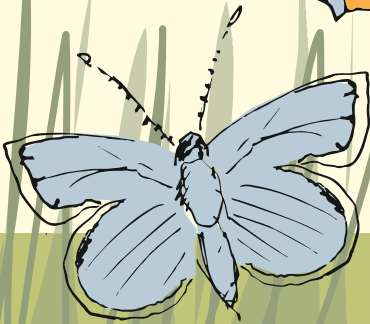
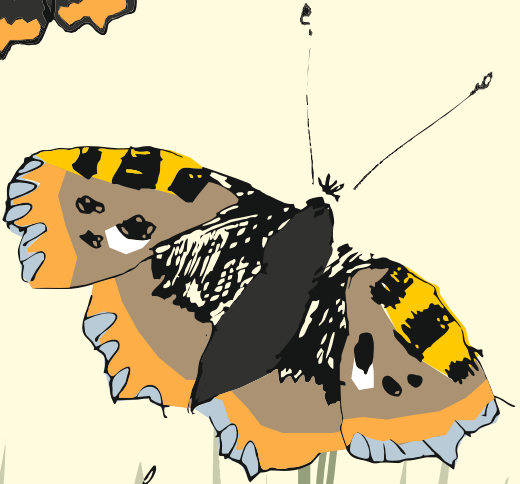


New Ferry



BUTTERFLY PARK



NATURE Trail

Welcome!

New Ferry Butterfly Park is an urban nature reserve on the former site of a railway yard at Bebington Station. The railway activities left behind sidings, lime waste, coal dust and clay soils.

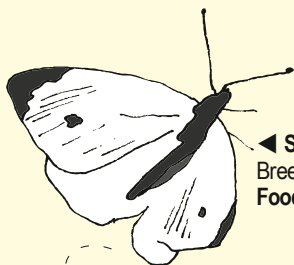
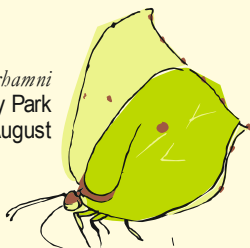
Wildlife has moved in to make grasslands and woodland, to which we have added two ponds. Many types of mini-beast thrive here, including butterflies, moths, shield bugs, grasshoppers, snails, spiders, bees and a variety of pond life. There is a honey bee hive on site in partnership with local beekeepers from Flourish.

Butterfly spotting



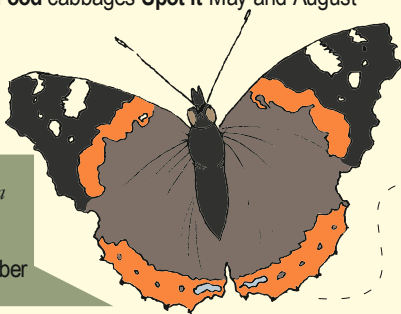
◀ **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*
Breed annually in the Butterfly Park
Food tall grasses **Spot it**
July and August

▶ **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Breed annually in the Butterfly Park
Food buckthorns **Spot it** May and August

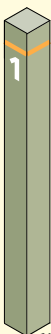


◀ **Small White** *Pieris rapae*
Breed annually in the Butterfly Park
Food cabbages **Spot it** May and August

▶ **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*
Breeding most years in the
Butterfly Park **Food** stinging
nettles **Spot it** June to September



NATURE Trail



Explore New Ferry Butterfly Park with our Nature Trail.

Look out for the **orange** striped wayfinding posts.



smooth newt

1 Coal & Copper

A siding for coal wagons ran here. Spilt coal has made the soil acid, suitable for sheep's sorrel. Caterpillars of the small copper butterfly feed on this plant.



small copper butterfly

2 Pond

This pond was made in 1996 to provide water for wildlife. It is home to many animals and plants, such as water boatmen, pond snails and water mint. Smooth newts breed in the pond in spring. There are no fish.

3 Meadow

The soil here is clay, so the grasses grow longer and denser than on the infertile coal. East of the path the grass is mown to encourage wild flowers. West of the path is left unmown to provide shelter for invertebrates.



stinging nettles

4 Nettles

Stinging nettles are food for the caterpillars of peacock, comma and small tortoiseshell butterflies. They need nettles in a sunny spot to breed. Nearby, in shade, several moths roll up nettle leaves to feed: mother-of-pearl and nettle-tap.



small tortoiseshell butterfly

5 Lime Waste

The lime in the soil encourages plants that are unusual in Wirral. Some, like hoary ragwort, arrived by themselves. Others, like chicory, we have sown. Bees, hoverflies and other insects feed on the flowers.



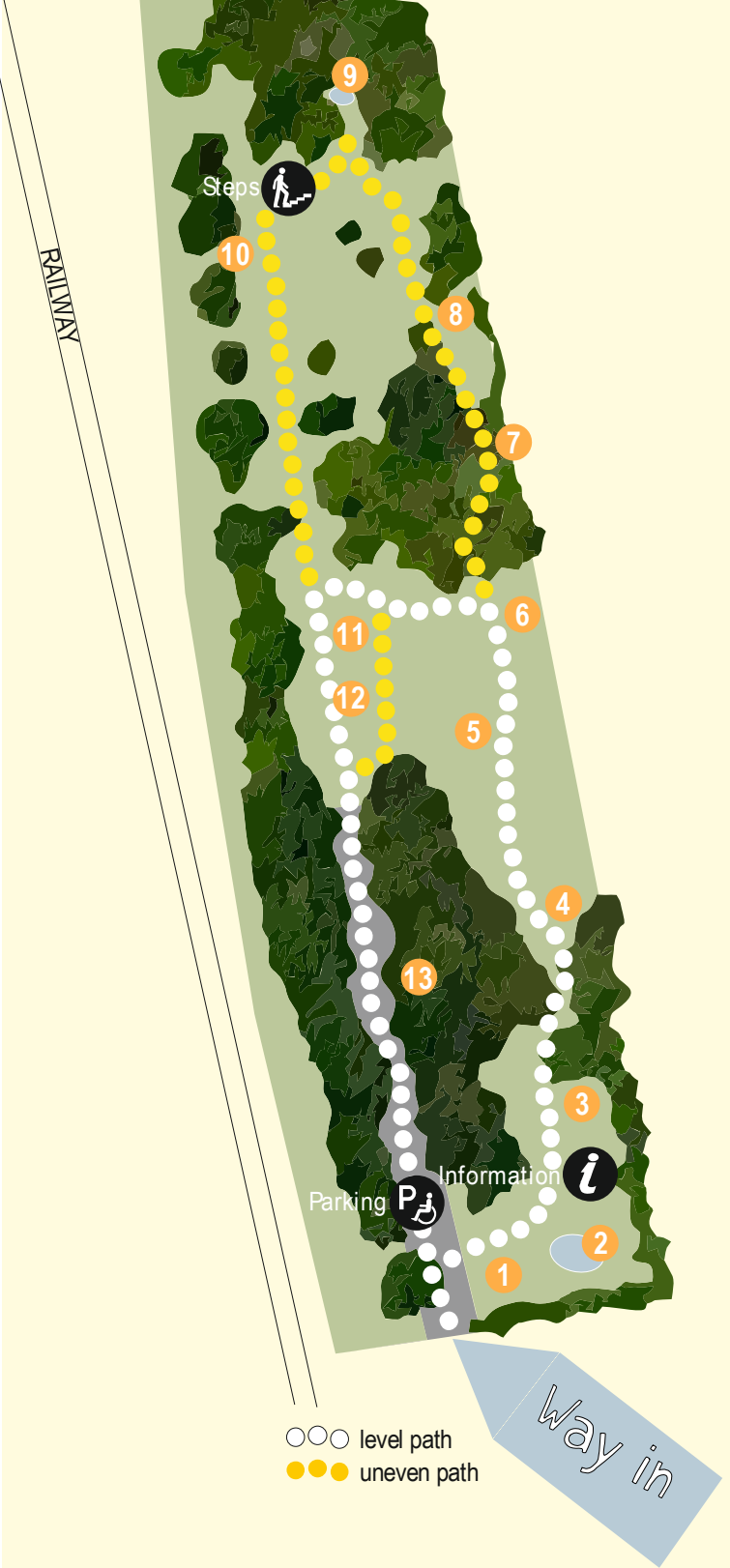
hoverfly



hoary ragwort

6 Water Treatment Plant Base

Here water from a borehole was treated for use in steam engines. Lime waste was spilt on the soil around.



- ○ ○ level path
- ● ● uneven path

way in

7 Hedges

We have planted hedges along the east and south fences of the Park. They provide shelter and screening, and food for invertebrates and birds. There are also areas of hazel which are managed by coppicing - cutting down to the ground every 5 to 7 years to provide poles.

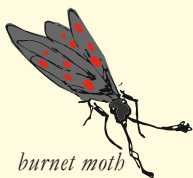
8 Garden

A garden can be a useful feeding area for wildlife. The plants growing here provide nectar and pollen for invertebrates, and berries for birds.



9 Brick Pit

When this small pond was cleared, after 70 years without water, rushes and reedmace appeared from buried seed. It is a favourite drinking place for small birds.



10 Ballast Area

Sidings from the main lines ran into the goods yard here. The ballast they were laid on has made ideal soil for bird's-foot trefoil. This is the food-plant of common blue butterflies, burnet moths and burnet companion moths.



11 Lime Waste Siding

Most of the lime waste was put into tankers and taken away for use as fertiliser. The "elephant's trunk", valve chamber and drain were found when we cleared the area. The bricks, all dug up on the Park, provide shelter for invertebrates.

12 Perching Wall

Feel free to sit down! The wall is built of brick and stone found in the Park, capped with paving stones from a demolished station platform. Many invertebrates shelter in it when the weather is cold and wet, and perch on it to warm up on chilly mornings.



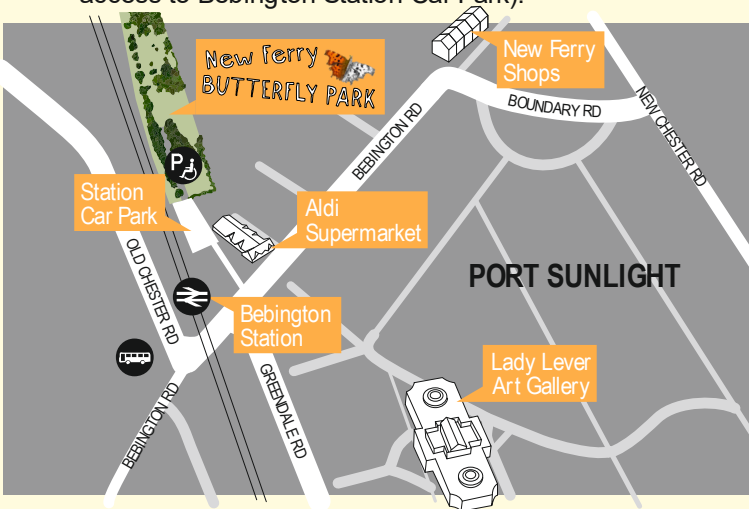
13 Birch & Willow

The trees grow along the coal siding line. They support many insects and provide pollen in early spring. Thinnings have been made into habitat piles where robins and wrens nest and hedgehogs hide.



How to get here

New Ferry Butterfly Park, Howell Road, CH62 5BJ
Access is from Bebington Road between the railway bridge and Aldi Supermarket (also the access to Bebington Station Car Park).



- Bebington
- 2, 38, 38A, 418
- Limited free car parking on site
- Free car parking on site for disabled visitors

We are open on Sundays from 12 to 4pm from May to mid-September, and by appointment. School and other groups are welcome. Contact Paul Loughnane 0151 645 8937 or Hilary Ash on 0151 327 5923.

Admission is free but donations are welcome. The Butterfly Park is run entirely by volunteers. New volunteers always welcome.



New Ferry Butterfly Park is a Cheshire Wildlife Trust reserve, run by its own committee.
wirralwildlife.org.uk
info@wirralwildlife.org.uk



Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 47 local Wildlife Trusts across the UK.
cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



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