

Beginners Botany in Sussex

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th – 19th June 2026



1



2



The Seven Sisters



Yellow-horned Poppy

Tour report by Jonathan Mycock



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Jonathan Mycock (leader) with three Naturetrek clients

Summary

The aim of this tour was to introduce a basic understanding of botany to a keen group of Naturetrek clients. The tour covered the main families of flowering plants, together with a basic understanding of grasses, sedges and rushes. It included a little about the identification of plants species, the different plant communities found in a variety of habitats, and how plants are adapted to their environments. Each day a different landscape type was visited, to look at the plants typical of their various habitats. These included Ashdown Forest, Rye Harbour, Beachy Head, Cradle Valley and Seaford Head. Highlights included the stunning landscape at Seven Sisters, a profusion of chalk grassland plants including Round-headed Rampion; heathers and bog plants on Ashdown Forest and the vegetated shingle at Rye Harbour. Birds seen included Little, Common and Sandwich Terns, and we also heard Nightjar and Dartford Warbler. In addition, we enjoyed a wide range of butterflies and other invertebrates, such as the Large Velvet Ant!

Day 1

Monday 15th June

Hot and sunny, blue sky

Jonathan welcomed the three Naturetrek clients at the Tiger Inn, East Dean, in the early evening. Jonathan explained the format for the week ahead, then we sat down for a pleasant meal.

Day 2

Tuesday 16th June

Warm and sunny, blue sky, with a light breeze; cloudy later

After a hearty breakfast, we drove to Ashdown Forest, where our first port of call was Old Lodge, a Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Here we looked at the three different types of heathers: Common Heather (or Ling), Bell Heather and Cross-leaved Heath. We saw a singing Common Whitethroat, and heard a Willow Warbler. The acid grassland held Tormentil, and a variety of grasses, sedges and rushes. Our walk back to the van produced a rich roadside flora, including Common Spotted Orchid.

We then drove on to a place known as The Hollies, where we parked and enjoyed our picnic lunch. Afterwards, we walked down the slope to a memorial for the crew of a crashed Second World War Wellington bomber, close to which we heard a Dartford Warbler singing from a stand of Common Gorse. Nearby, a patch of valley mire held the bright yellow spikes of Bog Asphodel and the fluffy heads of Cotton Grass, waving in the breeze. The edge of the Birch woodland had Common Cow-wheat, while downhill, the narrow stream was bordered with clumps of Hard and Male Ferns. Butterflies included Silver-studded Blue (a heathland specialist), Small Heath and Small Skipper. Thanks to Alan's expertise, we found several webs of Labyrinth Spider. We then returned up the hill to the minibus, and made our way back to East Dean. After another enjoyable dinner, we completed the checklist, before retiring for the evening.

Day 3

Wednesday 17th June

Cloudy at first, then warm and sunny, south-west wind

Soon after breakfast, we headed off towards Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Upon arrival, we parked in the large car park and set off on the path onto the reserve. We were soon identifying some of the tall plants growing alongside the path, which included Alexanders, Black Mustard, Bristly Oxtongue, Knotgrass and Sea Beet. On the left (east) side of the path, the tidal saltmarsh was dominated by Sea Purslane, a plant adapted to grow in saline conditions. A path off to the right (west) had a flower-rich slope below it, and here we found an abundance of Pyramidal Orchids, a few Common-spotted Orchids, and Fragrant Agrimony, Common Mullein, Goat's Beard and Viper's Bugloss. Numerous butterflies included Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Common Blues and Essex Skippers. Close to the wet ditch, we watched a Sedge Warbler singing from a Hawthorn bush, while nearby, a Lesser Whitethroat proved more secretive.

We walked on to the Sussex Wildlife Trust's reserve visitor centre and cafe, where we had planned to have an early lunch. Unfortunately, however, the whole building was closed due to staff training. We resolved to continue and eat later, since we had all had a large breakfast at the Tiger Inn. We picked out Glasswort growing on the edges of the shallow pools. Beyond the visitor centre, a fenced strip of vegetated shingle held plants typical of this habitat, including Sea Kale and Yellow-horned Poppy. Further on, we found a large patch of Rottingdean Sea-lavender, together with Sea Sandwort. Inland, several Rabbits were seen frolicking inside the reserve fence, and we found some patches of Biting Stonecrop, Sea Campion and Sea Heath close to the path. Shorebirds with young included several pairs of noisy Oystercatchers, and Common and Sandwich Terns. We also saw a few pairs of diminutive Little Terns returning with small fish for their young.

Insects included Cinnabar Moth caterpillars, and the wasp *Amblytes ormitorius*. We then walked to Rye Harbour, just in time to find the small café closing, but we were able to order drinks and snacks before making the long return journey to East Dean. In the evening, we enjoyed a delicious dinner, and then completed the checklist before heading to bed.

Day 4

Thursday 18th June

Low cloud at first, sunny spells later; heavy rain early afternoon, then clear and sunny in the evening

After breakfast, we drove the short distance to Beachy Head, overlooking Eastbourne and the English Channel. The focus of the day was the flora of chalk downland. We crossed the road to follow the cliff-top path, alongside which we found Common Centaury, Common and Greater Knapweed, Meadow Scabious, Rest Harrow and Wild Thyme. We descended to a memorial to the crews of Bomber Command, whose last sight of England as they headed off to Germany during the war were the chalk cliffs of Beachy Head.

Due to low cloud and fog, we were unable to see the lighthouse or the rocky shore below. Butterflies were actively feeding on the wildflowers, and we noted Marbled White, Common Blue and Small Skipper, together with numerous Meadow Browns. In addition, we saw a few Six-spot Burnet moths whizzing around.

We travelled further west and parked at Birling Gap, a popular honeypot for tourists. The roadside grassland and tall herbage produced our first Dropwort of the tour. We had a quick look from the top of the steps which lead down the cliffs, and here a non-native plant called 'Dusty Miller' (related to Ragwort) grew in profusion along the cliff top. We then headed back to East Dean, crossed the scenic Cuckmere Valley, and headed north to Cradle Valley.

Here there was a wide diversity of chalk grassland plants, including our target species: Round-headed Rampion (known locally as the 'Pride of Sussex', though it also occurs in Hampshire!) and Burnt Orchid. Several rampions were scattered among the plant community, and we found six Burnt Orchids after some slow and careful searching. Other plants here included Common Milkwort and Eyebright.

We then headed to the Saltmarsh Café near Seven Sisters Country Park, where we sat in the old courtyard and ate an enjoyable lunch. Heavy rain came in around 2.00pm, so we rearranged our afternoon, returning to the Tiger Inn to update the checklist before an early dinner. Later, we headed back over the River Cuckmere and down towards Seaford Head. From the small Seaford Barn car park, we walked downhill to a row of coastguards' cottages, from which we obtained a fine view of the iconic chalk cliffs, The Seven Sisters, in the distance.

The meandering river and pools below had attracted a family of Mute Swans, several Little Egrets and one or two Shelducks. Newly arrived Painted Ladies were much in evidence, and we watched a small cloud of males flying around a female, attracted by her pheromones! We carried on down to the shingle beach, where we found Common Sea Blite and Babington's Orache where the upper shingle met the flood embankment. On our return to the minibus, several butterflies were noted, including Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small White, Common Blue and Small Heath. We then returned to East Dean and our comfortable accommodation, to finish packing before our departure the next day.

Day 5

Friday 19th June

Hot and sunny, with scattered clouds

Having finished another excellent breakfast, we checked out of the Tiger Inn and planned to visit Abbots Wood, near Polegate. Unfortunately, however, Jonathan was bitten by an uncontrolled dog, whose owner had been sitting outside the pub. Jonathan was treated by a first-aider, but the clients felt that it was probably better if he returned home to rest the injured hand, instead of continuing with his guiding: he reluctantly agreed. We said our goodbyes, ending a very enjoyable week of botanising in sunny East Sussex, on a rather sad note.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup

Scan to
sign up!



Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



naturetrek.bsky.social



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
Blechnaceae	Hard-fern Family	
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern	AF
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	AF, CV
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	AF
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	AF
ANGIOSPERMS	DICOTYLEDONS	
Eudicots	True Dicotyledons	
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	AF, CV, SH
Amaranthaceae	Goosefoot Family	
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	RH, BH
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	BH
<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>	Babington's Orache	SH
<i>Salicornia</i> agg.	Glasswort or Samphire	RH
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane	RH
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	Common Sea-blite	SH
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	SH
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	RH
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	RH, BH, CV
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	RH
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	AF
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	RH, BH
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	RH
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	AF, BH
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	RH
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony	CV
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	AF
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle	RH, BH
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle	BH
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black Knapweed	AF, RH, BH
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	RH, BH
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	AF, BH
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	AF
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	AF, BH, RH
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	AF
<i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>	Hoary Ragwort	AF, RH
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Ragwort	AF, RH
<i>Jacobaea maritima</i>	Dusty Miller	BH

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	AF, BH
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple Weed	RH
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	RH
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	RH, BH
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansey	RH
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion	BH
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	RH, BH
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	RH
<i>Arctium</i> sp.	a burdock	RH
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	AF
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i> agg.	Ivy	RH, BH
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	AF
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	AF
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	BH, RH
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	AF
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard	RH
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	RH
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	AF, RH
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> subsp. <i>maritimus</i>	Sea Radish	BH
<i>Lepidium coronopus</i>	Swine-cress	BH
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	CV
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort	RH
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	AF
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Champion	RH
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	CV
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	AF
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	AF
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	SH
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	AF, BH
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed	RH
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	RH
Corylaceae	Hazel Family	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	AF
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	RH
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family	
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony	BH, SH
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	RH
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	BH, CV

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	RH
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	ED
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Common Gorse	AF, SH
<i>Ulex minor</i>	Dwarf Gorse	AF
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	AF, RH
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	CV
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea	RH
<i>Ervum tetraspermum</i>	Smooth Tare	RH
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	RH
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	AF, BH, CV, RH, SH
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	ED
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Bur Medick	RH
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Restharrow	BH, CV
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	RH
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	AF, RH, BH
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	AF, RH, BH
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	AF
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	Common Vetch	AF, RH
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	AF
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	AF
Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family	
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	RH
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	SH
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	BH
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	RH
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	RH, BH
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	RH, BH
<i>Geranium robertianum</i> subsp. <i>maritimum</i>	Sea Herb Robert	RH
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	AF, ED, RH, BH
Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	AF
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	SH
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	SH
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	RH, BH
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	AF, CV
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	AF, CV
<i>Thymus drucei</i>	Wild Thyme	BH, CV
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	AF
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>	Common Eyebright	CV
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging or Fairy Flax	CV
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	BH, RH

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	BH
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	CV
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	CV
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family	
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	AF, BH
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	AF
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	AF
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow-horned Poppy	RH, SH
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy	BH
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> agg.	Hay Rattle	RH, CV
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	AF, RH, CV
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	AF, BH
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
<i>Limonium hyblaenum</i>	Rottingdean Sea Lavender	RH
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	AF, CV
Polygonaceae	Dock & Knotweed Family	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	AF
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	AF
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	RH
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	AF
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	RH
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Lysimachia (Anagallis) arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	AF, RH, CV
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	CV
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old-man's-beard	W
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	AF
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	RH
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	AF, BH
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>	Hairy Buttercup	RH
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	BH, CV
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	CV
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn	
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea Buckthorn	
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	AF, RH
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	BH, CV
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens or Herb Bennet	AF, RH
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	AF, BH
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	AF
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	RH, CV, BH
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. <i>sanguisorba</i>	Salad Burnet	CV
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	CV

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	Fragrant Agrimony	RH
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	W
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	AF, RH
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	W
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	CV
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	W
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	AF, RH
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw	CV
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	BH
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	AF, CV
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	AF
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	AF, BH
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	RH, CV
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	RH
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	AF, BH
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	AF
Veronicaceae	Speedwell Family	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	ED
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	AF
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell	AF
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	AF, CV
<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field Speedwell	CV
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	AF
Asparagaceae	Bluebell Family	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	AF
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	W
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	AF, BH
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair Grass	AF, BH
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	RH
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	CV
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's Tail	AF
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	AF
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	W
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	AF
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	RH, BH
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	AF, CV, SH
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	AF
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-tail	BH
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	RH
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	AF

Scientific Name	Common Name	Locations
AF = Ashdown Forest; BH = Beachy Head & Birling Gap; CV = Cradle Valley; ED = East Dean; RH = Rye Harbour; SH = Seaford Head; W = Widespread		
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	AF
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cotton-grass	AF
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush	AF
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	AF
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush	AF
Dioscoreaceae	Black Bryony Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	BH
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris	CV
Nartheciaceae	Bog Asphodel Family	
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	AF
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	BH, CV
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	AF
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Chalk Fragrant Orchid	CV
<i>Neotinea ustulata</i> var. <i>aestivalis</i>	Burnt Orchid	CV

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				H	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		H			
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			✓	✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			✓		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			✓		
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			✓	✓	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓		
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		H			
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓		✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		H			
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		H			
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	H
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H			
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			✓		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H	H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			H		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>		H			
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓	✓	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓			
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	H		✓	✓	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		H	✓	✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓		✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H		H	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		H			
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓			✓	
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		✓			
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓			
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				✓	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓		
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓			
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓			
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓			
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓	✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓	
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>		✓			
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓	
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>			✓	✓	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>				✓	
Scarlet Tiger	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>					✓
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>			✓	✓	
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>			✓		

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓			

Other invertebrates

		June 2026				
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19
Grasshoppers and allies						
Speckled Bush-cricket (nymph)	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>		✓			
Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Roeseliana roeselii</i>				✓	
Shieldbugs						
Red-legged Shieldbug	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i>		✓			
Green Shieldbug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>			✓		
Froghoppers						
Common Froghopper	<i>Philaenus spumarius</i>			✓		
Beetles						
Swollen-thighed Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Common Malachite	<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i>				✓	
Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>			✓	✓	
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Ten-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia decempunctata</i>				✓	
Sixteen-spot Ladybird	<i>Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata</i>			✓		
Small Bloody-nosed Beetle	<i>Timarcha goettingensis</i>		✓			

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026				
		15	16	17	18	19
Hoverflies						
Broad Centurion Hoverfly	<i>Chloromyia formosa</i>			✓		
Marmalade Hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>		✓	✓		
Batman Hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>		✓			
Bees, wasps and ants						
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓	✓		
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>			✓		
Red-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>				✓	
Common Carder Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		✓			
Red-banded Sandwasp	<i>Ammophila sabiosa</i>		✓			
Large Velvet Ant	<i>Mutilla europaea</i>		✓			
Spiders						
Labyrinth Spider	<i>Agelena labyrinthica</i>		✓	✓		
Nursery-web Spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>		✓			
Cricket bat Spider	<i>Mangora acalypha</i>			✓		
an orb-weaver spider	<i>Zilla diodea</i>				✓	
Tent Web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>		✓			
Wasp Spider (egg case)	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>		✓			
Bleeding Heart Spider	<i>Nigma puella</i>			✓		
a spider	<i>Brigittea latens</i>		✓			