



GORTON HERITAGE TRAIL

The Gore Brook Valley Conservation Area

The Butterfly Garden



This area has been created from waste land as a small sanctuary for Butterflies, and planted with plants that they like:

Buddleja, Verbena, Sedum, Valerian, Asters, Coreopsis

The stones have been set for the butterflies to sunbathe as the stones become warm in the sunshine

Like many animals today butterflies are threatened by a loss of wild habitat, pollution and climate change

The world would be a sadder, emptier place without the beauty of butterflies – **which is why we have created this Butterfly Garden**

Butterflies and moths are closely related. Butterflies evolved from moths about 60 million years ago

The difference between moths and butterflies is that butterflies are more colourful and active during the day and tend to fold their wings upright whilst moths favour the dark, are duller and fold their wings flat on their back

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly is in 4 stages:

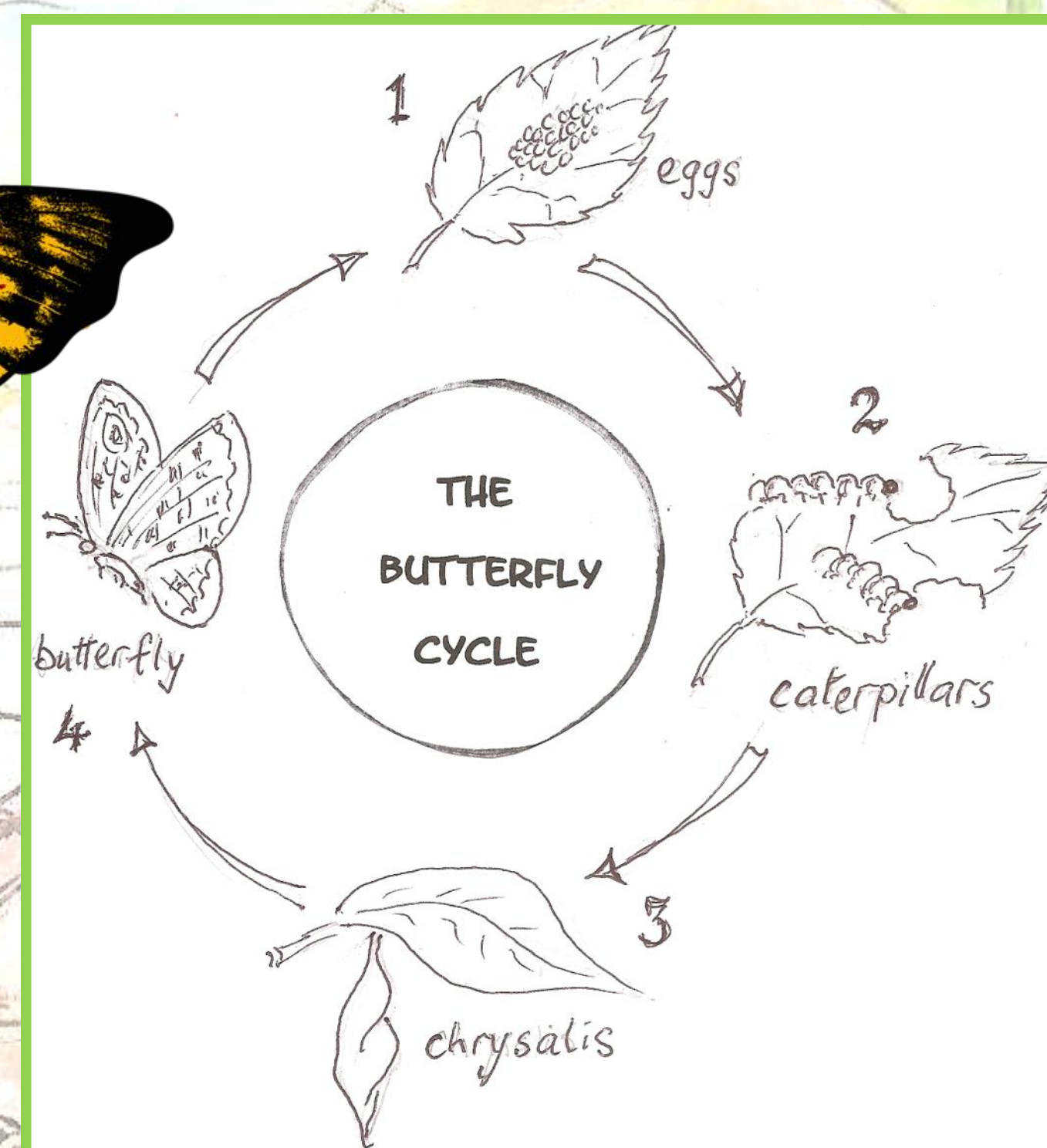
1. The adult butterfly lays **eggs** on plant leaves which will provide food for the larvae
2. The eggs hatch into **larvae or caterpillars** which grow very rapidly spending most of their time eating
3. When they have become fully grown the caterpillar stops eating and hangs under a leaf where it hardens into a **chrysalis**
4. In time the chrysalis splits open and a **butterfly** crawls out. As soon as its wings have expanded and dried it flies off

Butterflies mainly appear in summer attracted by the buttercups and flowers of meadows which provide them with the nectar on which they live

There are 59 species of butterfly which breed in Britain though there are many thousand worldwide

Butterflies are insects with large colourful wings that are made up of thousands of minute tiles which can appear like dust when touched

Butterflies may look delicate but they can fly thousands of miles. The Painted Lady flies from North Africa to Britain and back every year – about 5,000 miles



Please scan the QR code below to view our Butterfly ID Guide, for the species you may find here in our Garden:

