

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Flowers and birds in the Dordogne
6 – 13 May 2010**

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Holiday participants

Bruce and Sally Bennett
David and Steph Bennett
Derek Boughton
Ian and Fiona Codd
Sue Lewis-Jones and Peter Easingwood
Glennys and John Gomme

Leader: Chris Durdin

Report by Chris Durdin

Photos by Bruce Bennett (black woodpecker, tree sparrow, tree pipit, firecrest),
David Bennett (group picture, midwife toad, lesser horseshoe bats) and Chris Durdin (others).
Cover: black woodpecker, meadow fritillary and green-winged orchids between Lagrave and Castang.

Our hosts at Castang: Cathy, Keith and Olivia 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 £483.

This year there also are donations for LPO through holidays in the Cévennes and in the French Pyrenees. These will be combined and passed to our LPO friends in the French Pyrenees in September.



As at the end of April 2010 the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £64,066.

Flowers and birds in the Dordogne **6 – 13 May 2010**

Thursday 7 May – Stansted to Castang

Leaving a warm and sunny Stansted on General Election day, we descended through the cloud to arrive on time at an overcast Bergerac. At least there was no sign of yesterday's snow flurries here. We were quickly through the simple arrivals shed and there were Steph and David who had arrived a little before us from Liverpool – and of course Gilles and the bus. Immediately there were black kites, in high numbers around the airport, and we noted a song thrush on a grassy roundabout. Blossom on trees was noticeable, especially Judas trees and foxglove trees in gardens and the white of the abundant alien false acacia. Flowers included big patches of purple meadow clary and the occasional glimpsed orchid, but mostly it was a case of enjoying the scenery and having a gossip for the hour's journey along the Dordogne River valley to Castang. Cathy, Keith and Olivia greeted us, their second Honeyguide group this spring on account of the Central Portugal contingent who had spent a night here two weeks ago on their long trek across Europe after their flight was cancelled during the six-day volcano ash disruption.

It was already dinnertime but we had a quick look in Castang's wonderful meadow first, where the earliest two orchid species – early spider and green-winged – were already showing signs of going over. Kir was an ideal aperitif before tucking into our first of Cathy's legendary five course meals, tonight starting with home-made tomato soup, then smoked salmon followed by the main course of guinea fowl with beans. Then came the cheeseboard with a choice of six cheeses and finally chocolate cake, with coffee or lime-flower tea to finish.

Friday 8 May – local walks around Castang

It was overcast and distinctly cool but that didn't stop almost the entire group gathering on the road at 7:45 for a pre-breakfast birdwatching walk. There was a male cirl bunting on a wire and a more distant black redstart on a hedgerow top, from where a melodious warbler was heard but not seen. Wandering down the hill, we stopped birdwatching to look at narrow-leaved helleborine and lady orchid. A wryneck was calling loudly as we came back through Castang, a party of long-tailed tits flew across the gap ahead of us and a firecrest sang from a couple of pines. As we went into breakfast there was a willow warbler singing from the birches: a temporary territory for a migrant on its way north, I explained, but Keith and Cathy then said it had been around for about a month, so that's quite a long 'temporary'. It was the last day we heard it.

It was still cool as we headed past the crimson clover field after breakfast. A wood white butterfly prompted an explanation of how it has been discovered that there are two (to us) identical species, known now as wood white and Real's wood white. Though these are separable on range in the British Isles ('true' wood white is now scarce in Britain and on the Burren in Ireland, Real's wood white in the rest of Ireland) they aren't separable here, having only subtle habitat differences and given that we can't examine genitalia or sense differing pheromones.

We looked at a growing list of local plants, including the patch of plants like bracken and sweet chestnut that indicated a small acidic outcrop of soil. A black kite glided effortlessly past, and the fluty call of a golden oriole came from an oak copse, followed quickly by the 'cat-call' of a female. Then the wryneck started to call again and there it was, sitting in view on some dead branches at the top of an oak, long enough for everyone to see it through the 'scope. A male wheatear on a wire was replaced by a male cirl bunting as we turned left past the big old millstones into the hamlet of Lagrave. We admired the pond and the old walk-in bread oven, plus rustyback ferns, biting stonecrop and a very smart male black redstart on walls and a roof.

Leaving Lagrave, a meadow on the right hand side was rich with milkwort and scores of green-winged orchids, plus a little scattering of tongue orchids. A cuckoo called, a buzzard flew through and our second nightingale of the morning sang loudly. As the sun came out so did the patches of blue flax and immediately some butterflies were coaxed into life, namely knapweed fritillaries and common blues,

then both 'ordinary' and scarce swallowtails. The latter was also over Castang's meadow as we returned for lunch, and the willow warbler was still singing.

After a super spread of salads we headed past the crimson clover field, stopping for a while in a meadow on the right. An ascalaphid emerging into the warm afternoon caught my eye, and within a few minutes there were several. Glanville fritillary was new here, near the patch of sainfoin. Turning right we dropped into the edge of the oak wood where there were many fine lady orchids, often deep in the shade. Bruce picked up on a hoopoe flying over the open area below the wood.

We continued into Coux, seeing our best serin so far, looked briefly at the newly gentrified area round the old church then turned towards *La Plage*. An interesting new butterfly here was short-tailed blue – which took some puzzling over – and even better, a large copper, though this was seen better on the return by those that walked. Past the asparagus beds and kiwi fruit espaliers, we were soon nearing the river, noting the murals of fish – painted by Olivia's school class some 10 or so years ago – and trees. Two common sandpipers flew from the 'beach' and we were lucky enough to find a heron, a little egret and a kingfisher, plus scores of swallows hawking for insects over the water. Keith then kindly collected six of the group and the other six walked back to Castang.

After tea and checklists, another five courses to tackle: leek soup, omelette, pork in mustard sauce with carrots, cheeses and pear tart.

Saturday 9 May – woodland walk and Limeuil

Another cold and wet morning and we set off to retrace our steps from yesterday afternoon to try to find Derek's hat in the wood, which we did. I heard a marsh tit, we all saw our first jackdaws and there was a dunnock singing in Le Coux. On the way back up the hill, a nightingale sang on an exposed perch on some false acacia long enough for about half of the group to see it.

We loaded several of Cathy's umbrellas into the bus alongside the picnics in the hope that they would keep the rain away, which they did after about an hour of our walk alongside the wood near Bigaroque. The combination of the late spring and today's wet weather meant the show of flowers was limited, though most were there in small numbers, including Nottingham catchfly, globularia and horseshoe vetch. Common twayblade was the only new orchid, with many lady orchids and narrow-leaved helleborines, though not an *Ophrys* to be seen. Fiona found a raptor, the first of many honey buzzards today, and John pointed out a big patch of the parasitic purple toothwort round the base of a poplar, presumably its host. A Cetti's warbler shouted loudly even by Cetti's warbler standards and we also heard woodlark and cuckoos singing, the latter with an interval that Ian with his musical ear agreed was a major third. In the last section of the walk a Bonelli's warbler sang clearly in some thin oaks and pines, and with a little prompt from the recording on my phone came low over us, quivering its wings at the challenge of another bird in its territory.

I suspect Gilles was surprised that we were at the bus by as soon as 12:30, our speed quite high with the cool weather, but it gave lots of time to explore the meadows round the crossroads. We quickly added burnt-tip, military and loose-flowered orchids to the list, two magnificent hobbies flew round and round and more honey buzzards came over. We dropped into the meadow beyond the huge white poplars where there were more orchids among the masses of chalk milkwort.

It was getting much warmer now and we settled to picnic in a dry meadow. Just as we finished I heard a loud call that I recognised as black woodpecker – not a bird we've seen before in the Dordogne and apparently a bit beyond the edge of its range, from the map in the Collins Bird Guide. Independently, Sally thought she'd glimpsed a black woodpecker fly through, but had reconciled herself to it being a crow. Out came the phone/MP3 player and mini-speaker and soon the black woodpecker was flying round us. Gilles came from the bus to appreciate this amazing bird and we spent some time watching it with many views in flight and the odd glimpse of it settled. We also saw short-toed treecreeper and nuthatch before packing up and taking the short drive to Limeuil.

A deviation took us along the hill crest, where Gilles dropped us. After appreciating both loo and view, we wandered slowly down through this pretty village. In the garden at the bottom, overlooking the river, the local tree sparrows (*one below*) proved as reliable as ever, about six in a group among the vipers bugloss. Bruce found our first painted lady, a hornet inspected holes in a wall and Peter found



two green lizards soaking up the warmth on the wall by the river. We then did the same, only at café tables overlooking the confluence of the rivers Dordogne and Vézère (*below*) from where we added cormorant and grey wagtail to the bird list and heard more orioles.

Gilles had noted some violet birdsnest orchids (limodors) in flower on the roadside so we stopped to look at a group of some 30 on the return journey. Dinner was pumpkin soup, melon with port, lamb with flageolet beans, cheese and *vacherin*.



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

Another cool morning with specks of rain before breakfast. In Langle, a girl bunting sat clearly on a wire and the Chateau at Cazenac had a black redstart on its chimney, but otherwise it was quiet.

Gilles dropped us in Berbiguières on the south of the river, where we first looked out from the road bridge of a wooded gully towards thick oak forest from where there was the sound – but no sight – of orioles. A man with a very large key appeared as we stood near the church, so we assumed he’d spotted us and that he had assumed, rightly, that we’d be glad to take a look inside the simple but elegant building. A swallow also took advantage of the open door so we took care to leave it ajar as we left. It’s a pretty village, though the grey weather meant the soft yellow stone lost some of its appeal, but the hanging white wisteria still looked stunning. We climbed up the path through the wood to emerge on the crest of the hill, turning right along the hilltop. Despite intermittent drizzle there was woodlark giving its lu ... lu ... lu song, and warm moments brought out small blue butterflies. Fiona was persuaded to have a go with the net as some fritillaries got going and expertly netted a meadow fritillary.

It was curious how the impact of the long cold winter and late spring varied between orchid groups, here and elsewhere. Generally the *Orchis* orchids were just slightly behind: the lady orchids here as elsewhere were stunning, we found a fine monkey orchid and there was terrific patch of burnt-tip orchids mixed with limadors. But the *Ophrys* orchids were really playing hard to get: just two

woodcock and three fly orchids, all just with one bloom, their first. But then that still meant four new orchids for the week: cameras worked overtime and there were some ingenious efforts with brollies to keep them dry. The four grew to six when we met up with Gilles and he led us to birdsnest and greater butterfly orchids in the wood.

After lunch we headed east to Montalieu Haut where the vegetation has a more southern character, with shrubs including Mediterranean buckthorn, Montpellier maple and Mediterranean coriaria. There were some patches of wild candytuft in a field, frustratingly some way away beyond a fence, but this was no barrier for a superb tree pipit (*below*) that did what tree pipits are supposed to do, soaring from its



treetop perch and parachuting down to an exposed perch again. Moving on there were many striking looking bastard balm flowers, great patches of yellow hairy greenweed sub-shrubs: columbine (*left*) and narrow-leaved lungwort were two other new flowers.

As the path dropped down to the final, more open stretch towards where Gilles had driven

to meet us, a freshly emerged scarce swallowtail quivered as it dried. On the stony slopes was the silvery-leaved pea argyrobium and over it a Berger's clouded yellow. Bright blue gromwell shone from under a hedge by where the bus was parked.

There were two quick stops on the way back. The first was to check out some roadside orchids, which were early purples, though rather better were 20 or so fully out fly orchids. The second was to view the impressive riverside buildings at Beynac, with castle and village built on a steep cliff. Heavy rain and the hour meant we didn't stop beyond a photo opportunity and we headed back to Castang, where it hadn't rained.

After tea, it was time for the third Olivia-vs-Chris running race, a little less impromptu than the previous years' short sprints home, this year with a circuit of local lanes to test stamina. I discovered firstly that there were two quite steep uphill sections on the way to Lagrave and (later) that Olivia had been in training, with running being part of her Baccalaureate. Though age narrowly beat beauty back onto the gravel drive, the psychological win was hers as she recovered in minutes whereas it took me all evening. Batteries were recharged with the help of vegetable soup, pork terrine, salmon in hollandaise sauce, cheese and strawberries.

Monday 11 May – Keith's walk

At last, a warm dry morning. We headed towards Lagrave to try to find a common redstart that Ian and Fiona found previously, but there were just the usual black redstarts on the rooftops. A black kite settled on a ploughed field and seemed to be catching worms. On the return leg, though, we did find a whitethroat, then a melodious warbler then a whinchat on the same tree as the warbler.

Keith was willingly pressed into service as this morning's walk leader. We had perfect walking conditions, and he offered insights into buildings, farming and the way of life here. This started with Castang's origins as a tobacco farmhouse and how the property was adapted to dry the leaves after



harvest. We went down the hill, over a fence and into a field with a steadily deteriorating *pigeonier*, with little prospect of repair for this isolated yet elegant building. In the woods we looked at the *abreuvoir*, a stone sluice now getting overgrown, then on into a small quarry with fossilised shellfish in the limestone rocks, showing how once this area was under the sea. Reaching a junction in the hamlet of les Valades, a singing firecrest (*previous page*) was encouraged by a recording to sing to us, offering amazing views, including its fiery orange crown stripe. At that same point there was a male common redstart on a barn roof.

We were joined at lunch by Pam Ive, a Honeyguider from the neighbouring department of The Lot who had come with her friend Julie for the afternoon. Julie joined several of us as we filled the free afternoon by pottering around the meadow. The first bee orchid was now in flower and David demonstrated quick learning skills with the butterfly net by catching a sooty copper in a matter of seconds. Most of us walked down the meadow's slope where we found several loose-flowered orchids and many adderstongue ferns towards the damp area at the bottom. After dipping into the dry lady orchid meadow across the road, where some of flowers were showing signs of going over in today's heat, we returned up the hill, adding wall brown and black-veined white butterflies to what we'd seen so far. As we stood there, a Dutch couple told us about a large moth on the outside of their holiday house in the woods, where their boys led us to see this superb giant peacock moth (*right*), plus a cream-spot tiger moth next to it.



A few drops of rain at aperitif time soon turned to lightning, thunder and rain during dinner – lentil soup, seafood terrine, beef, cheese and almond tart – but that blew over, so going out wasn't a problem. We walked to Lagrave for an evening chorus of whistling midwife toads and with a little searching found three by or in a wall, one of which was a male carrying eggs (*left*). There were also four just inside the walk-in bread oven, three of which were carrying strings of eggs wrapped round their back legs, so everyone had close-up views of this amazing little amphibian.

Tuesday 12 May – Le Bugue and the cave walk

We did our own thing before breakfast, though five of us met up in the wood by the house with the giant peacock moth – which had gone – and watched a red squirrel in the tree tops. A hen harrier flew through.

A little owl on a roof corner was a second 'write-in' on the bird list for the morning as Gilles took us to La Bugue. The flora on the limestone slopes, like in many places, was lagging behind its usual progress following the cold winter, though we did find our first fumana and a sprinkling of fly, man and other orchids. The mixed Scots pine and oak woods looked like they had crested tit potential, but none responded to the recording, though we again had excellent views of Bonelli's warbler. An hour and a half was ideal to take in the sounds, sights and scents of La Bugue's busy market day, have a drink (most of us at the Bar Menhir with the nesting swallows) and pick up yesterday's English newspapers to check on progress in the governance of Britain after the election's hung parliament result. There was a cormorant in the River Vézère as we took the riverside walk towards the coach, plus sand martins disappearing into drainage holes in walls and spotted flycatchers doing what flycatchers always do. Gilles suggested a one-minute coach ride to a quieter riverside spot by a mill, a roof with ducks sitting on the ridge and a nice view over the dame's violets on the bank and sheets of water crowfoot midstream.

A burst of sunshine on the afternoon walk briefly brought out some butterflies, including an iridescent green hairstreak. Following a brimstone down a track brought us into a meadow with yellow rattle, scores of pyramidal and burnt-tip orchids on the dry bits and loose-flowered orchids on damper low-lying areas. Swallowtails and ascalaphids quartered the meadow. But the sun soon dropped behind a cloud and we made steady progress along the walk, little interrupted by new sightings, though it was noticeable how a distinct silence turned into something like a dusk chorus as dark clouds gave a feeling of evening. There was just the one blooming greater butterfly orchid, but where we emerged onto the meadow it was richer, notably two species of tongue orchids and our first sombre bee orchids. A few yards farther on, a horse paddock with two cantering horses was thick with sombre bee orchids: there must have been 1,000 or more. We reached the bus just as the rain started. But this was good timing: after enjoying Gilles parking the bus under the trees in the main car park, next was the Gouffre de Proumeyssac, where most of the group enjoyed the tour of the 'crystal cathedral.' A shrug of the shoulders from the lady on the ticket desk suggested that Peter's binoculars were OK as collateral for the earphones with the English commentary for the 10 going underground – which didn't include Peter.

After tea and checklists, many took a look at Castang's lesser horseshoe bats (*right*) before our dinner of '100 vegetables' soup, pastry parcels, *confit de canard*, cheeses and cherry tart with raspberry coulis.



Wednesday 13 May – Font de Gaume and Roque St Christophe

There was no sign of the red squirrel where it had been yesterday but a hoopoe feeding on the ground wasn't a bad substitute this cool and grey morning. We headed off towards Cazenac Chateau in the hope of an oriole, which called and didn't show, as usual. Two possible hawfinches zapped over and a hobby dashed closely past.

Leaving Sally to explore Les Eyzies, we took the walk from the ticket office at Font de Gaume to the cave's entrance past some rich slopes, botanically-speaking, including meadow saxifrage, white rockrose, bloody cranesbill and Nottingham catchfly, until we were standing under the Montpellier maple waiting for our guide. She explained that the English-speaking guide was unwell, but her clear French, some valuable English expressions and Sue's expert translation meant we missed very little. We all marvelled at Cro Magnon's man's skills in poor light to blend painting, engraving and the natural contours of the rocks to leave clear polychromatic pictures of bisons, reindeers and horses that we can still appreciate 13,000 years later. We all left with a sense of privilege to see these original works of art.

After souvenir shopping, we headed towards Roque St Christophe, first stopping at Maison Forte de Reignac to see if we could find the nesting peregrines there. We couldn't, though there were crag martins, but there was a peregrine perched on a branch as we went under the cliff-face at Roque St Christophe. We stopped to find it, then re-find it after it flew from one perching point to another, with John's scope valuable for good views and an attempt at digiscoping – so much so that the peregrine was one of Glennys's holiday highlights. Our picnic was on the tables at Roque St Christophe, followed by a visit for warming hot chocolates at the café, by which tuberous comfrey grew.

No-one fancied more history so we all explored the woods and, especially, the meadows. There was only the occasional burst of sun, but it was enough to warm us a little and to give butterflies an uneasy choice of staying still or getting moving. A green-veined white was our first new butterfly, followed quickly by distinctive and brightly coloured marsh fritillaries. Leaving the meadow we walked through the wood to a dry limestone slope, which was largely intact despite some scrub removal and a track that had been bulldozed through it. There was no sign of the bug orchids that sometimes show here, no surprise this late season, but Oberthur's grizzled skipper and our first Adonis blue were ample compensation. We failed again to call up crested tit, but a red kite did show at that point. Fiona found a

small clump of birdsnest orchids under a tree near the track before we retraced our steps to the meadow. Here there were military orchids, adderstongue ferns, and more marsh fritillaries and our first mazarine blue.

Between the lower meadow and the bus was shady grassland with some common spotted orchids in bud and in the shady wood edge were early purples. Gilles then proudly showed us a particularly large twayblade before we headed back to Castang for tea.

We shared holiday highlights over our dinner of carrot soup, mixed salad with fried goats cheese, chicken in tarragon sauce, cheese and apple tart.

Thursday 14 May – local walk, then Bergerac and home

We'd been hearing golden orioles all week but none had shown themselves. Fiona was the lucky – or persistent – one; she had an excellent view before breakfast, while others were packing.

It's Honeyguide's tenth year at Castang, which is every reason to try something different, so I studied the local map with Keith, Cathy and Olivia over breakfast and we came up with a new local walk to try. It was cool but dry as we set off through Lagrave, briefly along and over the not very busy main road. This led to a walk along quiet roads and the occasional dry track along the top of an east-facing slope, through some scattered houses and into Coux. A singing skylark was a new bird for the week, and in one of several dry, orchid-rich meadows, a white helleborine, just coming into flower, was our 25th orchid of the week. A friendly dog joined us for some of the walk but had to be sent firmly away as we crossed the main road into Coux, then we wound our way back up the hill, enjoying a cirl bunting on the ridge of a roof and the usual scattering of black redstarts on chimney pots for a final time.

Lunch was sandwiches, and enlivened by both Olivia and Ian playing the piano. Gilles and the bus were there in good time, so there was time for a group photo before setting off to Bergerac. There were at least three hobbies with the flock of swifts over the Dordogne river on route. A padlocked barrier was in the way of the best place for the bus to drop us off but proved no obstacle: Gilles knew the padlock's combination! Staying a little longer in France didn't seem such a bad idea but there was no volcano ash to delay us and both Liverpool and Stansted flights left promptly and arrived early.

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Holiday highlights - we collected group members' highlights over dinner on the final evening.

Fiona: Chris getting excited about the black woodpecker and shouting for Gilles; Gilles's driving.

Ian: firecrest with its crest raised; lovely countryside; hospitality and lovely meals.

Sue: so many firsts: firecrest; black woodpecker; giant peacock moth; orchids; company and food.

Derek recalled nine wonderful Honeyguide holidays, the first of which returned home nine years ago today, then nominated tree pipit with its parachute flight.

David: everything; Keith setting off through the meadow where we'd been careful not to trample it; catching a sooty copper.

Steph: cirl bunting and knowing what it was a week later (with a hug!); abundance of orchids.

Bruce: Castang, its meadow and its hosts; orchids; black woodpecker chase; photographing a firecrest; midwife toads; Font de Gaume.

Sally: ambience of Castang; firecrest displaying.

John: holiday altogether, the group; firecrest; crystal cathedral.

Glennys: the same as John, plus the peregrine.

Peter: giant peacock moth; the walks; dinner and the Bergerac red!

Chris: black woodpecker; hobbies; Cathy's soups; midwife toads; red squirrel; finding Derek's hat; the race!

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

H = heard only

Little egret
Cormorant
Grey heron
Mute swan
Mallard
Honey buzzard
Black kite
Red kite
Hen harrier
Buzzard
Kestrel
Hobby
Peregrine
Pheasant
Moorhen
Common sandpiper
Feral pigeon
Woodpigeon
Collared dove
Turtle dove
Cuckoo H
Little owl
Tawny owl H
Swift
Kingfisher
Hoopoe
Wryneck
Green woodpecker
Black woodpecker
Great spotted woodpecker
Woodlark
Skylark
Tree pipit
Sand martin
Crag martin
Swallow
House martin
Grey wagtail
White wagtail
Wren

Duncock
Robin
Nightingale
Black redstart
Common redstart
Whinchat
Stonechat
Wheatear
Blackbird
Song thrush
Mistle thrush
Spotted flycatcher
Cetti's warbler H
Melodious warbler
Whitethroat
Blackcap
Bonelli's warbler
Chiffchaff
Willow warbler
Firecrest
Long-tailed tit
Marsh tit H
Blue tit
Great tit
Nuthatch
Short-toed treecreeper
Golden oriole
Jay
Magpie
Jackdaw
Carrion crow
Starling
House sparrow
Tree sparrow
Chaffinch
Serin
Greenfinch
Goldfinch
Cirl bunting
Corn bunting

MAMMALS

Roe deer
Rabbit
Hare
Red squirrel
Badger (dead)
Lesser horseshoe bat

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Wall lizard
Green lizard
Frog sp.
Midwife toad

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail
Scarce swallowtail
Black-veined white
Large white
Green-veined white
Orange-tip
Berger's clouded yellow
Brimstone
Wood white

Green hairstreak
Large copper
Sooty copper
Small blue
Mazarine blue
Adonis blue
Common blue

Red admiral
Painted lady

Glanville fritillary
Knapweed fritillary
Meadow fritillary
Marsh fritillary

Small heath
Pearly heath
Speckled wood
Wall

Dingy skipper
Grizzled skipper
Oberthur's grizzled skipper

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

Common blue damselfly
Broad-bodied chaser
Four-spotted chaser

MOTHS

Mostly day-flying
* nocturnal

British checklist numbers given from Waring & Townsend

Giant peacock moth*
163 Forester
169 6-spot burnet
1894 Latticed heath
2021 Pine processionary (tent)
2058 Cream-spot tiger *
2463 Burnet companion (*right*)

Micro-moths
Spindle-ermine
(caterpillar/tent)



OTHER INSECTS

Ascalaphid *Libelluloides longicornis*
Hornet
Violet carpenter bee
Bee-fly sp.
Trichodes alvearius, a red and black
soldier beetle
Cardinal beetle *Dictyoptera aurora*
Cardinal beetle *Pyrrhroa coccinea*

Rose chafer *Cetonia cuprea*
Cockchafer
Oxythyrea funesta a chafer
Firebug
7-spot ladybird
Field cricket
Mole cricket H
Water boatman

SPIDERS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

House centipede *Scutigera coleoptrata*
Roman (edible) snail

Garden snail
Slug *Arion ater*

PLANTS

ACERACEAE (Maple)		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier maple	
ARACEAE (Arum)		
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large (or Italian) lords & ladies	
ARALIACEAE (Ivy)		
<i>Hedera helix (hibernica)</i>	Ivy	
ASCLEPIADACEAE (Milkweed)		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	
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>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved lungwort	
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Tuberous comfrey	
BUXACEA (Box)		
<i>Buxus semervirens</i>	Box	
CAMPANULACEAE (Bellflower)		
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Rampion bellflower	
CAPRIFOLIACEAE (Honeysuckle)		
<i>Lonicera carpifolium</i>	Perfoliate honeysuckle	
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly honeysuckle	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf elder	nif
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
<i>Viburnum lanata</i>	Wayfaring tree	nif
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	
CELASTRACEAE (Spindle)		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	
CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot)		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat hen	
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		nif
<i>Artemisia sp.</i>	Unidentified wormwood		nif
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Perennial daisy		
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina thistle (old)		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed		
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly thistle		nif
<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	Spotted hawkweed		
<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 (group)</i>	Dandelion		
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard=Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon		
CONVOLVULACEAE			
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed		
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common dodder		
CORIARIACEAE (Coriaria)			
<i>Coriaria myrtifolia</i>		Mediterranean coriaria	M
CORNACEAE (Cornus)			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		
CORYLACEAE (Hazel)			
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		
CRASSULACEAE (Stonecrop)			
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort/wall pennywort		
CRUCIFERAE (Cress)			
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard		
<i>Arabis burrita</i>	Towercress		
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Common wintercress		
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse		
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved bittercress		
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's violet		
<i>Iberis amara</i>	Wild candytuft		
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard		
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>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's mercury		nif

FAGACEAE		
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse chestnut (planted)	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak	
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 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) - very incomplete		
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	Common bent	
<i>Briza media</i>	Common quaking-grass	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick	
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>Lamiastrum 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>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow clary	
<i>Salvia verbeneca</i>	Wild clary	
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort	nif
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall germander (leaves)	
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild thyme	
LEMNACEAE (Duckweed)		
<i>Lemna minuscula</i>		
LILIACEAE (Lily)		
<i>Muscari atlanticum</i>	Grape hyacinth	nif
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth	
<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Bath asparagus/spiked	
	Star-of-Bethlehem	nif
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common star-of-Bethlehem	
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom	
LINACEAE (Flax)		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy (= purging) flax	
<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	Pyrenean or white flax	
MALVACEAE (Mallow)		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	nif

NYMPHACEAE (Water lily)			
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow water lily	nif	
OLEACEAE (Olive)			
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet		
ORCHIDACEAE			
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid		
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid		
<i>Cephalanthera damosonium</i>	White helleborine		
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved helleborine		
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchid (bud)		
<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 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 fontana</i>	Upright yellow oxalis		
PAPAVERACEAE (Poppy)			
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine		
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy		
PAPILIONACEAE (Pea)			
<i>Anthyllus 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>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling		
<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)	nif	
<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 (=Cytisus) scoparius</i>	Broom	
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	
<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 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 media</i>	Hoary plantain	nif
POLYGALACEAE (Milkwort)		
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk milkwort	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common milkwort	
POLYGONACEAE (Dock)		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	
PRIMULACEAE (Primrose)		
<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>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common polypody	
RANUNCULACEAE (Buttercup)		
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common columbine	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's joy	nif
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	nif
<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>Rhamus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	M
ROSACEAE (Rose)		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
<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 mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's cherry	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	
<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>	Salad burnet	
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild service tree	

RUBIACEAE (Bedstraw)		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>G. mollugo ssp. erectum (= G.album)</i>	Hedge bedstraw	
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	
SALICACEAE (Willow)		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar	
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow	
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>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water figwort	
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	
TILIACEAE (Lime)		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime	
ULMACEAE (Elm)		
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved elm	
UMBELLIFERAE (Carrot) (=Apiaceae)		
<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>	Rough chervil	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo	nif
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	nif
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium var. sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (greenish flowered)	
<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort	
<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	nif
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad	
VIOLACEAE (Violet)		
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field pansy/heartsease	

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



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