

The Burren

Naturetrek Tour Report

18th – 22nd May 2026



Arctic Sandwort



Thrift



Greater Butterwort



Wood White

Tour report by Bruce Middleton



Naturetrek

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Tour participants: Bruce Middleton (leader) with 15 Naturetrek clients

Summary

We had rain most days, but luckily it was not too heavy in The Burren. The season was a little later than normal, but at least there was no drought, as last year. While we were too early for some of the orchids, and whatever the weather was doing, there was plenty to enjoy, including the beautiful scenery of The Burren and a wide variety of plants to see and enjoy. Highlights of our forays included orchids such as Irish Marsh, Flecked Irish Early Marsh, Early Purple, Twayblade, Fly and Dense-flowered. Other flowers included Spring Gentian, Bloody Cranesbill, Large-flowered Butterwort, Mossy and Irish Saxifrages, and the Arctic Sandwort. Birds included Cuckoo, Common and Black Guillemots, Puffin, Razorbill, Sandwich Tern and Great Northern Diver. The mammal of the tour had to be two Irish Hares. In the moments of sunshine we had glimpses of butterflies including Wood White, Speckled Wood and Pearl-bordered Fritillary, as well as Cinnabar and Transparent Burnet moths. Other highlights included a guided tour of the amazing Caher Bridge gardens, led by its creator, and visits to Mullach Mór and the Cliffs of Moher. We also sampled some truly delicious Irish food and drink.

Day 1

Monday 18th May

Weather: Rain for most of the day

Bruce welcomed fifteen clients at Sheedy's Hotel, Lisdoonvarna. After everyone had checked in to the hotel and made their dinner requests, we set off in the bus to Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan. Beside the sixteenth-century, cylindrical, fortified tower house, there is an art college with a small café, where we had lunch.

We first looked around the tower and found Fairy Foxglove (*Erinus alpinus*), and Rustyback Fern (*Asplenium ceterach*) growing out of the mortar in the walls. There was also lots of Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) that had gone wild and was growing up the castle walls. It rained pretty much most of the walk, so sadly we saw no butterflies. We set off on a walk down a lane and then went up onto Cappanavalla Hill. We heard Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Cuckoo and saw a good variety of plants, including Bloody Cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum*), Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*) and Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*). We also found the metallic blue propeller-shaped Spring Gentians (*Gentiana verna*), and to top it all lots of the beautiful Large-flowered Butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*). We wandered back to the bus and returned to the hotel to freshen up, before going through the species list and having the first of our delicious evening tour meals.

Day 2

Wednesday 19th May

Weather: Rain for the first part of the day, but eased off as the day went on

After breakfast, we set off to Poll Sallach on the coast road. We started by looking on the limestone pavement on the coastal side, and were rewarded with Sea Spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*), lots of pink-coloured Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and the white-flowered Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*). Inland, we found the beautiful yellow-flowered Hoary Rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum*), Heath Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza maculata*) galore, and Irish Marsh

Orchids (*Dactylorhiza kerryensis* var. *occidentalis*). A number of trees much smaller than they would normally be (and an adaptation to growing in limestone crevices), such as Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Then we moved down to Black Head Lighthouse, where we saw Irish Saxifrage (*Saxifraga rosacea*). Further on, we saw Black Guillemot, Shag, Great Northern Diver and Sandwich Tern. We then drove to “Monks”, where we had our lunch.

Turning back, we stopped off beside the Pinnacle Well, where we saw some more Fairy Foxglove, then drove on a track leading towards the sea. We set off down this path on foot towards a coastal spit known as the Rine. Despite the wet weather, we found a couple of Wood White butterflies resting under cover, and we could hear Cuckoos calling. On the beach, we came across some nice flowers such as Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), lots of Field Mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*), and Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*). We also came across an area of saltmarsh which had both Lax-flowered Sea Lavender (*Limonium humile*) and Irish Sea Lavender (*Limonium recurvum* subsp. *pseudotransvallianum*). However, we were too early to see them in flower.

We then set off away from the coast, to the prehistoric Poul nabrone dolmen, which we admired set atop the limestone pavement, surrounded by wild flowers. Beside the dolmen there was a wet ditch which had some Marsh Arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*) growing in it, and a small fenced-off pond had Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*) and Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*). As we were leaving the site, we noticed a Red Fox wandering around the car park. We descended to a hill top ring site: Caherconnell Fort. Here we had lovely views across the landscape, and found a nice stand of the beautiful Mossy Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*).

We returned to Sheedy's to freshen up, before updating the list and enjoying another great evening meal.

Day 3

Tuesday 20th May

Weather: Cloudy with sunny spells

The day started with a trip to the village to buy packed lunches at the Spar shop, after which our coach driver picked us up and took us to the Caher Bridge garden, where we met the owner, Carl Wright. Carl enthused us with his passion for the garden right from the start: he created it and is still developing it further. As we wandered through his magical garden, he told us how it all started by him buying a derelict house, which he rebuilt, and how he built a paradise around it on top of the limestone pavement, which supports little or no soil. He told us how he cleared small areas of Hazel bit by bit, built walls from scratch, and how he sieved all the imported soil. He told us that he was an ecologist, who had picked up his horticultural skills over the years. Carl is obviously skilful at whatever he puts his mind to, and he was a true inspiration to us all. While we were being shown around, there were Blackcaps, Song Thrush and Cuckoos constantly singing, and in the river beside the garden pond we saw a number of clumps of the very rare pondweed *Potamogeton* × *lanceolatus*. After the wonderful garden tour, we sat down and had our lunch.

Next, we drove off to the start of a track into The Burren known as the “Green Road”. We looked across the open landscape and could see the Aran Islands and Galway in the distance, and the vast expanse of limestone pavement all around us. We heard Cuckoos, and saw Wheatear and Stonechat. As we climbed up this wonderful path, flanked on both sides with limestone drywalls within a barren rocky landscape, we found Spring Gentian, Mountain Avens

(*Dryas octopetala*), Hoary Rock-rose, Early Purple Orchid, and the find of the day: Arctic Sandwort (*Arenaria norvegica*) growing among some Spring Sandwort (*Sabulina verna*).

We returned to the hotel and went out to explore an interesting meadow in Lisdoonvarna. Here, we discovered Heath Spotted Orchid, as well as some Irish Marsh Orchids, and there were a number of hybrids between these two species. Another lovely flower to see was the Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*).

Day 4

Thursday 21st May

Weather: Cloudy with some rain

After breakfast, we set off towards Mullach Mór, stopping en route to look at Leamaneh Castle. We heard the tale of a local lady, Máire Rua O'Brien, who lived here and allegedly murdered at least four husbands, making sure she left no evidence of her involvement in their deaths, but ensuring she was still the owner of the castle when they passed away.

Afterwards, we set off to Mullach Mór and investigated a meadow area, where we found Early Purple Orchids and Twayblade. Then we visited the partly dry Lough Geálain, which is a turlough (winter spring-fed lake). Here we were immediately greeted by the Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), which is plentiful here. We noticed lots of Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), stunted and hugging the limestone pavement here. We also saw Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), as well as the hybrid (*Viola* × *ritschliana*) violet, Turlough Dandelion (*Taraxacum amarellum*) and Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Further inspection of the area produced Carnation (*Carex panicea*), Common, Flea (*Carex pulicaris*) and Great Fen Sedges (*Cladium mariscus*). On the bird front, we saw Common Sandpiper and Mallard. We then went a little further down the road and looked at the house which featured in "Father Ted". We drove to Cassidy's for lunch.

After a pleasant lunch, we headed off to Slieve Carran National Nature Reserve: we first followed the path that led up to the Eagles Rock. It was raining a bit, but luckily it soon stopped, and we discovered hundreds of plants of the eight-petaled Mountain Avens: a few had double flowers. The path led us to the seventh-century hermitage and holy well dedicated to St Colman Mac Duagh, which was hidden in a Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) copse. This copse had a woodland floor covered in Wild Garlic (*Allium ursinum*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Below the well we also discovered Water Avens (*Geum rivale*). The well itself had Brittle Bladder ferns (*Cystopteris fragilis*) growing out of the walls. Then we walked back towards the bus via a wet bog area with Common Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), where we also found Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) and Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*).

Day 5

Friday 22nd May

Weather: Rain

After our last (hearty) breakfast at Sheedy's, and saying our farewells to our excellent host Martina, we set off to the Cliffs of Moher. When we arrived, we were rewarded with numerous Fulmars, Guillemots, and some Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Puffins.

We then drove to Fanore, where we had a very quick look at the dunes, finding Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*). On the shorter grassland beside the dunes, we found Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*) smothering other plants. Then we headed back to the hotel, where a pair of clients parted company with us and said their goodbyes, while those who remained with the bus went to the Kilfenora Burren Centre, where we had lunch and bought souvenirs. Our final stop was at the ruins of Kilfenora Cathedral, to see the ancient limestone Celtic crosses and see Navelwort (*Umbilicus rupestris*) growing on the walls.

Our time had come to a close, and it was time to head to Shannon Airport. So ended another lovely spring tour of The Burren.

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Species lists

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Calamophytes	Horsetails	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Greater Horsetail	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	Mullach Mor
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium adiatum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Cappanavalla
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	Newtown Castle
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	Sea Spleenwort	Poll Sallach
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	Cappanavalla
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue	Slieve
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Cappanavalla
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Slieve
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern	Cappanavalla
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	Kilfenora
<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Western Polypody	Cappanavalla
Woodsiaceae	Lady-fern Family	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern	Slieve
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Slieve
PINACEAE	CONIFERS	
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka Spruce	Lisdoonvarna
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Eu-dicots	True Dicotyledons	
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family	
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Spear-leaved Orache	Rine
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	Rine
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	Mullach Mor
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	Mullach Mor
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Rine
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Green Road
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>gummifer</i>	Sea Carrot	Rine
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Garden Parsley	Newtown Castle
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	Green Road
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family	
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly	Slieve
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Atlantic Ivy	Slieve
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting or Cat's-paw	Cappanavalla

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle	Cappanavalla
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	Cappanavalla
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	Meadow Thistle	Mullach Mor
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	Caher Valley
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard	Rine
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony	Poll Sallach
<i>Hieracium</i> agg.	Hawkweed group	Mullach Mor
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	Mullach Mor
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	Slieve
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	Cappanavalla
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple Weed	Rine
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce	Mullach Mor
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Slieve
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	Cappanavalla
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Cappanavalla
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	Poll Sallach
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Cappanavalla
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial Sow-thistle	Poll Sallach
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion group	Cappanavalla
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Sea Mayweed	Rine
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	Cappanavalla
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope	Roadsides
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common Alder	Rine
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	Caher Bridge
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Cappanavalla
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress	Roadsides
<i>Brasica nigra</i>	Black Mustard	Fanore
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	Cappanavalla
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Common Scurvygrass	Poll Sallach
<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser Swine-cress	Nr Burren Centre
<i>Draba verna</i>	Common Whitlow-grass	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's-violet	Roadsides
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water-cress	Caher Valley
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> subsp. <i>maritimum</i>	Sea Radish	Rine
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Rine
Droseraceae	Sundew Family	
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew	Slieve
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Shining Honeysuckle	Cappanavalla
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Cappanavalla
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry	Rine
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Cappanavalla
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	Mullach Mor
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	Newtown Castle

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear	Rine
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	Sea Mouse-ear	Rine
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort	Rine
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort	Cappanavalla
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	Cappanavalla
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion	Rine
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	Rine
Celastraceae	Spindle Family	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	Cappanavalla
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i> subsp. <i>piloselloides</i>	Hoary Rock-rose	Green Road
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder	Fanore
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	Rine
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	Kilfenora
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's-bit Scabious	Cliffs of Moher
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	Cappanavalla
<i>Succia pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious (leaves only)	Cappanavalla
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	Slieve
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	Slieve
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	Road sides
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia portlandica</i>	Portland Spurge	Fanore
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	Lisdoonvarna
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Poll Sallach
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter Vetch	Poll Sallach
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	Cappanavalla
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	Cappanavalla
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Cappanavalla
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	Cappanavalla
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Cappanavalla
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Cappanavalla
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Roadsides
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Cappanavalla
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Lisdoonvarna
Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	Caher Bridge
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Cappanavalla
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	Cappanavalla
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Green Road
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	Cappanavalla
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Rine
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Cappanavalla
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Cappanavalla

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
Hippuridaceae	Mare's-tail Family	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	Mare's-tail	Caher Bridge
Hypericaceae	St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan	Mullach Mor
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort	Mullach Mor
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St John's-wort	Poulina brone
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle	Slieve
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Cappanavalla
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	Poll Sallach
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	Cappanavalla
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	Cappanavalla
Lentibulariaceae	Bladderwort Family	
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Butterwort	Cappanavalla
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	Slieve
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	Newtown Castle
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Cliffs of Moher
Menyanthaceae	Bog-bean Family	
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog-bean	Mullach Mor
Myricaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog Myrtle	Slieve
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Cappanavalla
Onagraceae	Willow-herb Family	
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willow-herb	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	Slieve
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willow-herb	Cappanavalla
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willow-herb	Cappanavalla
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh Willow-herb	Mullach Mor
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willow-herb	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Fuchsia (wild)	Roadsides
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i> var. <i>macrostema</i>	Fuchsia (of garden origin)	Roadsides
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Euphrasia tetraquetra</i>	Western Eyebright	Fanore
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort	Slieve
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	Poll Sallach
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	Rine
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	Poll Sallach
<i>Plantago lanecolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Rine
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	Rine
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain	Rine
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift	Poll Sallach
<i>Limonium humile</i>	Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (leaves only)	Rine
<i>L. recurvum</i> subsp. <i>pseudotranswallianum</i>	Irish Sea-lavender (leaves only)	Rine
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	Cappanavalla
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family	
<i>Falopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common Knotgrass	Rine
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Cappanavalla

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	Cappanavalla
<i>Rumex crispus</i> subsp. <i>littoreus</i>	Curled Dock (coastal subspecies)	Rine
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	Sieve
Potamogetonaceae	Pondweed Family	
<i>Potamogeton x lanceolatus</i>	A Pondweed	Caher Bridge
<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	Bog Pondweed	Poulina brone
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Rine
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea-milkwort	Rine
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	Slieve
<i>Lysimachia punctatum</i>	Dotted Loosestrife	Roadsides
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	Green Road
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Green Road
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed	Cappanavalla
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Ficaria verna</i> agg.	Lesser Celandine	Rine
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Cappanavalla
<i>Ranunculus bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Rine
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort	Poulina brone
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Cappanavalla
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue	Mullach Mor
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn	Mullach Mor
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn	Mullach Mor
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Alchemilla glabra</i>	Smooth Lady's-mantle	Green Road
<i>Alchemilla filicaulis</i> subsp. <i>vestita</i>	Hairy Lady's-mantle	Slieve
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>	Intermediate Lady's-mantle	Slieve
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley Piert	Green Road
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Cappanavalla
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens	Poulina brone
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadow Sweet	Cappanavalla
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	Slieve
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Cappanavalla
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	Slieve
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	Slieve
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	Cappanavalla
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Cappanavalla
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Mullach Mor
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry	Cahermort Fort
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> (S. <i>minor</i>)	Salad Burnet	Slieve
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Cappanavalla
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	Cappanavalla
<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>	Burnet Rose	Mullach Mor
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	Cappanavalla
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	Slieve
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Cappanavalla
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Cappanavalla
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort	Green Road
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Cappanavalla
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	Cappanavalla
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw	Mullach Mor
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	Slieve

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
<i>Galium sternerii</i>	Limestone Bedstraw	Green Road
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Green Lane
<i>Rubia perigrina</i>	Wild Madder	Cappanavalla
Saliciaceae	Willow & Poplar Family	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Cappanavalla
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	Cappanavalla
<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping Willow	Poll Sallach
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	Roadsides
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Cappanavalla
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	Mossy Saxifrage	Cahermort Fort
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	Cappanavalla
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Solanum dulcamera</i>	Woody Nightshade	Lisdoonvarna
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Newtown Castle
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	Cappanavalla
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Road sides
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian	Cappanavalla
Veronicaceae	Speedwell family	
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	Newtown Castle
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	Poulina brone
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Cappanavalla
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell	Slieve
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell	Mullach Mor
<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field Speedwell	Green Road
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Rine
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog-violet	Mullach Mor
<i>Viola x ritschliana</i>	Hybrid Violet	Mullach Mor
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	Cappanavalla
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Alliaceae	Onion Family	
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three- corned leek	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Wild Garlic	Slieve
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies	Cappanavalla
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Cappanavalla
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cotton-grass	Slieve
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	Lesser Pond Sedge	Caher Bridge
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge	Fanore
<i>Carex dimissa</i>	Common Yellow Sedge	Poulina brone
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge	Poulina brone
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	Cappanavalla
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	Tawny Sedge	Cappanavalla
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common Sedge	Poulina brone
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	Mullach Mor
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	Cappanavalla
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea Sedge	Mullach Mor

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location seen
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	Slieve
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Great Fen Sedge	Mullach Mor
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush	Poulina brone
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia	Road sides
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	Cappanavalla
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Juncus bufonis</i>	Toad Rush	Green Road
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Rush	Mullach Mor
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	Rine
<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	Saltmarsh Rush	Rine
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	Cappanavalla
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath Woodrush	Slieve
<i>Luzula multiflora</i> subsp. <i>congregata</i>	Heath Woodrush	Slieve
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Wood-rush	Lisdoonvarna
Juncaginaceae	Arrowgrass Family	
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	Marsh Arrowgrass	Poulina brone
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Dactylorhiza fuschii</i>	Common Spotted-orchid	Mullach Mor
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> subsp. <i>pulchella</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Mullach Mor
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i> subsp. <i>ericetorum</i>	Heath Spotted-orchid	Poulina brone
<i>Dactylorhiza kerryensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	Irish Marsh Orchid	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine (leaves only)	Caher Bridge
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	Slieve
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Twayblade	Caher Bridge
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Green Road
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	Slieve
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	Cappanavalla
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram	Fanore
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	Cappanavalla
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	Cappanavalla
<i>Avenula pubescens</i>	Downy Oat-grass	Cappanavalla
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	Cappanavalla
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	Cappanavalla
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	Upright Brome	Cappanavalla
<i>Catapodium maritimum</i>	Sea Fern-grass	Fanore
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	Green Road
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Cappanavalla
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Cappanavalla
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	Cappanavalla
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	Lisdoonvarna
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	Mullach Mor
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Mullach Mor
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Cappanavalla
<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	Blue Moor-grass	Cappanavalla

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	H
Rock Dove/ 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 Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓			
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓	✓		
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		✓			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓			
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓			✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓			✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H			H
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H	✓	H	H	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>				✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					✓
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓			
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>				✓	
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓	
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>				✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	✓		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓		
(Irish) Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>				✓	
Feral Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>		✓		✓	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>				✓	

Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				✓	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓		✓	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓		
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓		
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓		

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>				✓	
Brown Tent Moth	<i>Malacosoma americanum</i>			✓		
Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>				✓	
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>			✓		
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>				✓	

Bees

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>			✓		
White-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>				✓	
Red-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>			✓		
Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>			✓		

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		18	19	20	21	22
Garden Chafer	<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>				✓	
a pond skater	<i>Gerris</i> sp.		✓			