



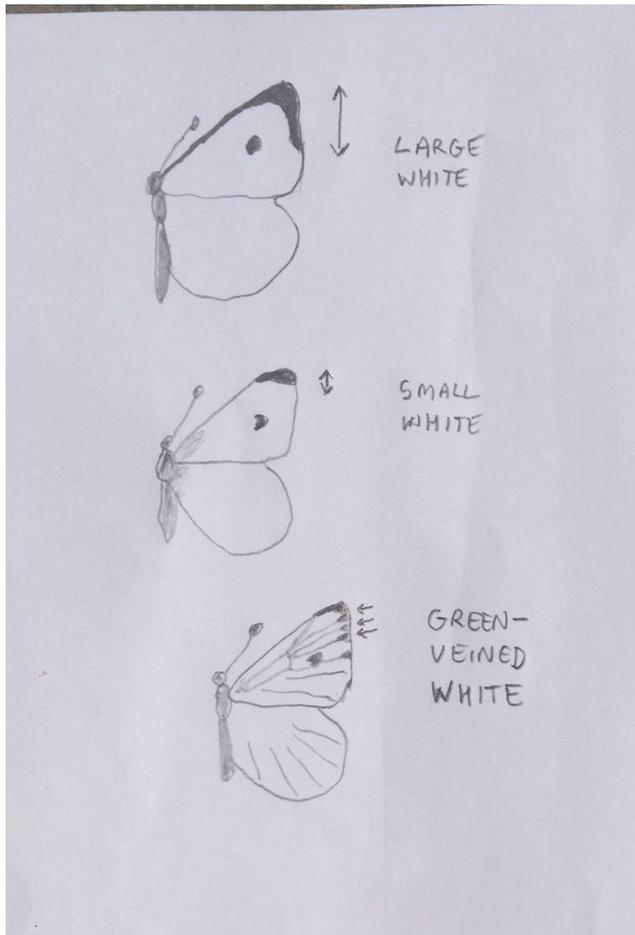
BEESTON WILDLIFE GROUP

Identifying White Butterflies

In Britain we have three species of (common) white butterflies:

Large White, Small White, Green-veined White - there is **NO** such species as **CABBAGE WHITE!**

All three species can be seen flying together and can be seen until about the first week in October. It is very easy to tell them apart if you know what to look for.



Large White: Like its name suggests, Large White is bigger than the other two species, but unless they are nearby for comparison, that can cause confusion. Look for the black mark on the corner of the wing - it continues to half way down the wing. In the other two species the corner mark(s) are much smaller.

Small white: Small White is the same size as Green-veined White, about 2/3 the size of Large White. Small White only has a small grey mark in the corner of the wing; it never goes as far as half way down, like in Large White. It only has one mark in the corner, unlike the Green-veined White, which has several marks.

Green-veined White: The same size as Small White, this species has several grey marks in the corner of the wing that look like dark triangles. This species also has dark veins (not green – it should be called Dark-veined White!). Small White has a white background colour; Green-veined often looks dirty-white due to the dark veins.

That is it – simple!

There are differences in the number of spots on the upper wings; you can use these to sex the butterflies. In Large White one or no spots on each wing is a male, Two spots, female. In Small and Green-veined White: One spot = Male, Two spots = Female.

The best way to learn these is to get out and have a look.

And remember - **THERE IS NO SUCH BUTTERFLY AS CABBAGE WHITE!!**