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Guernsey has 19 species of butterfly that breed here and another 2 species which regularly migrate to the island.

Only with the right foodplants can each butterfly species lay eggs for the next generation which is why they are very vulnerable to changes in the habitats that are available in Guernsey.

Butterflies start life as eggs which are laid on plants, such as leaves, grasses or branches.



Butterflies are very fussy about what plants their caterpillars will eat and different species depend on particular foodplants.

Caterpillars hatch from these eggs and eat plants until they have grown big enough to form a pupa. Inside the pupa the caterpillar's body is completely broken down and recreated into the adult form which emerges as a butterfly. This amazing process is called metamorphosis.

Don't forget to order your free seeds at [pollinatorproject.gg](http://pollinatorproject.gg)

Butterflies overwinter as either eggs (Purple Hairstreak), caterpillars (Meadow Brown), pupae or chrysalis (Holly Blue) and some as adults (Small Tortoiseshell). The Speckled Wood is unique in its ability to survive the winter as either a pupa (chrysalis) or a caterpillar. Some species, like the Painted Lady, cannot withstand our cold winters and migrate northwards from their breeding areas in North Africa each spring.

When adult butterflies emerge from their pupa, their wings are curled tightly around them. They pump them up to full size with their blood and dry them before flying for the first time. These butterflies feed on nectar, find a mate and lay the eggs for the next generation and the cycle begins once again.

Adult butterflies live for anything from a few days (Common Blue) to a year for those butterflies that hibernate through the winter (Peacock).

We can all do positive things within our gardens and school grounds to support butterflies, by providing the right foodplants for caterpillars, leaving areas wild where eggs, caterpillars and pupa can develop and by planting pollinator patches to provide a nectar source for adults.

For tips and advice on gardening for wildlife visit [pollinatorproject.gg](http://pollinatorproject.gg)



The Guernsey Arts Commission supports, promotes and facilitates all forms of art, connecting artists, arts organisations and businesses. We believe that: The arts should be accessible to everyone; Creativity enriches the lives of individuals and our community; Appreciation of the arts is nurtured by exposure and education; The arts contribute to community identity.

[www.arts.gg](http://www.arts.gg)



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[www.nedbankprivatewealth.com](http://www.nedbankprivatewealth.com)



We raise awareness of the genuine contribution we can each make to the enhancement of Guernsey's biodiversity by providing food and habitats for pollinators. We encourage the community to take action in their gardens, allotments, window boxes and balconies to make them pollinator-friendly.

[www.pollinatorproject.gg](http://www.pollinatorproject.gg)