

Orkney

Naturetrek Tour Report

21st – 27th June 2025



Fragrant Orchid



Little Tern



Great Yellow Bumblebee



Scottish Primrose

Tour report by Glyn Evans



Naturetrek

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Tour participants: Glyn Evans (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

While much of the land on Orkney is given over to farming (which hosts massive populations of breeding birds), there are still some mouthwatering natural habitats too, with some lovely marsh, heath and coastal locations, replete with special species to enjoy. We would start the tour on the summer solstice, with a sunset time of 10.40pm or thereabouts.

Day 1

Saturday 21st June

All clients were present at the 3.20pm rendezvous, so after a very quick introduction, we headed off to the Ring of Brodgar, intending to stop along the way at Stenness to see the impressive stones there.

The day had seen a bright start carried over from yesterday's sun, but as we pulled away from Kirkwall, we drove into something of a mist. We got our eye in on some of the roadside birds: Oystercatcher, corvids, Meadow Pipits and gulls, but then saw a Great Skua marauding through Finstown, before deciding not to view the stones at Stenness today, as a coach had just unloaded a crowd ahead of us.

We slowed at the causeway to watch the half dozen pairs of Arctic Terns breeding there and, bizarrely, an Australian Black Swan feeding just a few metres from the road. As we arrived at Brodgar, the skies had darkened and the Ring was dramatically lit. The damp habitat close to the car park supported a nice variety of wild plants, including Yellow Rattle, Ragged Robin and Northern Marsh Orchid, with the latter looking particularly resplendent. A Common Sandpiper betrayed its presence with a peeping call on the shore of the Loch of Harray, and Fulmars patrolled the shoreline stiffly.

Skylarks sang despite the mizzle that then developed, but then a proper rain shower justified everyone's precautionary clothing, with another brief shower causing a temporary halt even to the lone piper in the car park!

We stopped at Stenness, by which time the rain had stopped and the skies were brightening. A Great Skua trailed with it a number of irate Arctic Terns, and Steve saw a diver drop into Loch of Stenness, which revealed itself to be a Red-throated. We had not had a bad start. We had an hour's rest back at the hotel, dinner, and then an early night for some after a long day's travel.

Day 2

Sunday 22nd June

Today explored the north-west part of the mainland, taking an anticlockwise route starting at RSPB Cottascarth, where the early morning thundery rain had cleared by the time we reached the car park. Almost immediately we got out of the van, a male Hen Harrier flew close by and then away from us, clearly on the hunt. Heath Spotted Orchids featured by the track. Redpolls flew around, jangling their presence overhead, and Skylarks were celebrating the dry spell also. As we got to the hide, a female Cuckoo flew out of the little garden and away down the valley: a good start.

We waited patiently for more exciting birds to appear, but only managed to add Stonechat to the tally, with Wood Pigeons doing their best to distract us into watching them. The superstitious practice of giving ten minutes notice to leave bore no last-minute fruits, so after noting one or two more Redpolls on the way back to the car park, we then headed off for Birsay Moors to stop at the hide beneath the imposing wind turbines. Here, we would expect to see a pair of Red-throated Divers which breed at the site, but an early quick scan of the lochan revealed only Greylag Geese. Then someone spotted a large brown bird floating toward the left edge of the lochan, which was identified as a Great Skua (hereinafter, Bonxie). The skua took off, apparently on a sortie elsewhere, but within a few minutes, returned with another, immaculately marked bird for a fly-through over the lochan. It stayed behind while its accomplice headed off out to sea.

A carcass on the hillside looked very much like it might have been a Red-throated Diver. We checked the sightings board; there were no dates for reference, but two divers had been recorded on a previous visit. The most recent entry in the visitors' book mentioned only one diver. We waited another twenty minutes while brighter skies developed before returning to the van, without seeing any divers. We drove out of the car park, and just as we were about to head back down the track, a Red-throated Diver flew in! An executive decision was made to turn back and spend lunchtime in the hide watching the diver, which would surely give good views.

It did, for several minutes before drifting off to sleep in the middle of the lochan, without having offered anything to a sitting mate on a nest. Maybe that carcass had been a diver after all.

We headed into Birsay to take advantage of facilities and to have a little look around at the old palace ruins and the church. Sand Martins and a Sedge Warbler were around the burn at the bridge. We drove around and down the track to look at the Broch, in steady rain. We didn't get out of the van, but noted several Fulmars nesting on the cliffs around the bay, and three Eiders in the water. Arctic Terns also filed past.

The rain didn't look like abating any time soon, so we decided to put some miles on the clock, driving out towards Marwick Head before our final intended stop at Yesnaby. We drove down the track towards Marwick Head car park, where the rain was still falling steadily. Nothing was seen in the bay, so we turned away, intent on visiting Yesnaby. But then I was reminded of the hide at the Loons nature reserve, and we went there. This turned out to be a good decision. First, there were Tufted Ducks, Mallards, a single female Gadwall, a female Wigeon and a pair of Shoveler in front of the hide. A mystery bird disappeared before its identity could be confirmed, but a client's pen sketch was a brilliant illustration of a juvenile Coot! Sedge Warblers were constantly flying around the tops of the reeds, and Snipe were distantly performing their drumming display in flight. In the distance, Oystercatchers were seen with Common Redshanks and at last, a couple of Black-tailed Godwits. Then a pair of dark-morph Arctic Skuas briefly flew through, creating a moment of mayhem before they exited stage left and right.

This stop had prevented us from getting wet and had also given us a good variety of birds, but now the skies were brightening, so we headed for our last stop at Yesnaby. While the sun wasn't shining when we got there, at least it looked likely to stay dry. We decided to spend forty minutes here, with a short walk along the cliff tops to observe a few seabirds. We saw Fulmar, Gannet, Arctic Tern, Kittiwake, a flock of Razorbills and more distant Guillemots, with several Bonxies patrolling too. A female Wheatear was seen to feed a well-grown juvenile, and a couple of Rock Pipits also announced their presence.

A day which had featured a good variety of birds was capped off nicely when a beautifully marked Short-eared Owl was found hunting on the road approaching Kirkwall! Luckily, there was no-one behind us, so we reversed the van to a place where we are able to watch it for a couple of minutes.

Day 3

Monday 23rd June

Today we had our boat trip to Westray. The hotel kindly prepared a bagged breakfast for us all, with the intention that we would find somewhere on Westray for lunch. The forecast was for a wet first half of the day, and it turned out to be absolutely correct. And windy, too. Yes, Orcadians would have called this a “breeze”, but we, in anticipation of a trip to Noup Head, were wondering if we’d be able to stand up in it!

Knowing we’d be seeing seabirds close up on the trip, we didn’t bother much with a long watch from the boat, but as we pulled into Westray terminal at Rapness, the air was significantly damp. We got to Castle o’ Burrian quickly enough, but no-one really fancied venturing out in the cold and wet, knowing that the weather was likely to be better later, so we decided to grab a coffee somewhere to run down the time.

After the first closed café of the extended sabbath, we decided to return to Rapness, where the slightly less pious Richan’s Retreat welcomed us for tea, coffee and a huge block of carrot cake, with the naturalised Mancunian, Paul, the proprietor, regaling us with some local tales. We were sent off with a recommendation to lunch at the Hotel in Pierowall, which we duly did, as it was still raining as we passed Castle o’ Burrian again.

Lunch was available at noon, and we were there. By the time we had finished, the rain had mercifully stopped, so we had only the “breeze” to contend with as we approached Noup Head, noting the amazing waterspouts coming up and over the cliffs, indicating the strength and the direction of said “breeze”. We parked by the lighthouse, noting a pair of Arctic Terns apparently nesting on some rocks close to the track on the way up.

We first walked up the hill and found a spot fairly well sheltered from the wind, but only three metres away from a sheer drop. Only one client felt able to join me for close views of Gannets, Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes, Bonxies, Great Black-backed Gulls and the odd Shag.

There were also a few sightings of Arctic Skua, but these didn’t seem to want to come around the headland towards us, so we opted to walk back past the lighthouse and around to the other side, where we found a natural little open bunker in which to crouch and enjoy more seabirds at close range, with Razorbills almost within touching distance as they happily rode the draughts. Arctic Skuas were patrolling by the minute, so all the key features differentiating them from the brutish Bonxies were easily observed.

The stay was so enthralling that we hadn’t noticed we were getting a little chilled, such that once some clients got back in the warm van, some weren’t going to go out again. There was no need to worry. Puffins were within a few metres of the path along the clifftop, and Fulmars also huddled on the cliff. Once great views had been gleaned, some returned to the van quite quickly, so the anticipated eighty minutes here were cut short, but with everyone happy with their views. A Grey Seal and a single Sandwich Tern bade us farewell from the bay.

Richan's Retreat repeated the glorious refreshments as we rode out yet another spell of near horizontal mizzle. We had done quite well these last two days working around the weather, and had seen (and consumed) some lovely things. Later, dinner was enjoyed at 8.00pm and checklists were held over until tomorrow.

Day 4

Tuesday 24th June

Today we went south, though not in the metaphorical sense! A weather forecast that suggested a slow improvement during the day was encouraging after yesterday's trial. We allowed some leeway for those who needed a little more sleep, requiring a later breakfast, but were still on the road with lunches onboard by 9.30am, heading first for the Italian Chapel. While some headed straight for the beautiful chapel, others tarried or reemerged, to observe Ringed Plovers with young, Common and Black Guillemots in the bay, and Common and Sandwich Terns patrolling around. A second helping of Fulmars and Kittiwakes in this different setting allowed nicer views in the calm, brightening weather. As people started to emerge from the chapel, they were ushered over to the telescope, now trained on a yearling Great Northern Diver over the far side of the bay; this was our first of the tour.

We made a further stop on the causeway above Burray where Rock Pipits played peek-a-boo below us and Eiders just sat still and relied on camouflage. Arctic Terns flew over, with long, flexible tail streamers, contrasting with the slightly shorter, stiffer ones of Common Tern, of which two roosted on a rock, close enough for everyone to see the longer legs and black-tipped bill through the scope. Bonxies flew menacingly low overhead, as did Fulmars and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Before moving on to the "Little Tern beach", we dived into a café at the Orkney Fossil and Heritage Centre, where fortunately, we weren't the only fossils present. The day was now warm and sunny, so we went outside with refreshments, which turned out to be a good move. We looked down at the loch below, where we found a drake Red-breasted Merganser among the Tufted Ducks. Then Lesley beckoned me over to where the geraniums held a couple of bumblebees: WOOHOO! One of them was a Great Yellow Bumblebee! Clearly ravenous after yesterday's difficulties, it was gorging on the nectar provided, allowing everyone to admire and record its substantial presence!

We then arrived at the beach with the Viking totem pole, intent on finding Little Terns as the main exhibit. As we walked to the beach, another Great Northern Diver, this one a more mature specimen than the previous one, was quite close in, so we set up the scope to watch it in turn, and we then heard the first calls from the Little Terns. This year, it seemed, the terns had nested closer to the shore, so there were fence posts banged into the sand indicating the no-go threshold. We needn't have worried. A couple with two dogs filed past the terns before we set off, but they settled quickly enough for us to be able to sidle past at good enough range for scope-filling views of them settled on the sand.

A walk to the far side of the beach yielded another Great Northern Diver, this time a bird in adult plumage, before we returned for another view of the terns, comparing their size and shape with the Arctic Terns commuting over the strand. Meadow Brown butterflies flitted around the Marram Grass, and a single Dark Green Fritillary was an unexpected bonus. A dark specimen of a Yellow Shell moth had me scratching my head until a close-up photo was captured.

Lunch was later than planned after such a lovely beach walk; one client had a quick dip in the sea! The nearby Harbour Seal didn't seem to mind sharing that particular corner of the bay.

After lunch, we headed further south, for what was intended to be a drive around for raptors. We stopped at Olad summit car park for a scan, but the only raptor was a Kestrel; however, the bank by the car park turned out to be a treasure trove of plants, with Northern Marsh Orchid, an unnamed hybrid orchid, Common Twayblade and Fragrant Orchid! Two pristine male Common Blue butterflies scrapped for the best feed.

The drive around afterwards for more raptors was abandoned when a call for facilities required a short reroute, heading back north. I decided to give RSPB Hobbister a quick visit before returning to the hotel, so after a quick loo stop at St Margaret's Hope, we sped off to give ourselves a forty-minute taster session while the sun still had some strength.

We soon heard Redpolls flying around, and a Sedge Warbler showed briefly while singing from a Willow bush. We walked down to the gate where the Redpolls continued to tease us with jangling flypasts, before eventually conceding distant views. A male Hen Harrier then appeared some distance away, before turning and giving us a flypast at very reasonable distance!

The day then had a satisfying finale, as we first saw a big female Peregrine fly off with substantial prey, followed by a sighting of the male Hen Harrier, and lastly, a Raven, which appeared interested in the whereabouts of the harrier and its meal.

We returned to the hotel in time for some of us to listen to the last half hour of England's historic successful run chase to beat India in the cricket, to round off a very nice day out.

Day 5

Wednesday 25th June

As Hobbister had been so pleasant the previous evening, we decided to start there, under pale grey skies. A male Hen Harrier cruised past before we reached the car park and this time, the Sedge Warbler was a little showier. Redpolls again flew around us, but apart from one bird that fed for a couple of minutes on a nearby clump of cotton grass, the rest of them failed to pose close by. We did, however, enjoy reasonable view, of a Willow Warbler which sang as the temperature warmed, and the skies lifted.

The intention was then to cross the causeway at Stenness and drive clockwise around the middle part of the mainland, to get a good view of the Isle of Hoy before moving on to Yesnaby for lunchtime with an attempt for Scottish Primrose later, acting on information received.

We reached a high point in the road just beyond Houton, from which we viewed the Isle of Hoy, hoping for a glimpse of one of the White-tailed Eagles known to breed there. However, the twenty-minute vigil was fruitless. We stopped again by a tiny viaduct between two lochs, where we pulled up next to a couple in a camper van, apparently doing a traffic survey. Here we found a family of Red-breasted Mergansers and a couple of Red-throated Divers, while a splendid male Reed Bunting sang from a nearby willow.

Lunch didn't take long, and we were off looking for the primroses. As we stopped to have another look at the directions, we became aware of a scattering of small pink flowers beside us. Boom! Here they were! We enjoyed fifteen minutes marvelling at the diminutive flowers, which were interspersed with Grass-of-Parnassus!

We hadn't expected it to be quite so easy, so we decided to leave early for Skara Brae, to try and get in earlier than our allocated 4.00pm slot. A quick chat with the ladies at the front desk did the trick, such that by the time everyone had come out of the toilet, I was able to distribute tickets at around 2.00pm, with an agreement to reconvene at 4.00pm. Everyone much enjoyed this fantastic, ancient settlement.

The hotel was only a half-hour drive away, give or take, so, rather than finish today at just after 4.30pm, we drove to Scapa beach for a stroll on the sand, during which we added a single Sandwich Tern to the day list. And we had had another day without getting wet!

Day 6

Thursday 26th June

Today was 'mop-up day', and another one with an improving forecast. It also featured a trip to Maeshowe at 2.00pm, and we hadn't yet visited the eastern side of the mainland which features the Gloup and Mull Head, so we planned to finish there. In terms of species to catch up on, we had done reasonably well, so we felt no great pressure to mount a do-or-die campaign for anything.

The rain was steady enough to get us wet when we dashed into Tesco in Kirkwall and was still falling as we set off for The Loons, although it was becoming lighter as we arrived.

The hills to our right were the indicator of what was to come and for the most part, we were shrouded in cloud or the next little squall. Knowing that the weather would improve, we waited until a more prolonged spell of brighter sky before we emerged, having bagged a good range of finds: Snipe displaying, Sedge Warblers pole dancing on the reeds, a Tufted Duck mother summoning her young, a flock of Teal, a distant Hen Harrier, flyover Arctic Skuas, displaying Curlews with bowed heads and a rather embarrassing first Buzzard of the week (initially called as a White-tailed Eagle, until we realised it was being mobbed not by Herring Gulls, but by Common Gulls!).

A quick loo stop and a satnav error delayed our arrival at Marwick Head, where we decided to have an hour to walk up to the head and enjoy the seabirds flying around. Juvenile Wheatears and Stonechats lined the wire fence, with Meadow Pipits on the way up and Eiders nursing their dark, fluffy broods in the bay. The blizzard of seabirds around the head started to materialise into recognisable species: Razorbill, Guillemot, Fulmar, Shag, Kittiwake, Gannet.

And Puffins. Evidently, Marwick Head has turf suitable for burrowing, which I later almost trampled after a somewhat aimless descent, looking backwards at the only genuine pale morph Arctic Skua of the trip marauding past the Head. The tiptoeing didn't have to last long though, and we just about had enough time, in bright sunshine, to eat lunches overlooking the bay, which were in some cases supplemented from the delightful "Anna Bakes" honesty box next to the car park.

We only pulled up once on the way to Maeshowe, to view a rather distant Short-eared Owl, quartering an area of rough grass two fields back from the road. We arrived in good time at Maeshowe and were treated to an excellent

guided tour by George from Sunderland, whose patter was both enthusiastic and entertaining. The trip took slightly longer than anticipated.

Despite a short stop to get everyone onto a client's find of a ringtail Hen Harrier, we made the Gloup in less than forty minutes, with only half that time required to return to Kirkwall.

The breeze had strengthened slightly, but we still found Common Blue, Green-veined White, Painted Lady and Red Admiral butterflies on the walk out to the Gloup. While some admired the chasm, others ventured further out to search the sea, and others went further still towards Mull Head, although the hour we had wasn't enough to make it there and back. While we were all together, a Swift suddenly appeared over the cliff!

Swallows and Sand Martins hawked low over the meadows, tacking into the breeze, and Shags appeared burnished with green in the sunlight. Fulmars squawked their greetings on the nearby crags of the Gloup, and Black Guillemots flew in and out with glistening sand eels. It was lovely way to finish the week in bright, breezy weather, after a glorious week in beautiful Orkney.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Canada Goose - I	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓				
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓				✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓				
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		✓				
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓				✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>					✓	
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>						✓
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓		✓	✓	
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓				
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i> 'domestica'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		H				H
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓				✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		✓				
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓				
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			✓			✓

I=Introduced		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	✓	✓			✓	
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>				✓		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						✓
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		✓				✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓		
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓			✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓			✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						H
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>					✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		✓		✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓			✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				✓	✓	✓

Mammals

		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
Orkney Vole	<i>Microtus arvalis orcadensis</i>					✓	
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Butterflies

		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>				✓	✓	✓
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓	✓	✓
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>				✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓		✓		✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				✓		

Moths

		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>				✓		
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>					✓	

Damselflies & dragonflies

		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>					✓	
Common Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>					✓	

Bees

		June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26
Great Yellow Bumblebee	<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>				✓	✓	
Northern White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus magnus</i>				✓	✓	✓
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>					✓	

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Common Hard Fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Common Lady Fern
<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Northern Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring Squill
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common Tormentil
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Common Osier
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Common Sycamore
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Common Scurvygrass
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Common Thrift
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Common Primrose
<i>Primula scotica</i>	Scottish Primrose
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Common Heather
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common Lousewort
<i>Euphrasia</i> agg.	Eyebright sp.
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Common Colt's-foot
<i>Senecio smithii</i>	Magellan Ragwort
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Sea Mayweed
<i>Lysimachia maritima</i>	Sea Milkwort
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Ashfodel
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	Marsh Lousewort
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Bird's Eye Pearlwort
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw
<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	Marsh Vetchling

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	Beach Lovage
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalyan Balsam
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Angelica
<i>Heracleum sibiricum</i>	Hogweed
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade