

# The Best of Dorset's Wildlife

Naturetrek Tour Report

16 – 19 June 2015



Bee Orchid by Charlie Rugeroni



Fulmar by Caz Robertson



Smooth Snake by Charlie Rugeroni



Marbled White on Greater Knapweed by Charlie Rugeroni

Report compiled by Charlie Rugeroni  
Images courtesy of Caz Robertson & Charlie Rugeroni



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Tour participants: Charlie Rugeroni (leader) together with nine Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Our base for this holiday was Mortons House Hotel, an Elizabethan manor house in the village of Corfe, between Wareham and Swanage, in the heart of Purbeck. The diversity of the underlying geology in this part of Dorset, which embraces the Jurassic coast (a World Heritage Site), provided the setting for the variety of habitats, wildlife and landscapes we so enjoyed and explored in a hot, sunny June. Equaled by few places in Britain, Durlston brought together an array of butterflies, birds, wildflowers and views. Here, on cliff tops, we came eye to eye with Fulmars and Great Black-backed Gulls, and marveled at the delicate, nationally scarce, Slender Tare, as Marbled White butterflies flew past Bee Orchids in a flower rich meadow. At Lodmore, Marsh Harriers quartered the lakes and the song of Cetti's Warblers rang out from reedbeds, home to Shoveler and Little Egret. The heaths at Arne did not disappoint with Britain's rarest reptile, the Smooth Snake, found one morning on Grip Heath, and in the cool of the evening Nightjars displayed and churred above a Glow-worm or two. The finding of ammonites at Charmouth brought an end to a superb five-day holiday, with fine dining, in this area of outstanding natural beauty.

## Day 1

Tuesday 16th June

Some arrived by train, others by car, and we all met at Mortons House Hotel after lunch. On a hot, glorious summer's day with just the gentlest breath of wind, we visited Durlston Country Park near Swanage to explore the special limestone grassland and its cliffs. The walk to the main meadows revealed our first orchids. Claire and Harriet picked out fresh-looking Pyramidal Orchids amongst the grasses, and nearby some Common Spotted Orchids nestled between the Yellow Rattle, as did that most wonderfully named Corky-fruited Water Dropwort – an elegant member of the carrot family. A bare, somewhat insignificant patch of soil produced Bastard Toadflax, and Early Gentian (nationally scarce and similar to Autumn Gentian). Broomrape was noticed by Mike along the narrow dry-stonewalled paths between fields.

The grasslands were full of blooming wildflowers – the mix of Sainfoin, Ox-eye Daisy, Rough Hawkbit, Meadow Buttercup, Ribwort Plantain, Red Clover, Common Broomrape, Pale Flax and emerging Knapweeds created a colourful tapestry against which Common and Small Blues and Small Heath butterflies and Six-spot Burnet Moths flew. Here too, the odd Lone Ranger, also known as Grass Vetchling, put in an appearance, as did a nationally scarce flower, the Slender Tare. On the shorter grassland, Meadow and Stripe-winged Grasshoppers sang. Spikes of Common Spotted Orchid, more fresh Pyramidal Orchids, and the rarer Bee Orchid were picked out from the many fine grasses in Saxon Field. Caz spotted Hedge Woundwort near a stile as we moved from one wildflower meadow to another. Chiffchaff, Skylark, Chaffinch and Jackdaw were the birds seen here, as were Meadow Brown, Painted Lady and Marbled White butterflies.

From here we strolled down to the cliffs through a Holm Oak wood. Just outside the wood, yet another nationally scarce plant, the Yellow Vetchling, was growing beside the path and next to Meadow Vetchling – we were thus able to admire their distinguishing features. The path meandered toward the cliff tops, with views to Durlston Head. Dense patches of Wild Thyme and Tamarisk on the landward side were noted along the cliff-top banks; the Thyme was attracting the attention of Buff-tailed Bumblebees. Red Valerian and Thrift cloaked the cliff-tops. Guillemots flew in and out from the cliffs below, some with beaks full of fish, clearly an indication of

hungry mouths at nest, their calls carrying in the wind. Razorbills joined them, as did the ever watchful and strong flying Fulmars, quartering the cliff face and giving us superb, eye-level views of their aerial skills. The smell of guano drifted upwards from, presumably, the avian congested cliff ledges beneath us. Shags and Great Black-backed Gulls were out and about too. The Guillemots seemed to be performing some line dancing routine as they sat on the surface of the water, stretching out to the Channel. 'Ernest and Mable', the RNLI rescue launch, motored past westward. The entrance to Tilly Whim Caves, limestone quarries where the valuable Portland Limestone was hewn out in the 18th century, was passed along the cliff track – 'Tilly' was a quarryman and 'Whim' a type of crane.

Our walk ended at Durlston Castle where we had good views of Durlston Bay, Ballard Down, and Old Harry Rocks in the distance. The faint echoes of Sandwich Terns, circling above the sea before plunging into the water with a puff of spray, reached us at our view point. Here Purple Toadflax, Charlock, Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Restharrow, Green Alkanet, Dunnock and Magpie combined in the late afternoon. A delicious dinner in the evening was thoroughly enjoyed before finishing with the checklist and plans for the following day.

## Day 2

## Wednesday 17th June

After a full, varied buffet and cooked breakfast we headed west towards the RSPB's Lodmore Reserve on the east side of Weymouth. Upon leaving, we drove onto West Creech Hill to take in the views and get a mental map of the area we would be exploring over the next couple of days. Buzzards circled above in the early morning air, and Poole Harbour was visible, as were the series of whaleback hills forming the Purbecks. At Lodmore the reedbeds, surrounded on three sides by the seaside town's suburbs, were home to plenty of Coot, Little Grebe, Mallard, Pochard, Little Egret, Shoveler and Tufted Duck. A Common Tern and a female Marsh Harrier (possibly one of the breeding birds here), hunted over the reserve, while a Cetti's Warbler let out its loud burst of song nearby.

Radipole Reserve, like an oasis in the heart of Weymouth, provided an opportunity to birdwatch whilst sipping coffee. From the visitor centre we picked up twelve Grey Herons, Black-headed, Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Cormorant, Coot, and plenty of Mallard loafing around at the water's edge. A Great Crested Grebe with its strikingly marked chicks paddled by. On crossing the bridge onto the reserve proper we marvelled at the feet of Coot, at ease, just below us.

As we walked along the path through the reeds, the flowering plants were dominated by the poisonous Hemlock, Water Dropwort, Hedge Cranesbill, Meadowsweet, Herb Robert, and a few species of Comfrey. A distinctive gall on Grey Willow reminded us of a caricature of Mick Jagger's lips! A few Reed Warblers sang from the reeds while Goldfinch, Blackbird, Dunnock, and Cetti's Warbler sang out from nearby trees or bushes. Lackey Moth caterpillars clung to the Hawthorn growing alongside the path. At a second bridge we stopped to admire a Mute Swan and its flotilla of cygnets, together with a Coot and its chicks – both provided good opportunity for photography. We headed in the direction of the viewing shelter as we'd heard that a species of spider (*Hypsosinga heri*), previously thought to be extinct in the UK, had been spotted earlier this month for the first time in over 100 years. 'Needle and haystack' came to mind as we searched for the spider (circa 4 millimetres) on low plants and reeds near the water – to no avail. From the boardwalk we also had views of Reed Bunting. We met Rob, a site manager with the RSPB who would be showing us around Arne Reserve tomorrow. While we admired a

dead Five-spot Burnet Moth, Southern Marsh Orchids and Meadowsweet, he explained how difficult these spiders were to locate. The last recorded sightings of the species were in 1898 and 1912.

Back along the footpath we found two male Swollen-thighed Beetles on Bindweed, while Swifts and House Martins fed overhead. Once back at the visitor centre we stopped for another scan and picked out several perched Common Terns, a Gadwall pair, Shelduck on the island opposite us, other birds feeding or resting, and a juvenile Pochard just off the small bridge.

We drove to lunch at the Lobster Pot restaurant at Portland Bill. After some delicious sandwiches and ice cream, we set out in the breezy sunshine along the Bill to see Guillemots flying over the choppy sea and towards their nest ledges just round the corner. As we strolled towards the point, just past the lighthouse, we were struck by the strong scent of the Birdsfoot Trefoil growing on the stony ground. A pair of Rock Pipits displayed on the quarried rocks where we stood giving superb views, as did Linnets at this most southerly point. Northern Gannets (adults and juveniles) and Great Cormorants were in flight further out to sea. Another Rock Pipit sang and flew up in a display flight above rocks which contained fossilised oyster shells and corals. We then headed east along the cliffs and coastline towards the bird observatory. The short grassland was full of Thrift, while Sea Beet, Sea Mayweed, Golden Samphire (nationally scarce - just coming through), and Rock Samphire grew up alongside the rocky ledges and crevices. In the sea, seaweeds of many different colours, textures and sizes caressed the waters in the swell.

As we approached the bird observatory, a Kestrel flew off, Skylarks and Lesser Whitethroats sang, Red Admirals flitted around emerging Pyramidal Orchids, and we had exceptional views of Linnets; a male in particular showing off its red forehead and breast, on Hawthorn. The observatory is where bird ringing takes place and we paused and sat on the benches for a rest, looking out across to sea and the range of bushes and shrubs that spring and autumn migrants dive into while heading north or south.

As we headed out of Portland we could see across towards Weymouth, Chesil Beach and all the way along towards Devon. We stopped for about an hour at Ferrybridge on Chesil Beach where Little Terns chased Black-headed Gulls, and we had views out across the Fleet where a warden looked over a protected and fenced off nesting colony of Little Terns. The nearby vegetation on the shingle comprised primarily Sea Purslane, Sea Campion, Common Restharrow, Haresfoot Clover and Birdsfoot Trefoil. There were lots of salt-loving plants growing on the saltmarsh, including Common Glasswort and Shrubby Sea Blight.

At 4.15pm we made our way to the Poacher's Inn at Piddletrenthide, just north of Dorchester, for a delicious meal. We then drove just five minutes up the road to Henley Hillbillies for an evening of Badger watching. In soft evening sunshine we entered a hide, not long before our first badgers arrived. Pheasant, Chaffinch, Robin, Whitethroat, Song Thrush and Blackbird sung as a prelude to the main event. The quiet in the hide was only broken by the digestion rumbles of our satiated stomachs and the inevitable repartee that ensued. The Badgers emerged and approached the hide from the woody verge in front of us where their sett lay, carefully studying the scene and alert at all times as they neared the hide and snuffled around for food – peanuts and apples in the long grass. It was difficult to ascertain with any precision how many different individuals we'd seen as the Badgers entered and exited from the scene just a few meters in front of us. Certainly at one point we had four in full view, two adults and two young from last year. In total we probably saw five or six individuals over a period of two very entertaining hours. Some remained for 10-15 minutes before they'd eaten enough and trotted back into

the undergrowth. The cubs were two-thirds the size of the adults, more compact and darker-haired. During our walk back to our minibus, a male Yellowhammer sang in the early evening. We headed back to the hotel via Stoborough Heath but were a little too early for Nightjars.

## Day 3

## Thursday 18th June

Today emerged overcast and cool, but later turned hot with temperatures reaching around 21 degrees centigrade. We had a very short journey to the RSPB's Arne Reserve, one of the most visited in the country. Before meeting with our guide, we watched Siskins on and around the bird feeders near the information point. We met Rob, an RSPB staff member, who worked at Arne and had been involved with the reserve since he was a child. An expert on the reptiles, Rob holds special licences to be able to handle the rare species found on the heath. We ventured out onto Grip Heath, to an area not normally accessed by the public, where Rob pointed out a number of test burrows created by Sand Lizards. These burrows are constructed to precise specifications and if the temperature, humidity and dryness was not right, the burrows would be abandoned in favour of more suitable ones. There are few places where one can find the UK's six species of reptiles – Arne is one of them. Dartford Warblers were singing around us but for the moment they remained very much ensconced in the Gorse shrubbery. Stonechats were perching on top of Gorse and trees, flitting down to catch insects before flying back to the same perch. Their call, the sound of stones being hit together followed by a squeak, was very distinctive.

On a more open stretch of the heath, where we could see onto Long Island and, behind it, Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Rob began searching under sheets of corrugated iron put out to survey for snakes. Surprisingly and much to our delight, he found the rarest of our reptiles, a sleek, brown, adult male Smooth Snake which are restricted to heathlands with mature vegetation in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey. This specimen was around 50 centimetres long and Rob reckoned it was about five years old. Each Smooth Snake 'trapped' is noted for its unique markings and in this way the movements of individuals can be monitored and plotted fairly precisely. A short distance down the track Rob came upon another! Rob explained how one of the main management issues that staff have to contend with at Arne was the spread of Scots Pine around the heath; as we walked to our next stopping point we casually did our bit by pulling some of the younger self-seeded Pines. Green Tiger Beetles would alight, virtually from under our feet, every now and then as they foraged along the sandy track. A Green Woodpecker's laughing call rang out from a group of Pines, and we could hear a party of Dartford Warblers. Here on Grip we found four species of heather but only three were in flower. The fourth, the most unique of the three and nationally rare, the Dorset Heath, was not since it flowers in July. Nevertheless, we found last year's flower heads and could appreciate how differently assembled the flowers were on the stem, culminating in an elongated spike. Dwarf Gorse was also seen on our walk which took us to a small but select pond (made by a Second World War bomb) at which we spotted four species of dragonfly: Keeled Skimmer, Four-spotted Chaser, Common Blue Damselfly, and Emperor Dragonfly, our bulkiest species and brightly coloured with an active habit, which this one was exhibiting as it hunted over the pond.

Our second reptile was a male Slow-worm (legless lizard); grey-brown in colour with shiny scales. Then we caught sight of a couple of Dartford Warblers close by atop some 'furze' (Gorse), one remaining sufficiently long enough for us to view it clearly as it sang away. The parasitic plant Dodder was seen attaching itself with its tangle of red, thread-like stems over Heather and Gorse. Blackcaps sang, while Mediterranean Gulls could be heard down and across in Poole Harbour, above our heads Swifts hawked for insects, and Tree Pipits called from nearby tree-tops. A Large Skipper butterfly put in an appearance as we left the heath and wandered through

some trees with Chiffchaff calling, and then along onto the RSPB's farm at Arne to look for Grass Snakes. We did not find one but delighted at the sighting of a queen Hornet. A neighbour's wildflower meadow produced Peacock Butterflies and blue Viper's Bugloss amidst a sea of Red Clover and daisies. House Sparrows chirped in nearby brambles. Just as we were leaving the farm, we came across a small patch of Ox-eye Daisies and Meadow Cranesbill, and happened upon a clutch of Fox and Cubs with very distinctive orange dandelion-like flowers. Back at Arne information hut, a late Holly Blue put in an appearance whilst we examined last night's moth catch. This included: Small Magpie, Small Elephant Hawk-moth, Scorched Wing, Privet Hawk-moth and Cream-spot Tiger. Inside the hut a television screen brought us live pictures from a Barn Owl nest at the farm; it showed two chicks with the adult owls – another two chicks, present a few days earlier, had been presumed eaten by their siblings.

With some little time on our hands before lunch, we drove ten minutes north of Wareham to Hyde Heath, Wareham Forest, in search of some distinct bog plants. Alongside a forest track a shallow, nutrient-poor, acidic water, boggy pool held a good population of Lesser Bladderwort, no more than ten centimetres tall, and a female Emperor Dragonfly ovipositing among them. The Lesser Bladderwort is an interesting insectivorous plant which catches its prey via an ingenious mechanism using tiny bladders. These are found under the water and rely on negative pressure inside the bladder which then sucks in the insect. A male Common Darter flitted around the pool. Just a little way along the track we saw the other plant that we'd come to see; its red lantern-like flower-heads giving them away in the sphagnum bog – Pitcherplants. All around them, carpets of Round-leaved Sundew glistened in the midday sun. The Pitcherplant, with its leaves modified into pitchers which act as pitfall traps, have naturalised here over the years. It should not be here, being an alien species introduced from North America. The ethics of introducing non-native Pitcherplants into sites such as this is very questionable and somewhat discombobulating. Although this species is attractive and interesting, the introduced populations here and at other sites in England may dramatically alter the natural dynamics of the local ecosystem – it's thought they may have an impact on the Spahgnum moss and some insect species.

We made our way to the Kings Arms in Stoborough for lunch, and then headed over the Causeway to Wareham where we sat and enjoyed some delicious Marshfield Ice Cream on a bright summer's day watching the Black-headed Gulls, Mallards, and Mute Swans on the River Frome.

Arne's woodland and its beach were explored in the afternoon. Speckled Wood Butterflies alighted in the understorey of Oaks and Birches. We climbed up a heathery slope and low growing Gorse to a superb vantage point giving us a magnificent view of Poole Harbour with its group of islands of varying sizes, including Brownsea Island. Near some mudflats below we saw five Canada Geese looking after a crèche of 18 goslings, while in the muddy inlets, several Little Egrets stabbed at the ebbing tideswaters. Common Terns shrieked as they flew past. We wound our way down to Shipstall's seashore which we were surprised to see littered with numerous jellyfish, stranded just above the water-line. These were Barrel Jellyfish with short and thick tentacles; there'd been something of a swarm in recent days along this part of the coast. Redshank and Oystercatcher were seen on the sandy beaches opposite Shipstall. On our return to Arne's Oak wood we came across a firebreak and as we walked up it in search of reptiles, a female Sand Lizard appeared just under some Heather. On walking back down a Nightjar flew out from under a pine tree just feet away from us.

Further along, some peaty pools were busy with dragonflies including Emperors, Keeled Skimmers and Four-spotted Chasers, and Blue-tailed damselflies, their wings perfectly audible as they flew up and down and chased

each other from their foraging territories. One male Four-spotted Chaser was seen dismembering a blue damselfly. We spent some time trying to photograph them, and then on turning around to see what the other pool had to offer, we realised that we'd been observed by a Water Vole within three metres of us, quietly feeding and going about its business. A wonderful and quite unexpected encounter. After crossing Big Wood we headed for the hide which looked out across the saltmarsh where, in half an hour's watching, we saw Mediterranean Gull, Black-tailed Godwit, Shelduck displaying noisily, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Greenshank, Curlew and Buzzard. Five Sika Deer strode onto the marsh just as we were leaving the hide. In the walk through the woodland we picked out Nuthatch, Blackcap, Long-tailed Tit, Goldcrest, and an impressive stand of Foxgloves in dappled light in the middle of a Birch wood. As we emerged from the woods, a large herd of Sika Deer (30 plus) continued to graze unperturbed by our presence.

On our way back to the hotel we stopped at a wonderful site on Stoborough Heath. Right by the road was a field with peaty pools stacked full of flowering Sundews, bright-yellow Bog Asphodel, Cotton Grass and a basking Keel Skimmer. This was a wonderful example of heathland bog.

After dinner, around 8.30pm, we headed back to Arne to look for and listen to Nightjars. We met Rob and walked out onto Cwm Heath to check for Hobbies and Barn Owls. In the setting sun we picked out a Kestrel as we scanned Middlebere and the saltmarshes in the middle distance. In winter one might find up to 49 wintering Spoonbills; this evening we saw but two, however, Rob treated us to a delightful imitation of a Spoonbill's mating call! Out on the low tide lagoons a small group of 18 Shelduck with a crèche of young waded around, and Sandwich Terns were vocal and dipping down to the water to feed. Rob explained how Badgers were sometimes seen down by the marshes feeding on Common Shore Crabs.

With the setting sun and as the temperature began to drop, we made our way to another part of the heath not accessible to the public. At 9.50pm we heard our first male Nightjar 'churring', the sound coming from the pines ahead of us. We moved closer, scanning their known 'churring posts', and then the most extraordinary thing happened: Rob began to impersonate a Nightjar using the light from two mobile phones (to represent the white spots on their wings and tail) and flapping his arms up and down like an oversized Nightjar, disappearing over to the other side of the hillock. Unbelievably his antics worked and a male Nightjar came swooping over the heath close to us, flashing the white spots on its wings and tail as it performed its wing clapping routine. It perched on a pine tree nearby. We had good views of the bird before it flew off into the gloom of a cool summer night, or so we thought, but fortunately it only went as far as a fence post on the slope below us where we watched it flash its white spots once more before it flew into the night for good. As we headed back we came across two 'glowing' female Glow Worms. They mix two chemicals, luciferin and luciferase, to produce the bioluminescence and enable the wingless females to attract the winged males to mate.

It had been a long yet fruitful day.

## Day 4

Friday 19th June

After breakfast and checking out, we travelled to Charmouth, an hour's drive away, to look for fossils on its beach. In the brilliant sunshine and with coffees in hand, we examined the cliffs and geology of the area, as well as learning about the early fossil hunters such as Mary Anning, who first found various important fossils back in the early 1800s. The cliffs of mudstones and siltstones were formed 200 million years ago when the UK was

down near the Equator, and shallow, tropical seas surrounded these islands. Below the promenade we picked out corals, and belemnites trapped in the huge boulders lining the shore. Above the beach café we were entertained by nesting House Sparrows in holes in the building wall. In the reed beds bordering the River Char we spotted a singing Reed Bunting. The tide was beginning to go down and the beach seemed a little devoid of fossils as we walked east examining the tide-line. Some of us eventually caught up with Pat, Claire and Harriet who were sitting on the beach, when David calmly reached out and plucked an ammonite from under their feet!

On the way back, some of us stopped in the heritage centre to look at amazing examples of other fossils found on the beach including Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs, and fish. We took lunch at the Hunters Lodge Inn, and after a hearty meal we said our goodbyes to Marion, Michael, Pat and David before dropping off Claire at Axminster station. The rest of us drove back to Wareham station where we dropped off Juliet and Pauline, and then headed to Corfe where we said goodbye to Caz who'd decided to stay on an extra night at the hotel to explore other fabulous sites on the following day.

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Common Shrew by Charlie Rugeroni



Badger by Caz Robertson

## Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			16	17	18	19
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓	✓	
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		✓	✓	
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	
6	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓		
7	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓		
8	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓		
9	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓		
10	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		
11	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓		
12	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	✓			
13	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓		
14	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓		
15	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	✓			
16	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			✓	
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		
19	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓		
20	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	
21	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	
22	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	
23	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			✓	
24	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			✓	
25	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓	
26	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	
27	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓		
28	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓	
29	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓	
30	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓
31	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			✓	
32	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓		
35	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓		
36	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓		✓	
37	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓	✓	
38	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓	✓	✓	
39	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	✓			
40	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓		✓
41	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	
42	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			✓	
43	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>			✓	
44	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓
45	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓	
46	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓	
47	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			16	17	18	19
48	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓
49	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	
50	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			✓	
51	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓		
52	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	
53	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H		
54	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	
55	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	
56	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>			✓	
57	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	H	✓	H
58	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	H	
59	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	✓	
60	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H	✓	
61	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓	
62	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓	1	
63	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	
64	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>			✓	
65	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓		H	H
66	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			H	
67	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	
68	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓	
69	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	
70	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓		
71	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	
72	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	
73	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	
74	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓		✓
75	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓	✓
76	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	
77	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	
78	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓
79	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	
80	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	
81	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	
82	Linnet	<i>Linarius cannabina</i>		✓		
83	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>			✓	
84	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	✓	✓		
85	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		✓

## Mammals

1	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>		✓		
2	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓	
3	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>			✓	
4	Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>			✓	
5	Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>		✓		
6	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>			✓	

## Reptiles

1	Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>			✓	
2	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			16	17	18	19
3	Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>			✓	

### Amphibians

1	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			✓	
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### Sea life

1	Grey Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>				✓
2	Barrel Jellyfish	<i>Rhizostoma pulmo</i>			✓	

### Dragonflies and Damselflies

1	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>			✓	
2	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>			✓	
3	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			✓	
4	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>			✓	
5	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>		✓	✓	
6	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>			✓	

### Butterflies & Moths

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	
2	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓			
3	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysabdra bellargus</i>	✓			
4	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			✓	
5	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓			
6	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>		✓	✓	
7	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		
8	Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	✓			
9	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓		✓	
10	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	
11	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓	
12	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓			
13	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓			
14	Lackey Moth	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>		✓		
15	Six-spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓			
16	Five-spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>		✓		
17	Privet Hawk-moth	<i>Sphinx ligustri</i>			✓	
18	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>			✓	
19	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>			✓	
20	Scorched Wing	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>			✓	
21	Small Magpie	<i>Eurrhyncha hortulata</i>			✓	

### Other inverts

1	Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	✓			
2	Stripe-winged Grasshopper	<i>Stenobothrus lineatus</i>	✓			
3	Conehead Bush-cricket	<i>Conocephalus sp</i>		✓		
4	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>			✓	
5	Glow Worm	<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>			✓	
6	Swollen-thighed Beetle	<i>Oedmera nobilis</i>		✓		
7	Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>		✓		
8	Blister Beetle	<i>Cantharis vesicatoria</i>		✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			16	17	18	19
9	Longhorn Beetle	<i>Leptura rubra</i>		✓		
10	Wasp Beetle	<i>Clytra arietis</i>			✓	
11	Leaf Hopper	<i>Cercopsis vulnerata</i>			✓	
12	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>			✓	
13	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>			✓	

## Plants

Unless otherwise stated, the plants listed below were seen at Durlston Country Park & National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Family: Aspleniaceae</b>		
Hart's Tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	
<b>Family: Dryopteridaceae</b>		
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	
<b>Family: Papaveraceae</b>		
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	
Yellow Horned-poppy	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Chesil Beach
<b>Family: Ranunculaceae</b>		
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	
<b>Family: Crassulaceae</b>		
Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Chesil Beach
<b>Family: Crassulaceae</b>		
Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	
Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	
Horseshoe Vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	
Common Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	
Slender Tare	<i>Vicia parviflora</i>	Nationally Scarce
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	
Yellow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Nationally Scarce
Grass Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	
Common Restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>	Durlston & Portland Bill
Black Meddick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	
Haresfoot Clover	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Chesil Beach
Common Milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Radipole
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Arne & Stoborough Heath NNR
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla repens</i>	
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Arne
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	
Fragrant Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	
Salad Burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Family: Santalaceae</b>		
Bastard-toadflax	<i>Thesium humifusum</i>	
<b>Family: Linaceae</b>		
Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>	
<b>Family: Geraniaceae</b>		
Meadow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Farm at Arne
Hedgerow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Arne & Durlston
Large-flowered Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	Farm at Arne
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Portland Bill
<b>Family: Resedaceae</b>		
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Arne
<b>Family: Brassicaceae</b>		
Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Dotted around here and there
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Portland Bill
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	
<b>Family: Sarraceniaceae</b>		
Pitcherplant	<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	
<b>Family: Droseraceae</b>		
Oblong-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Bog at Stoborough Heath NNR
Round-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Wareham Forest and Arne
<b>Family: Caryophyllacea</b>		
Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Chesil Beach & Portland Bill
Rock Sea Spurrey	<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>	Chesil Beach
<b>Family: Amaranthe</b>		
Sea Purslane	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Chesil & Portland Bill
Glassworts	<i>Salicornia</i> species	Chesil Beach
Sea Beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	Portland Bill
<b>Family: Rubiaceae</b>		
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium album</i>	
Wild madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	
<b>Family: Gentianacea</b>		
Common Centaury	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	
Early Gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>	
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	
<b>Family: Boraginacea</b>		
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Portland Bill
Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	
Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Radipole
White Comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	Radipole
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Mypotis scorpioides</i>	Radipole

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Arne
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Charmouth
<b>Family: Solanaceae</b>		
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Radipole
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Hartland Moor & elsewhere
<b>Family: Plantaginaceae</b>		
Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Portland Bill
Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Portland Bill & Chesil Beach
Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	
<b>Family: Scrophulariaceae</b>		
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsis</i>	Farm at Arne
Purple Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	
<b>Family: Orobanchaceae</b>		
Common Broomrape	<i>Orobanche minor</i>	
<b>Family: Lentibulariaceae</b>		
Lesser Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>	Wareham Forest
<b>Family: Lamiaceae</b>		
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Farm at Arne
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichum</i>	
Water Mint	<i>Menta aquatica</i>	Radipole
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia species</i>	
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	
<b>Family: Campanulaceae</b>		
Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Arne track
<b>Family: Asteraceae</b>		
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Radipole and Durlston
Woolly Thistle	<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	
Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	
Golden Samphire	<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Nationally Scarce
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	
Hemp Agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Arne and Radipole
Oxe-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	
Fox-and-cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	
Sea Mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Portland Bill
<b>Family: Caprifoliaceae</b>		
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Family: Dipsacaceae</b>		
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	
<b>Family: Apiaceae</b>		
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	
Rock Samphire	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Portland Bill
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	
Hemlock Water-droplet	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Radipole
Corky-fruited Water-droplet	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	
<b>Family: Iridaceae</b>		
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	
<b>Family: Orchidaceae</b>		
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	
Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	Radipole Reserve
<b>Family: Nartheciaceae</b>		
Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog at Stoborough Heath NNR
<b>Family: Iridaceae</b>		
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	
<b>Shrubs &amp; Trees</b>		
<b>Family: Pinaceae</b>		
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	
<b>Family: Fagaceae</b>		
Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	
<b>Family: Betulaceae</b>		
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Arne
<b>Family: Fabaceae</b>		
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Arne
Dwarf Gorse	<i>Ulex minor</i>	Arne
<b>Family: Cornaceae</b>		
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguineum</i>	Radipole
<b>Family: Amaranthaceae</b>		
Shrubby Seablite	<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Nationally Scarce - Chesil Beach
<b>Family: Ericaceae</b>		
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Arne
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Arne
Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Arne
Dorset Heath	<i>Erica ciliaris</i>	Arne

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Family: Tamariaceae</b> Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Arne and Portland Bill
<b>Family: Scrophulariaceae</b> Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Radipole
<b>Family: Cucurbitaceae</b> White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	Farm at Arne
<b>Family: Dioscoreaceae</b> Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Radipole

**Sedges**

<b>Family: Cyperaceae</b> Cotongrass	<i>Eriophorum</i> species	Arne & Stoborough Heath NNR
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Yellow Vetchling by Charlie Rugeroni



Pitcherplants by Charlie Rugeroni



Bog Asphodel by Charlie Rugeroni



Slow-worm by Charlie Rugeroni