

Visitor Guidance

Avoid trampling habitats



Undisturbed long grass is vital for the Skipper's life cycle. Please stay on hard, surfaced paths.

Active research site



Please respect on-site restrictions and follow guidance in areas not open to the public.

Multi-use site



Be considerate of other visitors including walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

Remain vigilant



Observe and follow signage regarding forestry operations. This is a working woodland.

Don't be disappointed!



Skippers are notoriously difficult to spot. There is still plenty to see if you miss them!

Site Information



Fineshade Wood, Near Corby, Northamptonshire.
Sat Nav Postcode: NN17 3BB



On-site parking. Charges apply. Accessible parking available.



Visitor centre and café open 9:30am - 4:30pm weekdays and 9:00am - 5:00pm weekends. Accessible toilets.

Site is managed by Forestry England. Further site information please visit: www.forestryengland.uk/fineshade-wood



Forestry England

Get Involved

Submit butterfly sightings at www.butterflyrecording.org
Or download the iRecord butterflies app.

Visit our website for further information on our work, and how to get involved: www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk

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Butterfly Conservation

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Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Department
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Butterfly
Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

The Chequered Skipper at Fineshade Wood

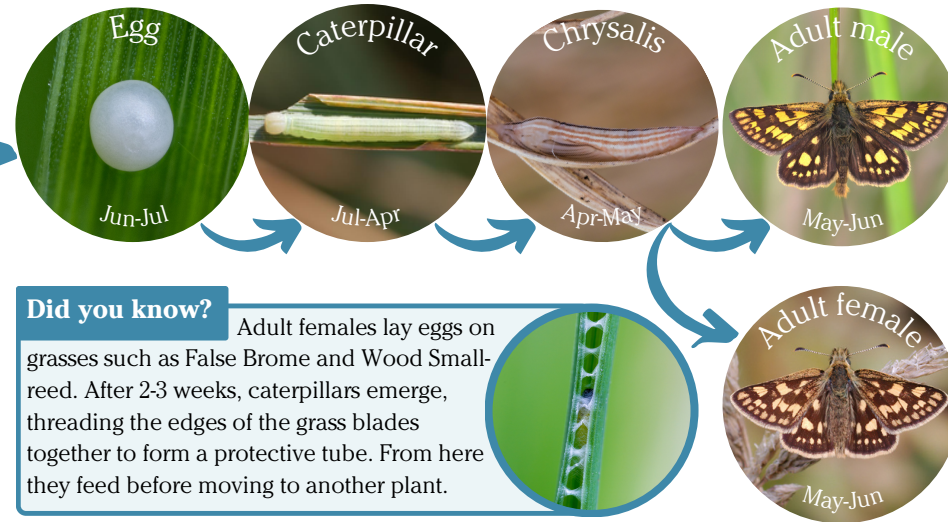


Introduction

Rockingham Forest was once the stronghold of the Chequered Skipper in England, where many years ago hundreds of these charismatic butterflies could be seen. They love open, sunny areas within woodlands, but over time, the woodland habitat here became dark and enclosed. This eventually led to the loss of the Chequered Skipper from England in 1976. Following years of work with Forestry England and other landowners to restore suitable conditions, we have now been able to release this beautiful butterfly back into its English heartland.



Skipper Ecology and Identification



Observation tip!

Look out for Bugle in a sunny spot to see Chequered Skippers feeding on their favourite nectar source!



Chequered Skippers are small (3cm) with fast, erratic flight. They can be difficult to identify while flying! Watch the butterfly until it settles to get a clear look. However, they may be mistaken for the look-a-likes below. Males are easier to see, defending territories from perches on tall vegetation.

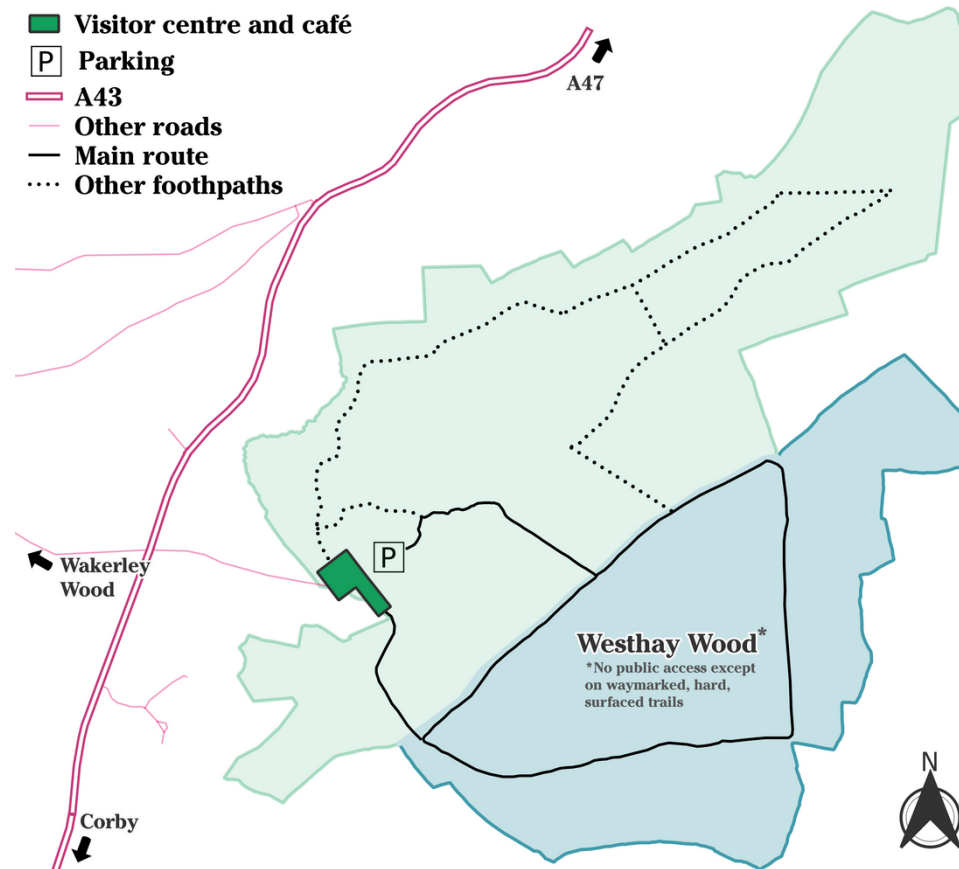
Reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper

Reintroduction: In 2018 Chequered Skipper butterflies were collected from a thriving population in Belgium and released into Fineshade Wood. This followed four years of planning with partners in the UK and Belgium agreeing techniques, securing permissions and preparing suitable habitat.

Establishment: May 2019 gave us a sighting of an English born Chequered Skipper – the first in over 40 years! This breeding success has continued, supported by further reintroductions. While sightings remain rare, the butterfly population has expanded throughout the wood - a very encouraging sign.

Management: Bringing the butterfly back is not enough. We need to continue to work closely with Forestry England and other landowners to ensure the habitat is managed correctly and remains in good condition. This is critical to secure the success of the Chequered Skipper reintroduction.

- Visitor centre and café
- P Parking
- A43
- Other roads
- Main route
- ⋯ Other footpaths



Smaller than you think?

Check against this life-size illustration!



Look-a-likes

Speckled Wood
Similar in colour but with eyespots on wings and is much larger (at around 5cm).



Grizzled Skipper
Similar in size (3cm) with a chequered pattern, but is black and white.



Burnet Companion
Day-flying moth easy to confuse in flight. Similar in colour and size but no chequering!

