

Ardnamurchan - Wild Scotland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

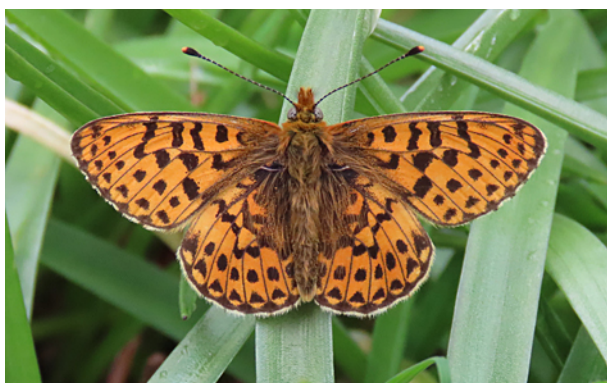
1st – 8th June 2026



Violet Oil Beetle



Pine Marten



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Swallow

Tour report by Glyn Evans



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Tour participants: Glyn Evans and Greg Smith (leaders) with ten Naturetrek clients

Summary

Ardnamurchan encapsulates the best of wild Scotland, with a rare combination of rugged beauty, rich wildlife and profound tranquillity. Reaching out into the Atlantic at the western edge of the mainland, it feels wonderfully remote: it is a place of quiet sea lochs, open moorland, ancient woodland and lonely bays, where the pace of life slows and the modern world seems to fall away. Its remoteness is not emptiness, but abundance: eagles over the ridges, Otters along the shore, deer on the hillsides, and seabirds moving through vast skies, all framed by a deep sense of peace which means Ardnamurchan represents Scotland at its most elemental and unspoilt.

Day 1

Monday 1st June

We managed a speedy pick-up in Glasgow, after which our first stop was Loch Lomond. Here, we introduced ourselves to each other and did our first bit of wildlife watching, contrasting the Red-breasted Mergansers and Goosanders on the water, and studying the Lesser Black-backed Gulls on posts in the bay: it was a useful start in brushing up our field identification skills.

We saw our last Jackdaws and Carrion Crows for the week (both are largely absent from the Highlands) and found some interesting plants, including Ivy-leaved Toadflax, whose stems are drawn to the light (photophilic) when in flower, ensuring they are able to attract pollinators, but drawn to the dark (photophobic) after flowering, enabling them to lodge their seeds in the crevices of the wall behind them. A short while after we had resumed our journey, an Osprey flew above the vehicles and, for the sharper-eyed among us, a male Goshawk followed soon after.

We next broke the journey at Glen Orchy, where a young Red Deer stag in velvet and a 'sawing' Snipe drew our interest, before a lek of eight young male Black Grouse on hillside stole the show. A discussion arose as to the correct plural of grouse: we concluded that "grice" sounded about right, which told our guides all they needed to know about this week's group!

A northern speciality, Chickweed Wintergreen, was flowering on a bank, hinting at special botanical delights to come. A distant Wood Warbler and, closer to hand, a Willow Warbler, were heard from the vehicles: the latter was to become the soundtrack of our week. A brief stop in the rain on the road along the Ardnamurchan shore, revealed a bloom of Moon Jellyfish, our first and, as it was to turn out, our last of the trip, as the seas were generally too rough for us to spot such marine specialities thereafter.

Day 2

Tuesday 2nd June

There were a dozen moths in the moth trap to start the day, including the bright yellow Brimstone, a black-dotted White Ermine and, best of the bunch, the birch-specialist Scalloped Hook-tip. But these were all eclipsed by a Red Squirrel running through the garden as we ate breakfast.

Our first stop today, after the overnight rain finally relented, was the Loch Shiel jetty at Acharacle. We enjoyed good views of Sand Martins and Common Sandpipers as they flew low over the loch, but there was little else, so we moved on quickly to Tioram Castle. The falling tide had one of the group venturing out to turn over stones on

the foreshore, in search of marine mini-beasts. Rock Pipits and Rock Doves were both nesting on the old castle, but the low cloud inhibited our views of the surrounding islands. Two Red-throated Divers drew one of our leaders into a teapot dance as he explained the difference in neck shape between the snooty Red-throated and their cobra-like, Black-throated cousins.

We were introduced to a nice variety of wild flowers on the rocky knoll below the castle, among them Pignut, Tormentil and Ragged Robin. We also enjoyed the diversity of wrack seaweeds washed up on the shoreline, and learned about their different strategies for survival in the harsh intertidal environment. Our guide was surprised at the abundance of the recent alien arrival *Codium fragile* (Green Sea Fingers), which was recorded on this tour for the first time only two years previously. Now it dominated the intertidal muds.

We returned to the jetty on Loch Shiel for our lunch, where three Teals and a Scorpion-fly were the only additions of interest. Sweet Vernal Grass was presented as our first 'grass of the day'; its hairy leaf junctions and double anthers perhaps less striking than the strong vanilla/marzipan flavour of the nibbled stem.

For the afternoon, we headed north to Moidart. At Kinlochmoidart Bridge, we saw no sign of the hoped-for Dipper, but did find three species of fern growing on the old stonework. We headed up into the beautiful Glen Moidart, where we tried not to enjoy the prolific Rhododendrons, a wonderful sight in completely the wrong place! As we left the vehicles, both Chequered Skipper and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary were briefly sighted, along with Common Carpet, Silver Y and Water Carpet moths. Still the sun wouldn't shine, so we walked up into the hills under low clouds, finding a variety of wildflowers and ferns along the way. One of the group was especially pleased to be introduced to Blinks, a low-growing herb which is abundant in these parts, but whose anonymous appearance led her to wonder if its full name wasn't "Blinks and you'll miss it"!

On the drive back, one vehicle stopped again at Kinlochmoidart Bridge, and this time we were rewarded with not one but two Dippers on the river.

Day 3

Wednesday 3rd June

We began today at the Camas nan Geall eagle watchpoint, but the only birds visible in the dreich were a couple of Buzzards and some buzzing Redpolls. We looked instead at the archaeology in the embayment below us, which included a Neolithic chambered cairn, a Bronze Age standing stone and some ruined farm dwellings, the result of the clearances in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

We drove on to the Kilchoan jetty, where some adult Shags were joined by a juvenile Cormorant, enabling a useful comparison to be made, and a Christopher Isherwood poem was dredged from the memory banks (though no paper bag was to be seen!). A veritable battleship of a Great Northern Diver in the bay was quite a contrast to yesterday's Red-throated Divers.

At the jetty, we boarded a boat which took us to Lunga, one of the Treshnish Islands near Mull, and then on to Staffa. The crossing was very wet and, to our collective amusement, Glyn managed to keep repositioning himself under a different deluge from the deck above. Thankfully, the rain abated for a couple of hours while we explored the wonderful island of Lunga. The initial ascent to the Puffin platform was challenging in the wet and muddy

conditions, but was definitely worth the effort: we found ourselves face-to-face with hundreds of Puffins loafing on the clifftop while their partners incubated eggs in the burrows below.

Some of us chose to remain in their company, while the rest of the group hiked along the clifftop path to visit Harp Rock, to see the spectacle of tens of thousands of Guillemots, Kittiwakes and Razorbills nesting on a vast, offshore sea stack. Some of the pathside Shag nests appeared to have been abandoned, but otherwise the seabirds were present in good numbers, and appeared to have extended their range since previous visits in recent years. Skuas were in short supply today but, towards the end of our visit, a squadron of three bruising Great Skuas flew through in formation, and a pair of the more elegant Arctic Skuas hunted together over the vast flocks of sea birds on the water.

The wild flowers here were also excellent, and included Bluebells, Primroses, Lesser Celandine, Roseroot and Sea Campion. The flowers of the Sea Campion were infected by a smut fungus which had overpowered its host's sex organs to put them in the service of its own reproductive ambitions, the purple dusting on the leaves giving rise to its smutty name.

Our next stop was the famous island of Staffa, whose vast and impressive columnar basalt cathedrals were immortalised in music by Felix Mendelssohn. We had a short stop here, just long enough to clamber up the nice new shiny steps installed by the National Trust for Scotland to have a look around the upper plateau. Here, we saw two dioecious plants (plants with male and female flowers on separate plants): Creeping Willow and Mountain Everlasting.

Our return to Ardnamurchan involved a pleasant steam close to the Mull shore, our transit matching the speed of the wind from behind, and therefore holding us in a small patch of brighter sky while the rain darkened the sea to the north and south of us. Sadly, no cetaceans put in an appearance.

That evening, we were shown our second 'grass of the day' from the café where we had dinner: this was Sterile (or Barren) Brome, an elegant, slender species with many individual flower spikes held on long, drooping stalks, giving it a weeping impression.

Day 4

Thursday 4th June

We had eight species in the moth trap this morning, including the remarkable Buff-tip, renowned for its striking resemblance to a snapped birch twig. It certainly fooled us until we spotted the furry legs with which it was hanging on to the pot.

We headed west again today to Kilchoan, and then on to the lighthouse, the most westerly point on the mainland of Great Britain. En route, we passed a displaying Curlew trying, like us, to make the most of a brief dry spell between the showers. The rain duly arrived as we drew up at Kilchoan Bay, where we just had time to see a fleeting Common Sandpiper and a large stand of Hemlock Water Dropwort (arguably Britain's most toxic plant) before moving on.

By the time we reached the lighthouse, via an obliging herd of Fallow Deer among the Reds on one hillside, the rain had cleared. We were rewarded with a coffee and views of a distant Peregrine, perched high on a ridge. At the

other extreme, a charming click beetle was found on someone's coat: the metallic *Ctenicera cuprea*, as coppery as its name suggests. Seawatching here failed to produce anything exceptional, but we did get great views of Manx Shearwaters, Gannets and Kittiwakes passing close to the headland. At one stage, the Mull Wildlife Explorer boat came into view, and we all watched intently to see if it was privy to some insider information. Its steady course told us it was having no more luck than we were.

Five species of fern in the 'Faraday cage' underneath the giant foghorn and three species of plantain hardly made up for the absence of our hoped-for cetaceans. (Earlier in the week, a pod of Orcas had rounded the point and terrorised the dolphins in the mouth of the Sound of Mull, perhaps causing the smaller cetaceans to disperse.) A distant Bottlenose Dolphin seen by the ever-vigilant and eagle-eyed Glyn was scant consolation.

Greg's attempt to wow us with both Brown-lipped and White-lipped Snails made little impact, though we were all a little impressed to see the 'thrum' and 'pin' forms of Primrose flowers, and to hear the explanation of their evolution. The rain drove us back to the cars for lunch, but it soon passed and we set off for Sanna in hopes of some sunshine on the machair. On the way, the sighting of local celebrity Hamza Yassin, off to feed livestock on a quad bike, caused a momentary loss of dignity, from which we all soon recovered.

At Sanna Bay, the machair never quite got sunny, but it was a definite delight: the short sandy sward was spotted with Bulbous Buttercup, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Common Milkwort and Biting Stonecrop. The dominant grass here, Marram, is noted for its ability to grow in arid and constantly shifting dunes: it acts as an ecosystem engineer, binding and stabilising the sand, and creating the globally important machair grassland habitat in which many other plants and a wide range of invertebrates live. It was a most worthy 'grass of the day'.

Down on the beach, we delighted in the myriad forms and colours of shells gathered by the tide: they were mostly periwinkles, topshells and mussels. Higher up the strand was a great assortment of seaweeds, adding to our haul from Tioram Castle, including the bizarre Oyster Thief, like a deflated balloon, and the frilly Furbelows, with shock absorbers which enable it to live in very high-energy subtidal environments.

On the drive home, the only excitement was caused by a Common Gull doing its best Hen Harrier impression as it flew low over the moorland. It was a useful illustration of its old country name: the Gull Hawk.

Day 5

Friday 5th June

A pre-breakfast walk this morning gave very distant views of an Otter and a singing Chiffchaff, but little else before, once again, the dreich drove us back in for breakfast. We were consoled (for which read, bribed) by a nice coffee at Salen Jetty, before heading on to the capacious An Garbh Eilean hide overlooking Loch Sunart near Strontian, where we spent the morning avoiding the rain.

To our delight, a pair of White-tailed Eagles flew across in front of the hide as we arrived at the, but they then both departed the scene, leaving their nest (in trees on a nearby headland), with two young chicks in it, for an extended period. This didn't seem like the best parental management strategy, as one of the young birds occasionally clambered precariously onto the rim to exercise its still-downy wings, and both looked wet in the pouring rain. We watched with concern until, an hour or so later, the female bird returned and resumed her duties.

It was a further hour and a half before the male bird returned briefly, with no sign of food, and then cleared off again.

Among the Harbour Seals loafing on the rocks in front of the hide were a couple of young Grey Seals, one of which took to the water and very quickly caught a large Salmon, which it spent the next half-hour dissecting, much to the interest of the attendant gulls and terns, who squabbled over the scraps.

On the distant mussel farm, every buoy seemed to play host to its own Eider: a lot of buoys meant a lot of ducks! To our surprise, Grey Herons were nesting in some very low trees on one island, with youngsters occasionally craning their necks if a parent hadn't returned with a regular supply of sustenance. A party of Goosanders arrived to join the local Red-breasted Mergansers, and to check we had learned our lesson from Loch Lomond.

The oak trees around the hide were festooned with mosses and lichens, a classic sign of the Atlantic temperate rain forest, the highlight among which was the leaf-like Tree Lungwort. The dominant grass here, the Creeping Soft Grass, with its distinctive hairy knees, was today's 'grass of the day'.

We headed back to the vehicles as the morning's rain finally relented, and drove the short distance to the Ariundle Centre, where we enjoyed lunch and more warm drinks before setting out for a circuit through the magnificent Ariundle Wood NNR. As planned, the unfamiliar sunshine and sudden warmth had brought the insects out, and we made slow progress as we attempted to put names to the various bees, beetles and hoverflies with which every flower was alive. A small geometrid moth, initially named a Common Carpet, caused excitement when, on closer inspection, it was reidentified as the Small Argent & Sable, a local speciality which neither of the guides had seen before.

We made our way across the bog to the Strontian River, which tumbles through the site, where Bog Myrtle, Purple Moor Grass and Common Cotton-grass now dominate what was once conifer forestry. The clouds came over again, but we were in good spirits as we continued our excursion. A boardwalk through Downy Birch scrub enabled us to see a variety of *Sphagnum* mosses and to hear about their importance as a carbon sink in well-managed peat bogs. Under the (mostly) Sessile Oaks, we saw Wood Horsetail, Wood Avens and Common Cow-wheat, and even the puddles on the track contained delights, including Palmate Newts, Common Toad tadpoles and a wriggly Horsehair Worm. Not such a delight, perhaps, this last one: in its larval stage, this tiny beast is an endoparasite of crickets and grasshoppers and, when it is ready to emerge as an adult, it induces its host to throw itself suicidally into the nearest waterbody, where it will live until it lays its eggs and repeats the whole cycle in a new generation of orthoptera.

A number of new beetle species were seen, including a black click beetle, a fast-moving staphylinid beetle with a red saddle and yellow dots along its abdomen, and a lumbering dor beetle. The birds were not to be outdone: a family party of Crossbills flew through and perched in the canopy briefly before flying on and, equally difficult to see, a Grasshopper Warbler reeled in the dense scrub.

A really great afternoon was only temporarily marred by the minibus breaking down (allowing for further sightings of White-tailed Eagle and two new species for the trip, in the form of Garden Warbler and Sparrowhawk). But within the hour we were back at the accommodation, still in plenty of time for supper, and by breakfast the following morning we had alternative (one might even say superior) transport for the rest of the trip.

The entertainment at dinner was provided by a Highland calf who was stalking the Canada Geese in the field behind the cafe. They paid it only fitful attention, but at some point the little blighter, realising he had wandered far from his mum, suddenly hared off at full tilt across the field to be reunited with her.

Day 6

Saturday 6th June

We had not yet managed to locate a Pine Marten, despite copious baiting of the garden with suitable snacks. One of the group decided to stay back for the day as a Pine Marten sentinel, in hopes of remedying the situation. The rest of us headed out to the Camas nan Geall watchpoint.

This headland gave us great views of Ben Hiant, Ardnamurchan's highest peak, though this would not have been apparent on any of our previous visits as the clouds had been low on each occasion. Today, however, the clouds were high and, with the breeze on our backs, we began our eagle watch. It didn't take long for Glyn to locate a young Golden Eagle over the mountain, and it showed off the roller-coaster ride of its territorial display flight: our first of the week! Soon, a White-tailed Eagle drifted through high overhead, and the Golden Eagle reappeared, somewhat closer this time, allowing scope views which showed its upturned wingtips and long tail.

Elated, we got back into the vehicles, only to be bundled out again a mile further on as a young White-tailed Eagle flew up the valley above Loch Budle, at road level and much closer than before. Colossal! As we waited for its return, scanning the surrounding moorland, Greg went off to check out the loch; he soon came back to point out a distant Large Heath butterfly flying over marshy grassland, where plenty of Hare's-tail Cotton-grass (its exclusive food plant) was flowering.

We continued to Kilchoan Bay, which looked very different in these calmer conditions compared to our previous visit, when we couldn't get back into the cars quickly enough as the heavens opened. This time, we went down to the seafront and watched three Common Sandpipers calling noisily as they claimed their respective sections of shore. These obliging birds were a popular feature of that evening's photo exchange among the group. A Cuckoo flew over the village calling, supplementing the familiar 'cuck-oo, cuck-oo' with a dramatic 'wack-a, wack-a' call.

Then Glyn drew our attention to a couple of Otters close to the shore across the bay. They were repeatedly diving and then holding their shoulders high out of the water as they prepared their finds for consumption. On those occasions where a more substantial morsel was involved, they clambered onto the shore to devour it. Excellent! The two of them worked their way along the shore, occasionally disappearing from view, but always returning after a while. We really should have departed by this point, but it felt rude to leave while the Otters were still in view!

We lunched in the garden of the closed café, and were introduced to today's 'grass of the day', the large, blue-green Cocksfoot. We paid a brief visit to Fasadale on the north shore of Ardnamurchan. The tiny harbour here played an important role as the centre of a nineteenth- and twentieth-century salmon-fishing industry: a tunnel-like ice house was used to pack freshly caught fish using ice collected from man-made pools in the surrounding fields. We found nothing to add to our records beyond Redpolls and Siskins, a lazy Skylark singing from a perch, and a couple of new beetles: the bronze-and-green Garden Chafer and a black-armoured scarab.

Our next stop was at Ockle. We walked from the hamlet north towards Ockle Bay, when suddenly, to cries of great excitement, an enormous beetle was found in the grass: the Violet Oil Beetle. Flightless, and with a distended

abdomen, this is one of six oil beetles native to Britain, all very rare and all with a bizarre lifecycle which involves an extra, hitch-hiking stage: its ant-like pre-larvae cadge a ride in the fur of solitary bees, in order to be carried back to the bees' nests, where they live off the bees' food stores before emerging as adult beetles. In the middle of this excitement, Glyn spotted some fins in the sea: a pod of Common Dolphins was heading east along the coast. There were about fifteen of them (including some much smaller youngsters) and they were travelling fast and purposefully, frequently leaping out of the water. They were always distant and didn't provide great views, but they were the first cetaceans of the trip for the whole group. Phew!

At Ockle Bay, we enjoyed amazing views of Eigg and Rum to the north, and beyond them the Cuillins of Skye. We spent some time trying to locate Sgurr Alasdair, a peak in the Black Cuillins, after which the child of a couple in the group was named. We think we got there, but we couldn't be certain.

Back at base, we discovered that the Pine Marten gods had not been smiling on our lone watcher. Nonetheless, she had had a great day, which saw a herd of Red Deer wandering through the garden, nibbling many of the tidbits meant for the martens. We had a quick check of the moth trap before dinner, to find a couple of special moths among the regulars: the first was a Dark Sword-grass, (which triggered a sharp intake of breath from Glyn, since it is a long-distance migrant from the continent) and the second was a Satin Lutestring, a scarce woodland specialist with only a scattering of records from western Scotland.

Day 7

Sunday 7th June

Our final day began with a shout of "Pine Marten!" before breakfast. This was a nervous individual, which perched in the branches of a tall tree and scanned the scene before scurrying down, grabbing a treat and making a quick exit. Sadly, he was gone before many of the group managed to catch a glimpse. A similarly cautious Red Squirrel provided scant consolation as it raced through the garden.

We drove through the rain to Strontian petrol station, whose opening hours were rather more conservative than those suggested by Google Maps. However, the fifteen-minute wait gave us another fly-by White-tailed Eagle: we'd lost count of how many we'd seen during the week.

As the rain cleared, we took a glorious drive over the hills to the tiny settlement of Polloch, from where we walked along a forest track to the banks of Loch Shiel. The walk provided little that was new, though we did like the tiny *Cladonia floerkeana* or, more prosaically, the Swan Vesta Matchstick Lichen, on the dead trees. We compared Common and Sheep's Sorrel, distinguished, according to Greg, by whether the base of the leaf had a Jennifer Aniston bob (tapering in) or a Lulu beehive (tapering out). The relative size of the two plants seemed a much simpler way of distinguishing them, though much less fun!

At the loch, there was only one bird visible from the jetty, but that one was a Black-throated Diver. We were delighted: it was our first of the week, despite having been mocked at several locations by posters telling boat users to avoid disturbing them! It was a solitary juvenile bird, probably hatched at Loch Shiel; its parents were hopefully tucked into the shore somewhere, tending to another family.

Today's grass of the day was Yorkshire Fog, growing alongside its close relative Creeping Soft Grass, which it resembles closely save for its more tufted habit and its having stripy pink pyjamas, rather than hairy knees.

Again, the rain began to fall as we got back to the vehicles, so we decided to head back to the hide on Loch Sunart to dine under cover. This turned out to be a great decision as not only did we get more fabulous views of the White-tailed Eagles at their nest, but we also watched a couple of Otters working the kelp beds around the exposed skerries. At one point, Glyn and Greg were trading invitations to view delights through their respective telescopes: “The eagle is back at her nest!” vs. “The otters are up on the shore!”. We didn’t know where to look!

We got back to the café for dinner on a high and, after a wholesome and filling three-course meal (once again entertained by ‘Speedy’ the Highland calf), we ended up back at the bunkhouse, where we sat peering into the garden, where at last a Pine Marten deigned to join us and stick around for a bit. A different individual from this morning’s nervous customer, we dubbed this one ‘Stumpy’ on account of his unnaturally short tail (which looked like he had trapped it in a car door at some point!). Everybody was very happy to end the week on such a high note.

Day 8

Sunday 8th June

Today we made our way back to Glasgow, where the tour ended.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		June 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	1	2	3	4	5	6
Canada Goose - I	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓					
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>						
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</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 Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>						
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	✓				✓	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓	✓			✓	
Red Grouse - E	<i>Lagopus scoticus</i>						
Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</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 Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>						
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</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>		H		✓	✓	✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓	H	✓	H	✓	✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	H					H
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</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>			✓	✓	✓	

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		June 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	1	2	3	4	5	6
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>			✓			
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			✓	✓		
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>			✓	✓		
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		✓		✓		
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>						
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>			✓			✓
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>						
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			✓			
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			✓	800		
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>			✓	✓		✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓	
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>						
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						✓
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓			✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>						
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>						
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						✓
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>						
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓					
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓					
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓					
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓					
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		June 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	1	2	3	4	5	6
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	H				✓	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓		H	✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	H	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			H	H		✓
Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>					H	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓		H	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>						
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>				✓		✓
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H	H	H	✓	✓
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓			✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				✓		H
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓		
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	✓	H		✓	✓	✓
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓			✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓		✓		
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>						H
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	✓	✓	H	H	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						H
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	H				✓	✓

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>		✓				
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>			✓	✓		
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓			
Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>					✓	
Fallow Deer - I	<i>Dama dama</i>			✓			
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓					
Domestic Goat - I	<i>Capra hircus</i>			✓		✓	
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			✓	✓		
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					✓	

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Palmate Newt	<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2026					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>		✓		✓		
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓		✓	✓	
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓		
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>		✓				
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					✓	
Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>					✓	

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Scalloped Hook-tip	<i>Falcaria lacertinaria</i>
Satin Lutestring	<i>Tettheella fluctuosa</i>
Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>
Small Argent & Sable	<i>Epirrhoe tristata</i>
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>
Grey Pine Carpet	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>
Grey Pine Carpet	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>
Peacock Moth	<i>Macaria notata</i>
Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>
Barred Red	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Brown Rustic	<i>Rusina ferruginea</i>
Broom Moth	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>
Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name
a snipe fly	Rhagionidae sp.
Scorpion Fly	Mecoptera sp.
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>
Garden Chafer	<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>
Violet Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe violaceus</i>
a click beetle	Elateridae sp.
a rove beetle	Staphylinidae sp.
a dor beetle	Geotrupidae sp.
Two-banded Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
a horsehair worm	Nematophora sp.
Brown Garden Snail	<i>Cornu aspersa</i>

Fungi

Common name	Scientific name
Horse Hoof Fungus	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>

Lichens

Common name	Scientific name
Tree Lungwort	<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>
'Swan Vesta' lichen	<i>Cladonia floerkeana</i>

Seaweeds

Common name	Scientific name
Green Sea Fingers	<i>Codium fragile</i>
Gutweed	<i>Ulva intestinalis</i>
Channeled Wrack	<i>Pelvetia canaliculata</i>
Spiral Wrack	<i>Fucus spiralis</i>
Bladder Wrack	<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>
Toothed Wrack	<i>Fucus serratus</i>
Egg Wrack	<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>
Sea Spaghetti	<i>Himanthalia elongata</i>
Japweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>
Oyster Thief	<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>
Oarweed	<i>Laminaria digitata</i>
Sugar Kelp	<i>Saccharina latissima</i>
Furabelows	<i>Saccorhiza polyschides</i>

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
Wood Horsetail	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>
Wall-rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Black Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>
Sea Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium marinum</i>
Hart's-tongue Fern	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>
Lady-fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Lemon-scented Fern	<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>
Hard Fern	<i>Struthiopteris spicant</i>
Common Polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
Yellow Water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
American Skunk Cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>
Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
Hare's-tail Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>
Heath Rush	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>
Cock's-foot Grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Purple Moor-grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
Creeping Soft-grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
English Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
Early Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Creeping Willow	<i>Salix repens</i>
Marsh Violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
Heath Milkwort	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>
Common Milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>
Blinks	<i>Montia fontana</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Sea Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>
Sea Sandwort	<i>Honckenia peploides</i>
Ragged-Robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>
Round-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
Lady's Smock	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Common Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>
Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>
Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
English Stonecrop	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>
Opposite-leaved Water-carpet	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
Ling Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Blaeberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Common Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Bog-myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Scots Lovage	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>
Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
Common Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>
Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
Mountain Everlasting	<i>Antennaria dioica</i>
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>