

## LARGE WHITE *Pieris brassicae* (ABH 58.006)

This butterfly is the 'cabbage white' familiar from school biology lessons but very unwelcome in gardens as a pest of cultivated cabbages. It is widespread in the region, including the islands, but with a bias towards areas of human habitation. It is Shetland's only resident butterfly.



Michael Taylor

**Distribution trend.** Numbers fluctuate markedly from year to year, influenced by a strong input of migratory individuals in certain years. There has been little change in distribution since the previous atlas (2007).

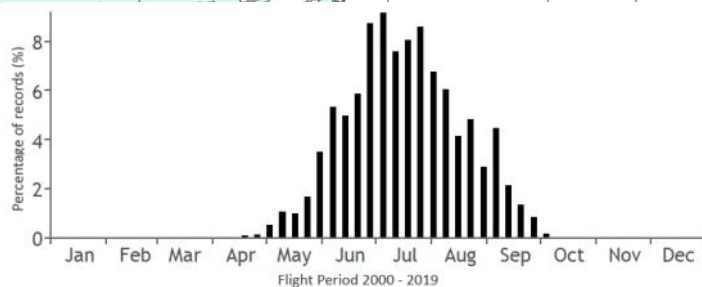
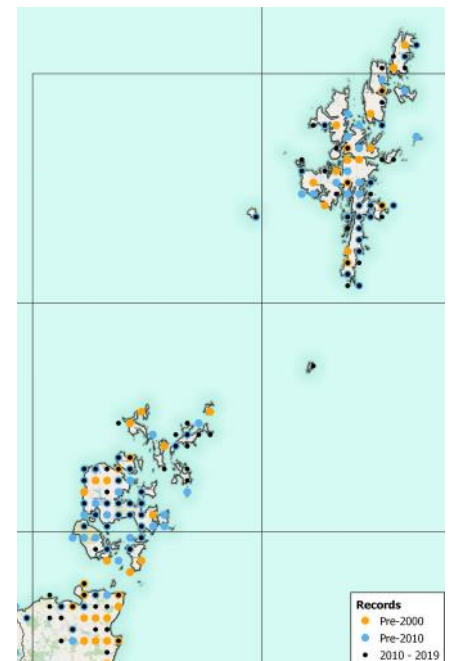
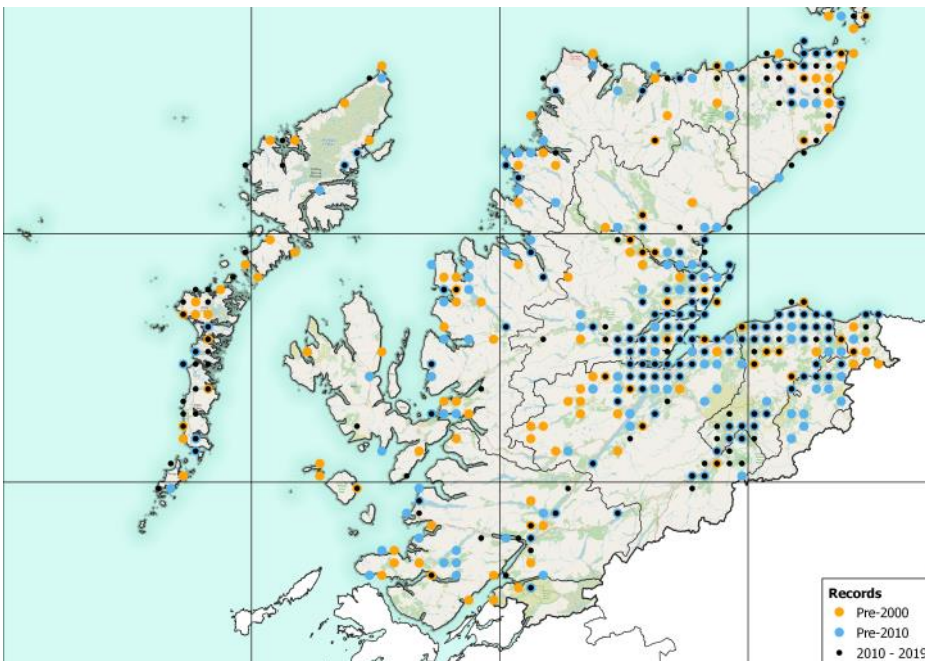
**Habitat.** Wide-ranging in areas of gardens and cultivated crops, much more rarely straying into upland or uninhabited areas.

**Flight period.** Mid-April to early September.

**Larval food plants.** Cabbage *Brassica oleracea* and other cultivated species of the family Cruciferae. Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus* is also used.

**Appearance and behaviour.** Though distinctly larger than Green-veined or Small Whites, this may sometimes be confused with either of these species at a casual sighting. The differences are apparent in the photographs on page 39. One of the most obvious differences is in the black tip of the forewing, which extends further down the outer wing margin in this than in the Small White.

The familiar black and yellow caterpillars are very damaging to garden cabbages.



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	1141
2000 - 2009	1708
2010 - 2019	1726



Catriona Matheson



Dean Morley



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