

# 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

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

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