

Henbury Millennium Green

Insects

Just a small selection! The most obvious are illustrated – there are many more including small day-flying moths that move so fast you (well, I) can't identify them. Photo sizes are not scaled.

Butterflies and moths

(in no particular order and photographed sizes are not necessarily proportionate)

Meadow Brown



Gatekeeper



Small Tortoiseshell



Large Tortoiseshell



(There is a difference – really! The small one is clearly much smaller than the big one and the wing shapes are different. Small Tortoiseshell has very clear bright blue spots around the hinder wings)

Speckled Wood



Peacock



Comma



Note the unmistakable white comma mark on the underwing and the deckle-edged wings

Large White



Small White



Very similar but the difference in size is obvious in the flesh/on the wing. Also note the Large White has bigger black patches on the tips of the forewings. There may be a spot on the underwing and there may be only 1 spot on the upper. Both are known as “cabbage whites”.

Green-veined White



Very like small white but has obvious green veining on the underside of the wings.

Brimstone



Yellow!

Orange Tip



Obvious!

Common Blue



Holly Blue



Red Admiral



Unmistakeable!

Small Copper



Unusual visitor!

Day-flying Moths

Most likely to see (and easily confused)

Cinnabar



Six-spot Burnet



If you walk through the wildflowers on a sunny summer's day you will put up a cloud of insects, many of them tiny moths that are so small and fly so fast there is no time to identify them. As to the Cinnabar, see ragwort in the wildflower section – a beautiful black-and-yellow caterpillar.

Bees and Flies

(not comprehensive!)

Bumble bee



There are many kinds of wild bees that we generally call “bumblebees”. This is a buff-tailed bee – but there are also ones with different coloured tails – red, white, orange.

There are also many solitary bees and mason and leaf-cutter bees, all of which may appear on the green but can be difficult to spot.

The sizes of wild bees vary greatly.

And then there are...

Honey Bees



From local hives, some close to the Green. They are the source of “Cheshire Honey”.

Together with the wild bees above, essential for pollination of fruit and vegetables.

All of these creatures are threatened not only by natural pests and diseases but also agricultural and domestic insecticides – take care when you spray!

Hoverflies



Do their best to look like wasps to deter predators, but much smaller. If it hovers, it's a hoverfly; if it whizzes around and buzzes, it's a bee or a wasp and wasps aren't furry!

Wasp



... Here it is! Don't be too quick to swat it – it helps get rid of many (other) pests and is a useful pollinator in its own right (although bees do most of the work).

There are many beetles, spiders and other insects on the Green, rarely obvious. Again, a useful guides are the *Collins Gem Guides* to *Butterflies and Moths* and to *Insects* which includes spiders.

I hope the guides to the wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and insects on the Green are useful. I am conscious that the last is pretty sketchy apart from butterflies. Any helpful comments and especially observations of plants or insects on the Green that I have overlooked would be welcome (and any howlers you spot – there are surely some!).

D J Walker 2013