Butterfly
Local Priority Species

Dingy Skipper UKBAP & S41 priority species; Red List - Vulnerable.
Dingy Skipper is an inconspicuous, well-camouflaged small brown and grey butterfly. It basks on bare ground with wings spread wide. In dull weather or at night it perches on the top of dead flowerheads in a moth-like fashion.

Dingy Skipper is scarce and localised in distribution in Barnsley from Penistone eastwards.

Colonies occur in a range of open sunny habitats. The scattered occasional colonies in Barnsley are mainly found on waste ground, spoil heaps, pit stacks, disused railway and other workings, and sparsely vegetated roadside verges.

Suitable habitat conditions occur where larval food-plants such as Birdsfoot Trefoil, grow in a sparse sward often with patches of bare ground in a sunny, sheltered situation. Taller vegetation is required for shelter and roosting.

There is one generation a year, with adults usually flying from early May until the end of June. In hot summers there may be a partial second brood in August at some sites.

Links with Local Priority Habitats:
Open Mosaic on Previously Developed Land; Built Environment. Verges. Potentially Mixed Deciduous Woodland; Lowland Heath.

White-Letter Hairstreak UKBAP & S41 priority species; Red List - Endangered.
Protected by Schedule 5 Wildlife & Countryside Act.
White-letter Hairstreak is a small/medium-sized, elm-dependent butterfly with the erratic, spiralling flight typical of hairstreaks. It always lands with closed, beige-brown wings, with a characteristic white letter W on the underside. On its rear wings it has tails next to a decreasing orange band with black spots

White-lettered Hairstreak is scarce and highly localised in Barnsley.

White-letter Hairstreak requires elm trees, mainly Wych Elm in Barnsley. It is found along woodland rides with mature elm trees, in sheltered hedgerows where elm suckers grow well or on isolated, mature elm trees when they remain.

Suitable habitat conditions as well as elm trees include open, sunny positions with flowers below for nectar,

The White-lettered Hairstreak spends much of its time high in the tree canopy feeding on aphid 'honeydew'. In early morning or late afternoon, adults will usually descend for nectar from nearby flowers, favouring Creeping Thistle and Bramble.

Its larvae feed on elm flower buds and leaves.

There is one generation a year, with adults usually flying from late June to mid August.

It is a fairly sedentary species, hardly moving from closely situated treetops.

Links with Local Priority Habitats:
Mixed deciduous woodland, Hedgerows, Built Environment gardens and roadsides with mature elm trees.

Small Heath UKBAP & S41 priority species; Red List- Near Threatened.
Small Heath is a small orange and pale grey inconspicuous butterfly; it flies characteristically with a drunken flight pattern, erratically, low and fast.Its underside shows a visible eye-spot surrounded by a pale ring at the tip; its hindwing is banded with brown, greys and cream.

Small Heath is confined to localised, self-contained colonies of limited size in Barnsley but some individuals do wander.

Small Heath is mainly found in Barnsley on open well-drained grassland and heathland. It benefits from a sunny, sheltered situation and patches of bare ground

However it can be found on road verges and farm tracks as well as waste ground, old quarries, pit stacks, disused workings and railway embankments and roadside verges. It can even occasionally be found in gardens and woodland glades.

Suitable habitat conditions occur where larval food plants such as fine-leaved grasses, especially Sheep's Fescue, meadow grasses and bents are found. .

Competing males gather in 'leks' in open grassland close to landmarks such as bushes,or trees. There are two generations a year, with adults usually flying from early May until late July and a second brood from early August to mid October.

Adults usually live only 7 days approx. Eggs are laid low down in the sward.

Links with Local Priority habitats:
Open Mosaic on Previously Developed Land, Unimproved or semi-improved grassland, Verges, Lowland Heath, Brown-field sites Potentially Mixed Deciduous Woodland Rides.

Small Blue UKBAP & S41 priority species; Red List. Near Threatened.
Protected under Schedule 5 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

UK's smallest butterfly, an inconspicuous, often overlooked very small butterfly with smoky black/dark brown upper wings with silvery-blue undersides. Males have a dusting of blue scales on the upper side. Its flight is fluttery, weak and low.

Small Blue is very scarce and localised in Barnsley restricted to its NE edge.

Discreet colonies favour sheltered, south-facing grassland sites with sparse or eroding vegetation where Kidney Vetch can become established and abundant.

The best habitat conditions typically contain a mosaic of short and tall vegetation and patches of light scrub. Taller vegetation is required for shelter and roosting.

These conditions are found on poor, disturbed soils, locally sandy and elsewhere usually limestone or chalk..

Such sites may be found in man-made habitats such as brownfield sites, quarries, road embankments, railway-tracks etc.

Both sexes may be found from late afternoon onwards in communal roosts, facing head down in long grass.

Adults nectar on Bird's Foot Trefoil or Kidney Vetch and larvae consume young Kidney Vetch flower buds.

Extremely sedentary, adults rarely fly further than 40 metres from where they were born but in exceptional hot years will disperse over a few hundred metres.

There is one generation a year, with adults usually flying from mid May to early July. In hot summers there may be a partial second brood in August.

Links with Local Priority habitats:
Open Mosaic on Previously Developed.
Built Environment Brownfield Sites

Wall. UKBAP & S41 priority species; Red List Near Threatened
Widespread but marked decline in UK. BC Conservation Priority: High.

A medium-sized, fast, strong and low flying, orange/brown butterfly. Its golden wings are marked with black/brown markings and white-pupilled eye-spots. Undersides are beautifully patterned with a series of subtle and intricate patterns of grey/brown zig-zag stripes, eye-spots and markings. Restless by nature, males patrol alongside walls in search of females. The larger females are less active.

Wall butterfly is mainly found west of Penistone in the farmed upland fringe.

Colonies are found in areas of dry, unfertilised grassland and patches of bare stony ground or stone walls where this heat-seeking butterfly can bask in the sun.

The colonies in Barnsley are mainly found on impoverished hillsides and on upland, long, linear, rough farm tracks, paths and bridleways alongside dry stone walls skirted with nectar-rich flowers such as creeping thistle, bramble, dandelion and hawkweed.

Suitable habitat conditions occur where larval food plants grow, including a variety of short grasses, including Bents, Yorkshire-Fog, Tor Grass, Wavy Hair Grass, Purple Moor Grass and Cock's-Foot.

It benefits from patches of bare stony ground in a sunny, sheltered situation

Eggs are laid in dry grass or broken/slipped soil or turf. The larvae eat the tender grass.

There are usually two full generations a year, with adults usually flying from early May until the start of June. A more numerous second brood occurs from late July to mid September. Exceptionally, in hot summers a partial third brood may occur.

Links with Local Priority Habitats:
Open Mosaic on Previously Developed Land
Dry Unimproved or semi-improved grassland.
Acid Grassland/Heath mosaic
Derelict Land in Built Environment