

Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala* (Linnaeus)

Look out for the Buff-tip in your garden, woodlands, hedgerows and scrub from May to July. Relatively close inspection may be needed however, as this species looks very much like a broken birch twig when found at rest on vegetation during the day.



Photograph David Green/Butterfly Conservation

The buff blotches on the tip of the forewing and the front of the thorax characterise this moth and give the species its clever camouflage. Considerable numbers of this moth may also be attracted to light sources at night.

The caterpillars of the Buff-tip are usually a common

sight on bushes and small trees, feeding sometimes in large groups from July to October, primarily on willows, birches, oaks and Hazel, but they have been recorded feeding on a variety of other trees and bushes.

The caterpillars tend to be black in colour with yellow stripes running the length and width of their body, with tufted hairs projecting from the side of the body.



Photograph Martin Warren/Butterfly Conservation

The Buff-tip is a resident moth, common throughout England and Wales but becoming more local in Scotland.