, feeding alone and burrowing into the heart of a cabbage rather than grazing the outer leaves — so the damage is less visible but often worse. Adults nectar readily on buddleia, marjoram and thistles, and are strong, purposeful fliers that cover a lot of ground.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Whites and yellows (Pieridae)
WINGSPAN	4.5-5.5 cm
STATUS	Native; abundant

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