

SPOTTED in the Churchyard

July 2026

Common green lacewing

Photo: Bean Trainer



FACT FILE

Latin name:

Chrysoperla carnea

Size: 1-1.5cm

Habitat: Grassland, freshwater, farmland, wetlands, woodlands, town and gardens

Conservation status: Least concern

The bug hotel has a new resident! The common green lacewing is a familiar garden insect with copper eyes, green, lacy wings, and a green body. It turns pinkish-brown in the autumn. You can see them between April and October. Female lacewings lay their eggs on a thread of hardened mucus attached to a leaf, so they are suspended in the air. It's a beneficial insect used in agriculture as a natural predator of various pest insects including aphids and caterpillars. Adults will hibernate over winter, often in buildings. Adult lacewings have ears at the base of their wings. They can hear bats echolocation signals and then close their wings up to appear smaller and avoid getting eaten, which I think is very cool! One slightly gross but amazing fact is once they have sucked all the juices out of an aphid, the larvae of some lacewing species use the dried out bodies as camouflage, sticking the skins to their own backs and hunting down more aphid-prey!

Brown argus

FACT FILE

Latin name: *Aricia agestis*

Length: 25-31mm

Habitat: Sunny habitats like heathland, meadows, woodland clearings, and field margins.

Conservation status: Least concern



This small bronze-brown butterfly is seen from May to September. It is quite a small butterfly with a wingspan of around 25-31mm. Originally reliant on common rock rose, caterpillars now feed on doves foot crane's-bill and common storks-bill. The adults feed on common birds-foot trefoil, buttercups, dandelions and white clover. I found this one around the side of the churchyard near the yew tree. It is a first for the churchyard that I know of so I'm glad it landed long enough for me to grab this shot before it flew away! It is one of my favourites because it is classified as a 'blue' butterfly along with Holly blue etc, despite not being blue at all! Unlike most 'blues', the brown argus has no blue scales on its upper side. The caterpillar is a small, slug-like larva. It is highly camouflaged, featuring a green body with faint yellow dorsal stripes and a tiny, shining black head. Fully grown, it reaches about 15mm in length.