

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Flowers and birds in the Dordogne
7 – 14 May 2009**

Flowers and birds in the Dordogne 7 – 14 May 2009

Holiday participants

John Rumpus and Rosemary MacDonald
Di and Steve Licence
Ian Witard

Bill Simmonds and Margaret Chilvers
Joe and Linda Firmin
Will Warham

Leader: Chris Durdin
Report by Chris Durdin

Photos by Chris Durdin, except bison at Font de Gaume from www.arachnis.asso.fr

Sketch (below) of old tobacco barn in Lagrave by Rosemary MacDonald

Cover: knapweed fritillary on pyramidal orchid in Castang's meadow

Our hosts at Castang: Cathy and Keith Parker www.castang.info



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person towards the 'Refuges LPO' project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £430 (€456).

This year there also are donations for LPO through two holidays in the Cévennes and one in the French Pyrenees. Combining these, and adding in £250 from the Wildlife Outreach Network towards LPO's lammergeier project in the French Pyrenees, gives a total donation to LPO of £2405 – €2550.

This gives a running total for donations to LPO of $£10,518 + £2,405 = £12,923$ since 1991. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was at £60,166 in June 2008.

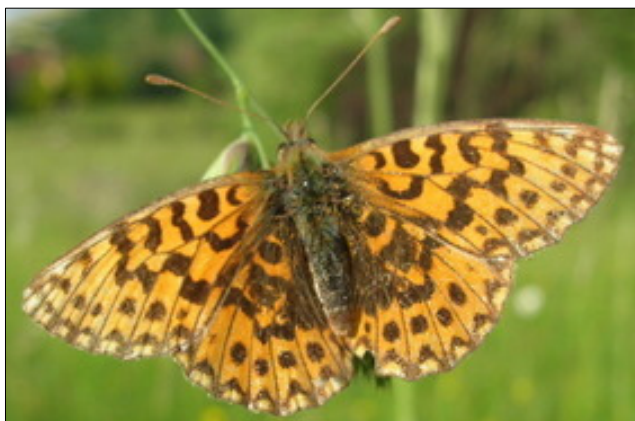
Flowers and birds in the Dordogne 7 – 14 May 2009

Thursday 7 May – Stansted to Castang

Having done battle with check-in machines and Ryanair's daft luggage limits, all were safely on board for a smooth flight to Bergerac, arriving on time. Despite changes underway at the airport it remains delightfully low-tech, with luggage arriving down a gravity-operated roller that is fed from a simple outside hatch. Just yards outside, there was Gilles with a warm welcome and his bus parked nearby. It was a warm and sunny drive of an hour, east along the Dordogne valley. A black kite soon appeared, there were swans on the river and the first orchids were glimpsed from the coach. Keith, Cathy and their daughter Olivia greeted us at Castang and after dropping bags in rooms we were soon drinking tea on the terrace.

With a cloudy and possibly wet week forecast, we seized the moment in the warm early evening sun to dip into Castang's wonderful meadow. In minutes we had found seven orchid species among the ox-eye daisies and quaking grass. After a relatively cold winter it was a fairly early season, so the pyramidal orchids were just emerging. Pale green spikes of man orchids were close to the strange stumps of lizard orchids in bud. Long-lipped serapias, a southern species, was coming out, and early spider orchids were already a tad past their best. The dominant orchids, however, were green-veined in their hundreds and all shades of pink through to a completely white specimen, save for the green veins on the hood (*right*). A couple of bee orchids and a single military orchid added to the mix.

Joe's moth expertise was immediately up and running, including elegant day flying latticed and common heaths and shiny forester moths. Ian had a go with my butterfly net and between us we netted knapweed and violet (weavers) fritillary (*below*); there were several caterpillars of the former species on knapweeds for good measure. Wood white, small heath and common blue were straightforward enough, but we puzzled over a copper for a while before settling on female sooty copper. A cuckoo was calling in the distance. We set off down the hill to find some adderstongue ferns, which we did, stumbling across a superb loose-flowered orchid on the way. Then coming up the hill there was small patch of burnt-tip orchids, our tenth orchid in less than an hour and all in the one field.



After aperitifs – kir was popular – we took on what was to be our daily challenge of Cathy's celebrated five-course meals. Tonight started, as always, with a homemade soup, this time pumpkin; the starter was omelette with chives, the main course guinea fowl with beans. Then came the cheeseboard with a choice of six cheeses and pear tart for dessert.

Some of us felt we should walk off some of that and took a night-time stroll around the local lanes, hearing at least three midwife toads in a garden at the other end of the hamlet of Castang and a hooting tawny owl.

Friday 8 May – local walks around Castang

There was a powerful clap of thunder and a little rain in the night, but it was fine though cool for the earlyish – 7.45 – birdwatchers who gathered by the walnut tree. A melodious warbler chattered away in its characteristically un-melodious way; it popped up briefly a couple of times but didn't settle on a perch for views. Much the same was true for a ciril bunting and a golden oriole called. Down at the corner by the turn to Castang we found a small meadow with many chunky looking lady orchids and following the track beside this field we could hear and eventually saw a short-toed treecreeper. A woodlark sang its 'lu –lu' song as we headed back for breakfast. We'd puzzled at the flags here and there, but we learnt they weren't for today's holiday celebrations of the liberation of France in WW2 but rather were still up to mark the local elections last year when Cathy became deputy mayor of Le Caux.

It was cool, cloudy but happily dry as we headed off around 10 o'clock after a continental breakfast. Pausing opposite the field with the crimson clover and broomrapes we studied three species of buttercups. Just beyond a now derelict vineyard there was evidence of limestone flora – sulphur clover especially – immediately next to an acidic outcrop with sweet chestnut and bracken. A black kite glided over Lagrave. I heard a common redstart which we found on a chimney, which was then easy to see as we went into the village centre by the old bread oven and pond, the latter with frogs and newts. A ciril bunting settled on an electricity pylon and a black redstart not far from the common redstart added to the nice mix. A black-veined white on an ox-eye daisy (*below, top left*) was cool enough to be closely viewed without needing a net or bug box and the same was true of a knapweed fritillary, some six-spot burnet moths (*below, right*) and a wood white (*bottom left*).



As we headed round the back of Castang's meadow, a pair of stonechats moved to and fro from a wire, along with another ciril bunting, and a honey buzzard flew through. In the wooded back stretch were lady orchids and narrow-leaved helleborines, and we paused by the stone *lavoir* – an old communal water/washing feature – to admire more frogs and newts. As we crossed the meadow, the ever-alert Linda found a small elephant hawk-moth.

After a salad lunch we headed along a woodland edge towards Le Coux and the river, this time accompanied by Olivia. At the end of the wood we heard a Bonelli's warbler and, amazingly, several honey buzzards flew through. Various colourful and interesting bugs were admired, including a cluster



of squash bugs *Verlusea rhombea* on a broad-leaved dock and a red-and-black soldier beetle *Trichodes alvearius* (left). In Le Coux, John found a wryneck and several serins buzzed busily around. Olivia pointed out the wooden structure called *un travail* that was used to hold horses while they were fitted with shoes, or cattle had feet problems sorted. Two male blackcaps battled over a female on a tumbledown bamboo fence, onto which also popped a wren.

We paused to identify wild clary opposite the shop, a smaller and darker flower than the abundant blue meadow clary. By the church were three swallows just off the nest. Following the sign to *la plage* – the beach – into the floodplain of the

Dordogne there were no less than eight black kites together in the sky, and a grey wagtail settled onto a wire. Past the asparagus beds and kiwi espaliers we reached the very swollen river. The mural of river fish painted by Olivia's junior school class eight years ago is still there, plus a new one just completed by the present generation about riverside trees. Keith had already come past us to take some back in his car; others walked up the hill back to Castang. Well, walked most of the way: Olivia and I ran the last 250 metres or so, a repeat of last year's impromptu race. Then it was time for tea, and later checklists with our aperitifs. Dinner was spinach soup, terrine of pork and duck liver, salmon in hollandaise sauce with special roast potatoes, cheese followed by almond tart with raspberry coulis.

Saturday 9 May – woodland walk and Limeuil

The early birders set off at 7.30, despite a threatening looking sky that happily came to nothing, and were rewarded with a good view of the local melodious warbler (right) on an exposed perch. We headed towards the Chateau of Cazenac where a nightingale sang loudly and close, yet out of sight. Two stonechats perched on a telephone line and a woodlark sang overhead. We paused to look at snails, namely brown-lipped banded and Kentish snails.



After breakfast Gilles and the bus took us the short hop to the next village of Bigaroque, though the journey had added interest from a *deviation* due to some tree felling. The 'woodland walk' is along a very quiet road, though a little less so today as there was a trickle of classic sports cars on a rally. Almost immediately a golden oriole was heard and two seen flying over; we were striking lucky with this often elusive bird. New flowers as we reached limestone banks included swallow-wort, Nottingham catchfly and globularia, with our first fly orchid above head height to our left. The grey sky and cool weather soon changed to a warm morning, bringing out the butterflies including several orange-tips, pearly heaths, brimstones, small blues and both swallowtail species. Several ascalaphids were emerging, yet still as they warmed up. Di spotted a strange purple patch in the damp wood to our right, which Rosemary recognised as toothwort: the purple toothwort here seemed to be a parasite on alder. Another new plant for the Honeyguide list was common gromwell. Some managed a view of the Bonelli's warblers that were often singing in the oaks, and a turtle dove purred.

Gilles, the bus and the picnics were at the rendezvous junction and we picnicked in a rich meadow with fairy flax and chalk milkwort round us. Joe was quick to recognise a fat black beetle as an oil beetle. There were many burnt-tip orchids, including one white individual, and scores of our first tongue orchids. As we walked up the slope towards the violet birdsnest orchids that Gilles had sought out we found many woodcock and bee orchids, allowing a comparison of these similar ophrys species. In another meadow, with a now abandoned *pigeoniere*, there was delightful mixture of military and lady orchids, sheets of chalk milkwort (*right*) and our first Glanville fritillary. By the road were two white poplars that were seriously impressive as individual trees; Di found a nuthatch leaving one of them.



Gilles dropped us at the top of the pretty village of Limeuil (*left*) in the square by the public – and rather open air – loos. We wandered informally down through the steeply sloping village. Will found a hummingbird hawkmoth on valerian by the church; several of us counted six painted ladies in a loose group also on valerian. Popping into the little garden near the bottom it took just seconds to locate the regular tree sparrows here, a new bird for Ian and nice for any birdwatcher to see. Then it was time for a cold beer overlooking the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère rivers before returning to Castang for tea. Here the sunshine was bringing out the butterflies; painted lady on the horse chestnut flowers by the house (*see picture in wildlife lists*) and knapweed fritillaries especially; Joe found our first silver-Y moth and Ian a powerful looking mole cricket. Dinner was vegetable soup, pastry parcels with sorrel sauce, *confit de canard*, cheeses and *vacherin* with red fruit coulis.

Sunday 10 May – the ‘two views’ walk at Berbiguières and Montalieu Haut

There was a hoopoe at Castang before the early birders walked towards Lagrave where the common redstart was on the same chimney as last time. Remarkably, yet another golden oriole was seen, along with many of the regular species.

It's a fairly short drive to the other side of the Dordogne valley to the pretty village of Berbiguières. We started by peering down at the trees from the bridge over what seems to be a dry valley, from where our run of good luck with orioles continued with three more views. Then a hawfinch zapped through, probably having come from the elm covered in seeds. Gilles said he gets them coming to bird seed in his garden in winter. In the village there was male black redstart feeding a recently fledged youngster. A lady appeared to unlock the church and we looked inside. Joe stayed with the bus and the rest of us meandered through the village, past the chateau walls, climbing roses and wisteria, to the yellow post marking the ascent onto the crest of the ‘two views walk’ up a steepish wooded track.

It was as rich for orchids as the itinerary words had suggested, unaffected by some drizzle. Great patches of man orchids, some sheets of burnt-tips, big groups of violet birdsnest orchids and a good scattering of woodcock orchids were especially prominent. Our first monkey orchid could be seen on the other side of an electric fence, then a second farther along the crest walk. Bill left the road to stand

quietly to see what birds came to him and was rewarded with close views of a cuckoo, serins and a male common redstart. By this time Joe had joined us and had found heath fritillaries in the meadow by which Gilles had parked the bus. The botanists studied the twin flowers on fly honeysuckle, brown vetch and a patch of the southern species Mediterranean Coriaria.

After lunch in the meadow at the end of the crest walk, happily by now warm and dry, we popped into the wood through which the road ascends to see birdsnest and greater butterfly orchids, plus pignut and the pretty pea bitter vetchling. Back in the meadow we saw more heath fritillaries, any number of ascalaphids (*right*) – *papillon libellule* in French – a few burnet companion moths and a Glanville fritillary, among others.



A brief shower of rain started as we left here heading for Montalieu Haut, soon passing two roe deers. Gilles dropped us at the top of this wooded descent through more southerly-style dry vegetation, illustrated by our first Montpellier maple and Mediterranean buckthorn. We had typically poor views of a singing



Bonelli's warbler, but the large and showy labiate bastard balm was both easy to see and, it seemed, an easy name to remember compared with many plants. There were dainty wild columbines (*left*) as we descended. New plants included narrow-leaved lungwort, great patches of the compact shrubby pea hairy greenweed and, on the stony slopes at the bottom, the silvery-leaved yellow pea argyrolobium. Colourful strips of blue gromwell brightened the hedge near the bus. The return route took us along the Dordogne valley past the impressive looking fortified villages of Castelnau and Beynac.

It had plainly rained more at Castang than we'd encountered, but by now – following what seemed to be a pattern – it was warm and dry. Dinner was carrot soup, mixed starter, lamb with flageolet beans, cheese and apricot cake.

Monday 11 May – Keith's walk

Pre-breakfast arrangements were informal today; several of us watched the melodious warbler who was singing on his usual exposed perch and Bill and Margaret found a whinchat. Already painted lady butterflies were out and about: the large numbers on show seem to suggest a bumper year after last year's lean time for this species and others in the UK. (And so it proved: see www.honeyguide.co.uk/paintedladies.htm)

We had a slightly earlier breakfast (8.30) to give a little extra time for the local walk, with Keith drafted in as leader to give insights into buildings and the local way of life. With key in hand he unlocked a gate to take us through a private meadow, stopping to admire an elegant if workaday *pigeoniere*, sadly steadily declining as roof tiles drop off, with little prospect of rescue.

We dropped into a path through the wood, stopping to look at an old stone sluice with dropboards – an *abreuvoir* – above a walnut grove. Indeed we passed three recent walnut plantations in small fields between the woods; it seems that demand for walnut oil is good. We took a detour to see the entrance to a badger sett over which a Bonelli's warbler was singing in oaks. In a small quarry, some looked for fossils in the limestone; we found green tiger beetles on some sand and a pill millipede giving the chance to observe the subtle differences between the latter and a pill woodlouse.

Di found a crab spider eating a hoverfly on a large wood spurge by the track. Back on the quiet country roads there was a whitethroat singing on a wire, shortly before Cathy came in the car to give Joe and Linda a lift back to base. The rest walked the last leg, some pausing to listen to a firecrest. Steve picked up an interesting ground beetle: with the aid of Chinery's insect book we were able to name it as *Calosoma nemoralis*.

A warm and sunny day had brought out many more wall lizards and gave the excuse for a cold beer plus a chance to eat lunch outside. A free afternoon followed: some sought butterflies, Rosemary was sketching tobacco barns (*see page 2*) and others just rested. Gathering strength for more eating perhaps, for a dinner of leek soup, smoked salmon, pork with cauliflower, cheese and strawberries.

Finding midwife toads after dark has become a great tradition on Honeyguide's Dordogne holidays.



Because it wasn't going to be possible to visit our usual garden at the other end of the hamlet of Castang, Keith and I had been out scouting possible locations. Meanwhile, John and Rosemary had heard midwife toads calling at Lagrave during the afternoon. Both routes led us to Lagrave as the first choice to try, the village pond, bare ground and walls plus

easy access offering an ideal mix. Six of us piled into two cars for the short journey and it was the right choice as there were lots calling. They are never easy to find as they can be in vegetation or tucked into walls and they rarely seem to be where their soft 'poo poo' calls are coming from. Happily, Rosemary found one in a flowerbed and John located a male with eggs by a wall alongside the road, so we all had excellent views of this charming but tiny amphibian.

Tuesday 12 May – Le Bugue and the cave walk

A trip to the local town for market day in France is another Honeyguide tradition, but we started our morning in Le Bugue on the small hill above the town. Stepping out of the bus we were greeted by bright – electric blue in Joe's apt description – Adonis blue butterflies, our first so far. Linda spotted paper wasps nesting under a sign for the *grottes*. White flax and fumana on the well-drained limestone slopes were new flowers. We could hear the now familiar trill of Bonelli's warbler and the thin line of not-so-tall oaks and pines made easily our best view possible, the pale underside of a singing bird on a pine branch. Descending towards Le Bugue we found beautiful damselflies *Agrion virgo* hawking from the trees. We noted ivy broomrape on a wall – growing among ivy, a big clue about its ID – and then serins, one bright yellow against the trunk of a black pine.

Maps, pots, postcards and walnut oil were bought and for some coffees enjoyed while watching nesting swallows at the pub-bar Le Celtic. Many of the group descended to a bar on the Vézère riverside where sand martins could be seen going in and out of drainage pipes in the walls. We had lunch in the warm sunshine of the park here, adding green-veined white to the butterfly list and hearing a wryneck.

The 'cave walk' starts along more steep limestone grassland, where fly and greater butterfly were the most notable of the orchids, with many twayblades too. We heard the bubble of a female cuckoo, as well as a more familiar male. Considering the hot afternoon there was plenty of bird song in the wood, especially robin, blackbird, Bonelli's warbler and chiffchaff. We emerged out of the wood into a rich meadow where yellow rattle was abundant, plus two species of tongue orchids and many sombre bee orchids (*right*), a species more associated with the Mediterranean.



Will's driving licence seemed to be enough collateral against the earphones issued for the English commentary on the sound and light show for those who took the tour of the Gouffre de Proumeyssac. They reported that it was well worth the half hour in the cool of the cavern of the 'crystal cathedral'. Two of us waited with bags in the café; Bill and Margaret followed the interpretation trail from the car park that explained about the trees and woodland plants here.

After dinner – tomato soup, melon with port, beef with courgettes, cheese and apple tart – several of us walked to Lagrave, finding six or eight midwife toads and hearing many more, though none tonight with eggs.

Wednesday 13 May – Font de Gaume and Roque St Christophe

With half an hour to spare before we were due at Font de Gaume, Gilles dropped us by the river Vézère close to Les Eyzies under one of the many cliffs that shape this area. Crag martins coasted close to the rock; we saw close at hand a clump of the tall purple crucifer dame's violet that we'd driven past elsewhere and, for the second time this week, found purple toothwort, this time on poplar.

Cathy was at the Font de Gaume ticket office/shop ahead of us: there was no English-speaking guide available so she kindly came to translate. But first there was a climb of 400 metres or so by some excellent limestone grassland/mixed scrub. White rockrose was the dominant flower, Montpellier maple the commonest shrub tree, with a sprinkling of woodcock orchids.

Our guide to the caves stressed what a privilege it was to see at first hand this set of polychrome prehistoric paintings, and the care they take to limit numbers and carefully monitor temperature and



humidity. But this is mere background to the sheer marvel of the black and red paintings of bisons and reindeer, using the natural shapes of the rocks and all done in the flickering light of fire or burning oil some 14,000 years ago.

On the way down we added meadow saxifrage and not-quite-in-flower yellow woundwort, plus birdsnest orchids on the wooded side of the path. The tail end Charlies also saw a large wall brown butterfly before our guide locked the gate.

The picnic tables at Roque St Christophe had a large school group so we settled on the grass with our packed lunches. Di then went off to visit the caves to see how generations of troglodytes lived here, and very good it was, she said – as was a view of a peregrine from the vantage point high on the cliff. After popping into the loos by the café, the rest of us walked through the wood and into a meadow sprinkled with tall blue rampion bellflowers. The two butterfly nets with the party then really earned their worth with the stunning southern white admiral the first to be studied in the pot followed by marsh fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, clouded buff moth and our first brown argus – a small male. Sooty copper was one of several butterflies here we'd previously seen, but this time including the dark-coloured male from which it gets its name.

A little farther up the path we clambered onto a dry limestone slope. Here among the white rockrose and lavender we found many spikes of bug orchids in bud, including two just about coming into flower. Several Adonis blues were on the wing and we caught a couple of Oberthur's grizzled skippers (*photo in wildlife lists*).

We descended through the lower meadow, having passed our third birdsnest orchid group for the week, seeing several military orchids and other more usual suspects. In the boggy ground between the meadow and the car park, common spotted orchids were just emerging from bud and there were

scores (at least) of adderstongue ferns. In the slightly drier woodland edge there were early purple orchids too: our 25th orchid species of the week, if you count the broad-leaved helleborines and lizard orchids not yet in flower.

After tea or beer, we drove round the corner and parked under the cliff. A peregrine falcon was perched high on an oak against the skyline, though there was nothing visible in its nest site. House martins were nesting in the unusual natural setting of real rocks, with crag martins too. A couple of miles down the road we checked a second cliff at Maison Forte de Reignal. Gilles chatted to the gardener and this led to us viewing from a ploughed field to see a fluffy peregrine chick on the nest.

The final meal – mixed vegetable soup, fish terrine, chicken in tarragon sauce with carrots, cheese and walnut cake with almonds – was an opportunity to reflect on the hospitality of Cathy, Keith and Olivia and to collect holiday highlights. Bill's talent on the piano had been uncovered earlier in the week so we repaired to the 'library' for a singsong and to hear some inspired tinkling on the ivories.

Thursday 14 May – Castang, then Bergerac and home

We woke to rain, so that staying inside to pack or to read was the practical thing to do. By mid-morning the rain stopped so most of us went out, walking to Lagrave, as on the first morning. The differences in a week were striking: the pyramidal orchids in bud a week ago were fully out, the broomrapes on the crimson clover now in their scores. In Lagrave not only was the common redstart on the same rooftop but also we confirmed a second singing male, as well as black redstarts. Over an early sandwich lunch the rain resumed, staying with us as we left at two o'clock for the return journey to Bergerac. As we crossed the Dordogne river we caught a clear, if brief, glimpse of two hobbies with a low-flying flock of swifts and hirundines. At the airport there was some diversion from the usual wait provided by black kites feeding over the long grass airfield: the maximum count was 19 including a group of 10. Then smoothly and promptly back to Stansted.

* * * * *

Holiday highlights

It's always interesting to hear the features or highlights of a holiday that may stick in the memory, and these are what we noted over dinner on the final evening:-

Steve: adderstongue fern; the whole environment; the Castang cuisine; crag and house martins together at Roque St Christophe; walnut plantations.

Rosemary: everything ... "the whole thing is magical ... orchids like weeds"

Joe: so many orchids; being so well looked after by our hosts (this was especially as he had a heavy cold this week).

Di: sound of the midwife toads; the daily melodious warbler; Font de Gaume.

Bill: "favourite place I've ever stayed."

Margaret: the general atmosphere; the team; searching around in the dark for midwife toads; the first golden oriole.

Will: midwife toads; butterflies and shared wildlife expertise; the ambience under the silver birches with an evening drink; to return after 30 years and see that extensive agriculture and the wildlife that depends on it survives.

Ian: first impressions of Castang's meadow; picking ripe cherries off the tree before breakfast; Keith, Cathy and Olivia and their hospitality.

John: the whole ambience; the number of orchids and butterflies; midwife toads; the crystal cathedral.

Linda: Castang's meadow; quietness of the area; the little villages; the orchids.

Chris: Keith's meadow and Cathy's soups (as ever); one butterfly after another in the meadow at Roque St Christophe; the shared group expertise and enthusiasm.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Grey heron	Skylark H	Firecrest H
Mute swan	Sand martin	Long-tailed tit
Mallard	Crag martin	Marsh tit H
Honey buzzard	Swallow	Blue tit
Black kite	House martin	Great tit
Buzzard	Grey wagtail	Nuthatch
Kestrel	White wagtail	Short-toed treecreeper
Hobby	Wren	Golden oriole
Peregrine	Duncock	Jay
Pheasant H	Robin	Magpie
Moorhen	Nightingale	Jackdaw
Feral pigeon	Black redstart	Carrion crow
Woodpigeon	Common redstart (<i>below</i>)	Starling
Collared dove	Whinchat	House sparrow
Turtle dove	Stonechat	Tree sparrow
Cuckoo	Blackbird	Chaffinch
Tawny owl H	Song thrush	Serin
Swift	Cetti's warbler H	Greenfinch
Hoopoe	Melodious warbler	Goldfinch
Wryneck H	Whitethroat	Hawfinch
Green woodpecker	Blackcap	Cirl bunting
Great spotted woodpecker	Bonelli's warbler	
Woodlark	Chiffchaff H	H – heard



MAMMALS

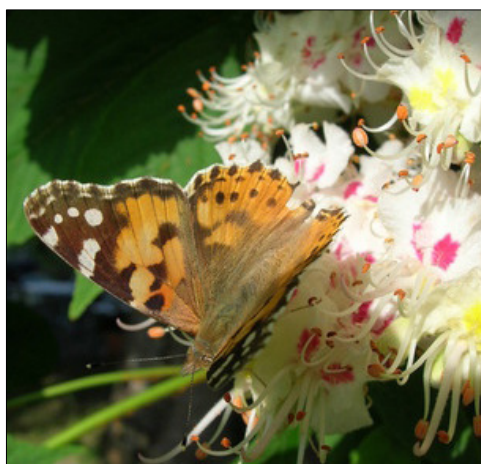
Roe deer
Red deer
Rabbit
Hare ?
Fox (smelt!)
Hedgehog (dead)
Wild boar (rootings)
Pipistrelle sp
Lesser horseshoe bat

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Wall lizard
Newt sp probably palmate
Common frog
Midwife toad

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail
Scarce Swallowtail
Black-veined White
Green-veined White
Orange-tip
Clouded Yellow
Brimstone
Wood White
Sooty Copper
Small Blue
Brown Argus
Adonis Blue
Common Blue



Duke of Burgundy
Southern White Admiral
Peacock (caterpillars only)
Red Admiral
Painted Lady (*below left*)
Glanville Fritillary
Knapweed Fritillary
Heath Fritillary
Marsh Fritillary
Weaver's (= violet) Fritillary
Small Heath
Pearly Heath
(Southern) Speckled Wood
Large Wall
Dingy Skipper
Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper (*below*)
Red-underwing Skipper



MOTHS – mostly day-flying

* nocturnal

British checklist numbers given from Waring & Townsend

163 Forester
169 6-spot burnet moth
1637 Oak eggar
1638 Fox *
1687 Lace border
1894 Latticed heath
1909 Speckled yellow
1952 Common heath

1968 Yellow belle
1984 Hummingbird hawkmoth
1982 Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth
1992 Small elephant hawkmoth (*below right*)
2021 Pine processionary (tent)
2059 Clouded buff
2441 Silver Y
2463 Burnet companion

Adela reaumurella (v. long antennae)
Pyrausta purpuralis (*below*)



Micro-moths

Anania funebris
Spindle ermine (caterpillar/tent)



DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

Beautiful demoiselle
Banded demoiselle
Broad-bodied chaser
Hawker dragonfly *sp*
Black-tailed skimmer
Emperor dragonfly

OTHER INSECTS

Ascalaphid *Libelluloides longicornis*
Paper wasp *Polistes gallicus* (opposite)
Hornet
Violet carpenter bee
Bee-fly *sp*
Caddis fly *Timodes waeneri*



Trichodes alvearius, a red & black soldier beetle
Green tiger beetle
Bloody-nosed beetle
Cardinal beetle
Rose chafer *Cetonia aurate* (opposite, on dogwood)
Rose chafer *Cetonia cuprea*
Oxythyrea funesta a flower chafer
Oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*
Calosoma nemoralis a ground beetle
Firebug



Cercopis vulnerata, a red and black froghopper
Graphosoma italicum – a black and red shield bug
Verlusa rhombea a squash bug

Field cricket
Mole cricket
Water skater
Water boatman
Campanotus vegus a big ant

SPIDERS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Pill millipede
Crab spider *Misumena vatia*
Nursery web spider *Pisaura mirabilis* (opposite)
Roman (edible) snail
Garden snail
Brown-lipped banded snail
Pale-lipped banded snail
Kentish snail
Slug *Arion ater*



PLANTS

ACERACEAE (Maple)

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore

ARACEAE (Arum)

<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large (or Italian) lords & ladies
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ARALIACEAE (Ivy)

<i>Hedera helix (hibernica)</i>	Ivy
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ASCLEPIADACEAE (Milkweed)

<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort
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BETULACEAE (Birch)

<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
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BORAGINACEAE (Borage)

<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss
<i>Buglossoides purpureocaerulea</i>	Blue (or purple) gromwell
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	Common gromwell
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved lungwort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Tuberous comfrey

CAMPANULACEAE (Bellflower)

<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Rampion bellflower
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CANNABACEAE (Hemp)

<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
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CAPRIFOLIACEAE (Honeysuckle)

<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Viburnum lanata</i>	Wayfaring Tree

CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink)

<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent pearlwort
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed

CELASTRACEAE (Spindle)

<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
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CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot)

<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
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CISTACEAE (Cistus)

<i>Fumana procumbens</i>	Common fumana
<i>Helianthemum appenninum</i>	White Rockrose
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose

COMPOSITAE (Daisy)			
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	nif	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Perennial daisy		
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black Knapweed		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle		
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly thistle	nif	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle		
<i>Doronicum pardalianches</i>	Leopardsbane		
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp agrimony	nif	
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Immortelle/Curry Plant		
<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	Spotted hawkweed		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce		
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort		
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy		
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed		
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort		
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel		
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle		
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle		
<i>Taraxacum</i> (group)	Dandelion		
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard=Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon		
CONVOLVULACEAE			
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed		
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	Pink Bindweed	M	
CORIARIACEAE (Coriaria)			
<i>Coriaria myrtifolia</i>	Mediterranean Coriaria	M	
CORNACEAE (Cornus)			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		
CORYLACEAE (Hazel)			
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		
CORYLACEAE (Hornbeam)			
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam		
CRASSULACEAE (Stonecrop)			
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop		
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort/wall pennywort		
CRUCIFERAE (Cress)			
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard		
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rockcress		
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse		
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved bittercress		
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Violet		
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty		
CUCURBITACEAE (Gourd)			
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony		
CUPRESSACEAE (Cypress)			
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper		
CYPERACEAE (Sedge)			
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous sedge or carnation grass		
DIOSCOREACEAE (Yam)			
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony		

DIPSACACEAE (Scabious)		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	nif
EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge)		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i>	Irish Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper spurge	
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge	
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury	
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	
FAGACEAE		
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut (planted)	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen/holm oak	
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak	
FUMARIACEAE (Fumitory)		
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	
GENTIANACEAE (Gentian)		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	nif
GERANIACEAE (Geranium)		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill	
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked Cranesbill	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill	
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered Cranesbill	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Cranesbill	
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill	
GLOBULARIACEAE (Globularia)		
<i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Globularia	
GRAMINEAE (Grass)		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass	
<i>Briza media</i>	Common Quaking-grass	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick	
HYPERICACEAE (Hypericum)		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St.John's Wort	nif
IRIDACEAE (Iris)		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	
JUGLANDACEAE		
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	
LABIATAE (Mint)		
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow archangel	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit dead-nettle	
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle	
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	

<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender M	nif
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Apple (round-leaved) mint	
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	nif
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	
<i>Salvia verbeneca</i>	Wild clary	
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort	nif
<i>Teucrium sp</i>	Unidentified germander leaves	nif
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild Thyme	
LEMNACEAE (Duckweed)		
<i>Lemna minuscula</i>		
LILIACEAE (Lily)		
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	
<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Bath asparagus/spiked Star-of-Bethlehem (bud)	
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common Star-of-Bethlehem	
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	
LINACEAE (Flax)		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy (=purging) flax	
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	
<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	Pyrenean or white flax	
MALVACEAE (Mallow)		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	
OLEACEAE (Olive)		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	
ORCHIDACEAE		
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine	
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved helleborine (leaves)	
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid (bud)	
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet birdsnest orchid (= limodor)	
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Birdsnest Orchid	
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	
<i>Ophrys coriofora</i>	Bug orchid	
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Sombre bee orchid M	
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid M	
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid	
<i>Orchis masculata</i>	Early Purple Orchid	
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid	
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	
<i>Orchis simian</i>	Monkey Orchid	
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip Orchid	
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid M	
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Long-lipped serapias A M	
OROBANCHACEAE (Broomrape)		
<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	Purple toothwort	
<i>Orobanche hederæ</i>	Ivy Broomrape	
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	

OXALIDACEAE (Wood sorrels)		
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Yellow oxalis	
<i>Oxalis fontana</i>	Upright yellow oxalis	
PAPAVERACEAE (Poppy)		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	
PAPILIONACEAE (Pea)		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	
<i>Argyrolobium sanonii</i>	Argyrolobium M	
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree (planted) M	
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch M	
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Hairy greenweed	
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum (planted)	
<i>Lathyrus montanus</i> (= <i>L. linifolius</i>)	Bitter Vetchling	
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grass Vetchling	
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown Vetch A, M	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne (= alfalfa)	
<i>Onobrychis vicifolia</i>	Sainfoin	
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia	
- ditto - (planted)	False Acacia - 'Purple Robe'	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom (introduced)	
<i>Sarothamnus</i> (= <i>Cytisus</i>) <i>scoparius</i>	Broom	
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson clover	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	
<i>Trifolium ochroleum</i>	Sulphur clover	
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	
<i>Vicia orobus</i>	Upright vetch or wood bitter-vetch	
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	
PLANTAGINACEAE (Plantain)		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	
POLYGALACEAE (Milkwort)		
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	
POLYGONACEAE (Dock)		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	
PRIMULACEAE (Primrose)		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	nif
PTERIDOPHYTA (Fern)		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern	
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort	
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	

<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-back Fern	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adderstongue	
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue fern	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft shield fern	
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	
RANUNCULACEAE (Buttercup)		
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common Columbine	
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	
<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	Stream water-crowfoot	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	
RESEDACEAE (Mignonette)		
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	
RHAMNACEAE (Buckthorn)		
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder buckthorn	
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	M
ROSACEAE (Rose)		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Medlar (planted)	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond (planted)	
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's cherry	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	
<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>	Salad Burnet	
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	True service tree (planted)	
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild Service Tree	
RUBIACEAE (Bedstraw)		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>G. mollugo</i> ssp <i>erectum</i> (= <i>G. album</i>)	Hedge Bedstraw	
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	nif
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	
<i>Rubia peregriana</i>	Wild Madder	
SALICACEAE (Willow)		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	
SAXIFRAGACEA (Saxifrage)		
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved saxifrage	
SCROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort)		
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Small Yellow Foxglove	nif
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell	
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common field speedwell	

TILIACEAE (Lime)		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime	
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved lime	
ULMACEAE (Elm)		
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved elm	
UMBELLIFERAE (Carrot) (=Apiaceae)		
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild angelica (leaves)	
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur chervil	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	
<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>	Rough Chervil	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	nif
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	nif
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	nif
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> var. <i>sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (greenish flowered)	
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort	
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage	
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	
<i>Silaum silaus</i>	Pepper Saxifrage	
URTICACEAE (Nettle)		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	
VALERIANACEAE (Valerian)		
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian	
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad	
VIOLACEAE (Violet)		
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early dog violet	

Most are in The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by Fitter, Fitter & Blamey

Others, in bold, are marked as follows:

M: Mediterranean flora A: Alpine flora

nif = not in flower