

The Best of Dorset's Wildlife

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 – 25 June 2014



Keeled Skimmer by Ed Drewitt



Male Sand Lizard by Ed Drewitt



Large Skipper by Charlie Rugeroni



Dartford Warbler by Liz Shaw

Report & images compiled by Ed Drewitt

Other Images courtesy of Charlie Rugeroni & Liz Shaw



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Summary: During this four-day holiday we packed in a huge variety of habitats, wildlife and landscapes to enjoy the delights that Dorset has to offer during the summer months. With four days of hot sunshine we had the perfect opportunity to enjoy reptiles, butterflies, flowers, and the birdlife. With the best grassland habitats in the country and seabirds nesting on nearby cliffs, Durlston Country Park provided a sunny introduction to the county and many examples of grassland flowers and butterflies. Our time the heathland was rewarded with four species of UK reptiles including Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard, as well as a range of birds including Dartford Warbles, Barn Owl, and Nightjar. The reedbed habitats didn't disappoint and the group had close views of the secretive Bearded Tits, Reed Warblers, and a Cuckoo. Badger watching enabled us to see up to six or seven Badgers, including a few cubs, within metres of our hides during the evening sunlight. And a few hours on Charmouth beach gave everyone the chance to find their very own fossils that were once living squids and ammonites 200 millions years ago.

Day 1

Sunday 22nd June

On a hot glorious summer's day we started off our tour of Dorset at Durlston Cliffs near Swanage to explore the special limestone grassland across Durlston Country Park. The grassland is full of wildlife flowers and it wasn't long before we were admiring spikes of Common Spotted Orchid, fresh Pyramidal Orchids, and a few of the rarer Bee Orchids. In amongst these beautiful plants, which are parasites of grasses, was plenty of Yellow Rattle (also a parasite), Grass Vetchling with delicate pink flowers, Corky-fruited Water Dropwort, and Bird's Foot Trefoil. As we headed on into more fields a Greenfinch sang from a Sycamore tree and Chiffchaffs were singing all afternoon across the reserve. Butterflies were out in force and for the most part we spotted Meadow Brown and Small Heath butterflies. However, we were treated with a few freshly emerged Marbled White butterflies, Common Blues, a Small Blue (which stopped to be admired), Large Skipper, Small Skipper, and a few stunning Adonis Blue butterflies. There was lots of 6-spot Burnet Moths flying around too.

The fields were adorned with flowers from Oxeye Daisies to Field Scabious, Greater Knapweed to Sainfoin, and Rough Hawkbit to bright blue Milkwort. Thanks to Charlie we managed to identify many of the tens of plant species living in this part of Dorset. We smelt the Marmite or vitamin tablet-like scent of Stinking Iris, and looked a little closer at the nationally scarce Nit Grass, a tiny grass that was growing on an ant nest. Ed had brought along a sweep net and white tray and showed everyone the tiny invertebrates that were living in the grassland from weevils to tiny spiders, froghoppers to White-lipped Banded Snails, and caterpillars of moths such as the 6-spot Burnet Moth. In the hot sunshine the odd Blackcap sang, while Whitethroats 'churred' in the background. As we headed through some woodland to the sea wall we passed Hart's Tongue and Male Fern.

Down by the sea small rafts of Guillemots were on the water and in amongst them we spotted a few Razorbills, black with a white line on their beaks. Those incoming Guillemots had fish in their bills – a sure sign they had chicks. A few Shags flew along the coastline or sat on the water, and two Gannets flew east. A Great Black-backed Gull headed along the cliffs while Herring Gulls circled above and warned of their nearby nests. Just as Ed shouted 'Hummingbird Hawkmoth' a Rock Pipit dashed past. The hawkmoth meanwhile gave obliging views feet away as it looked for something sweet. It was probably a fresh migrant from France and that morning many butterfly migrants had been spotted at Portland Bill.

After stopping at the visitor's centre where another hawkmoth was spotted and a Mullein Moth caterpillar feeding on a Buddleia leaf, we headed back to the vehicles and drove back to our cosy hotel by Corfe Castle ready for a delicious dinner in the evening before finishing the day with the checklist and plan for the following day.

Day 2

Monday 23rd June

After a delicious, varied buffet and cooked breakfast we headed out to the RSPB's Arne Reserve, one of the most visited in the country. We met Rob, one of the RSPB staff members who works here and has been involved with the reserve since he was a child. He is an expert on the reptiles and holds special licences to be able to handle rare species found on the heath. On a glorious, sunny morning we headed out on to the reserve and were delighted to watch a family of Dartford Warblers in the gorse. We stopped to watch them flit around and for the parents to feed the young ones. At one point, three different Dartford Warblers were singing around us! One even did a display flight song showing off his long tail. A few Stonechats were also perching on top of gorse and trees, flitting down to catch an insect before flying back to the same perch. Their call, the sound of stones being hit together followed by a squeak was very distinctive. One searched one sloped area for lizards without any luck but did see a Red-eyed Damselfly, the large webs of labyrinth spiders, and the skull of a Sika Deer.

On a more open stretch of the heath Rob began searching under special sheets of corrugated iron put out to survey for snakes. Surprisingly he found a beautiful male Sand Lizard– it looked like it had been dotted with bright green emeralds all over its body. This rare heathland reptile is rarely seen under the corrugated iron.

While we watched Silver-studded Blue butterflies, another speciality for the heath, Rob found not one but two Smooth Snakes. He brought one out first, a female, that he was reckoned was 15 years old and one he has seen before. He put her back and then showed us the other darker female but released her under a different sheet of iron so they didn't constrict and eat each other! Rob showed us their distinctive crown and neck markings that distinguish individuals and also how he knew they were females; they have a shorter tail beyond their cloaca, a dark belly (orange in males), and shows signs of damaged scales on the upper back area where a male has been holding on with his jaws. The first female showed signs of mating but the second did not – they sometimes give a season a miss because producing young can take it out of them and they need a year off to build up their resources and energy to repeat the cycle.

Throughout the reserve we spotted many Keeled Skimmers and a few Emperor Dragonflies while a few Green Tiger Beetles, the 'Cheetahs' of the heath, were foraging along the sandy paths. At a pool made from a Second World War bomb Rob found a sheltering Common Toad while a pair of Large Skipper butterflies were mating close by. Overhead Black-headed Gulls were hawking insects while Swifts dashed overhead. Mediterranean Gulls could be heard 'yelping' in the background. Blackbird, Chaffinches, Chiffchaffs, and Tree Pipits could be heard singing nearby, and the constant call of Green Woodpeckers became a familiar sound. As the temperature rose for the rest of the morning we enjoyed seeing all the different plants including Ling, Bell Heather, Cross-leaved Heather, and Bog Myrtle. Bare patches were home to the bright red Matchstick Lichen. We also saw a parasitic plant, Dodder, covering the heather like thin red-green strands of nylon or spider webs – a few plants were also flowering.

Just before lunch we headed for the deliberately untidy farmyard at Arne – a perfect habitat for reptiles. Lifting up some felt and corrugated iron it wasn't long before Rob had found a Slow Worm, this one probably three or four years old. By now the sunshine was cooking the corrugated iron so most other reptiles were out foraging. Ron found a dying female Broad-bodied Chaser – the natural cycle after they have mated and laid eggs. A pair of Kestrels nesting in a box on the farm barn came out at one point, with Swallows in hot pursuit of the male when he flew off. A sparrow box had been taken over by a Hornet's nest, while House Sparrows chirped in nearby brambles. Back by the visitor centre a Black-tailed Skimmer was basking in the sunshine and a Southern Hawker was dashing past. The feeders were busy with House Sparrows, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, a Nuthatch, and a Siskin.

We stopped for delicious lunch at the Kings Arms in Stoborough and then headed just down the road to Wareham where we ate some delicious Marshfield ice cream on a bright English summer's day by the riverside watching the Black-headed Gulls, Mallards, and Mute Swans. A few even spotted a delicate-looking Beautiful demoiselle flutter past.

After lunch we headed back to Arne and explored the woodland and beach/tidal area of the reserve. A Sika deer was quietly feeding below some trees. And in a nearby Scots pine a Goldcrest was singing. A Mediterranean Gull circled overhead with some Black-headed Gulls. Looking down across the harbour and Brownsea Island, hundreds of gulls were feeding alongside over one hundred Black-tailed Godwits heading south after breeding in Iceland.

Down on the beach the pebbles and shells were covered in barnacles, and the periwinkles were sealed up to keep them moist at low tide. Liz and Catherine spotted some tiny crabs too. Out across the mud and water Curlews, Oystercatchers, and a Little Egret were feeding.

In what felt like Mediterranean sunshine we headed back to the heath and past some boggy areas where Oval-leaved and Round-leaved Sundews were growing. Further along a peaty pool was busy with dragonflies including Small Red damselflies (many mating), Emerald damselflies, Four-spotted Chasers, Emperor dragonflies, Blue-tailed damselflies, and some other blues. Five-spot Burnet moths were also busy in the sedges and on the way back later Liz spotted a small Common Frog on a lily and a Common Lizard dash across the path. We found some shade in the nearby Oak woodland and headed for the hide which looks out across the saltmarsh. Being late afternoon it was quiet but we did see a Grey Heron, Shelducks, a few Sika deer, Oystercatchers, and Curlew. On our way back to the hotel Charlie stopped us at an incredible site on Stoborough Heath. Right by the road a field with peaty pools was stacked full of flowering sundews, bright-yellow Bog Asphodel, and Cotton Grass. This was a perfect example of heathland bog!

After dinner we headed out back to Arne to listen for Nightjars. We met Rob at 8.30pm and headed out onto one part of the heath to check for waterbirds. Out on the low tide lagoons a small group of Sandwich Terns were very vocal and dipping down to the water to feed. A few young families of Shelducks were out on the water and over 100 Curlews were resting on the mud or feeding on a nearby hay field. A few Little Egrets were feeding and a small group flew over to roost. While Black-headed Gulls hawked over nearby fields a Barn Owl quartered closer to the ground on longer, whiter wings. In the distance Reed Bunting, Meadow Pipit, and Willow Warbler were singing. A male Stonechat was enjoyed by some of the group and after checking for Raft Spiders (without success) Rob pointed out all four heathers found here included the rare and endemic Dorset Heath heather.

As the temperature began to drop and the sunset we headed to another part of the heath not accessible to the public. It wasn't long before we heard our first Nightjars 'churring' at 9:50pm – it was early for this time of the year and Rob thought it might be due to the sound of a 'cockle' boat that sounded not dissimilar to a Nightjar. Over the course of the next 40 minutes we heard over half a dozen male Nightjars and saw three or four females in flight, one in relatively good light and others quite close. As we headed back a male sang in some nearby pines and as he took off a few of the group were lucky to hear him clap his wings. On the lower paths Catherine picked up a 'glowing' female Glow Worm and another was seen under some brambles close to the road. They mix two chemicals, luciferin and luciferase to produce the bioluminescence and enable the wingless females to attract winged males to mate with.

Day 3

Tuesday 24th June

With a good, sunny forecast ahead we set off to the RSPB's Radipole Lake in Weymouth and spent the morning exploring this reedbed set in the middle of the town. Just before we stopped here we looked out across the RSPB's Lodmoor reserve on the east side of Weymouth. This reedbed reserve surrounded by suburbia was home to plenty of Coots, Gadwall, Mallard and a few Shoveler ducks.

A Hobby dashed across the reeds in search of something to eat and stayed long enough for everyone to see. Bearded Tits were busying themselves in nearby reeds, making their 'pinging' calls and with the odd one showing itself.

At Radipole a look out from the visitor centre revealed a pair of Great Crested Grebes with two chicks, Herring Gulls, two Great Black-backed Gulls, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, Mallards, three Teal, a few Common Terns, Cormorant, and Coots. As we walked along the path through the reeds the flowering plants were dominated by the poisonous Hemlock Water Dropwort, Hedge Cranesbill, Meadowsweet, Herb Robert, and a few species of comfrey. A few Reed Warblers sang from the reeds while Blackbird, Dunnock, and Cetti's Warbler sang out from nearby trees or bushes. The alarm call of a Blackbird led Ed to stalking along the path to work out what the bird was worried about – it was swearing at a Cuckoo! As we walked further along the path Ed spotted it a few times but it flew too quickly for everyone else. Eventually we headed back to a boardwalk where the Blackbird began calling again. Ed headed back along the path and this time the Cuckoo flew out across the reeds in front of everyone. This was very likely a migrant bird passing south as Cuckoos don't tend to breed here – though this may have been a female eyeing up a Blackbird or another species' nest!

From this boardwalk we also had super views of a male Bearded Tit that perched then flew across. Water Mint and Water Forget-Me-Not were growing close by and a Broad-bodied Chaser and a Four-spotted Chaser dragonfly were quartering the channel in front of us. Back along the footpath we stopped to listen to a family of baby Reed Warblers and some spotted one of the parents bringing in some food to feed the chicks. From an open bridge baby sparrows were being fed at their nest in a nearby bush. Reed Warblers flew across the channel and a male Cetti's Warbler sang and sunned himself in a tree. Further away a male Lesser Whitethroat sang loudly with his distinctive 'rattle-like' tune. Swifts and House Martins fed overhead and a Great Crested Grebe appeared in front of us. Back at the visitor centre we stopped for refreshments and watched the ducks and other birds feeding or resting. By this time a Little Egret had appeared on the pool, and a male Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe were feeding just off a small bridge. Most of the male Mallards were now in their summer eclipse plumage to look like females as they go through their annual wing moult and become flightless.

At 11.30am we headed off for lunch at midday the Lobster Pot restaurant at Portland Bill. After some delicious sandwiches and ice cream (and Gannets spotted from inside!), we set out in the hot sunshine along the bill to see the Guillemots on the sea and flying towards their nest ledges just round the corner. Three Razorbills also flew out across the sea close to shore. Over half a dozen Gannets flew east while a small group of Kittiwakes were feeding on the water a few hundred metres away. A Rock Pipit sang and flew up in a display flight above the quarried rocks we were stood near – they contained fossilised oyster shells and corals. We then headed east along the cliffs and coastline towards the bird observatory. The short grassland was full of Birdsfoot Trefoil and Thrift while Sea Beet, Golden Samphire, and Rock Samphire grew up alongside the rocky ledges and crevices. Out at sea a Grey Seal was popping its head up to look around, and the water at low tide was clear and full of a multitude of seaweeds of many different colours, textures and size. We passed an oiled adult Razorbill preening its wet plumage as it sat on nearby rocks.

At the bird observatory where bird ringing takes place we paused on the benches for a rest, looking out across to sea and the range of bushes and shrubs that spring and autumn migrants dive into while heading north or south. Goldfinches were singing on nearby wires and a pair of Linnets displayed overhead.

As we headed out of Portland we stopped at a viewpoint looking out across towards Weymouth, Chesil Beach and all the way along Lyme Bay and towards Dawlish in Devon. We then stopped for an hour at Ferrybridge on Chesil Beach. The tide was coming in and we had views out across the Fleet where a half a dozen summer-plumage Ringed Plover and Dunlin were feeding. A Little Tern came down to wash in a nearby channel while further along the beach a warden looked over a protected and fenced off nesting colony of 33 pairs of Little Terns. Up to a dozen Linnets were flying around and landing on nearby vegetation – the males showing off their red faces and breasts. There were lots of salt-loving plants or halophytes growing on the saltmarsh, including Great Sea Spurrey and Common Glasswort.

At 4.15pm we headed north to a pub, the Poacher's Inn, just outside of Dorchester for a delicious and very prompt starter and main. At 6.30pm we drove just five minutes up the road to Henley Hillbillies for an evening of Badger watching. In soft evening sunshine we split ourselves between two hides and waited for just under an hour before our first badgers arrived. As soon as we entered the hides an adult badger was feeding in the tall grasses in front of us! It stayed for 10-15 minutes before it had eaten enough and trotted away back in the trees and undergrowth where the Badger sett lies. The long grass was hiding lots of peanuts put out for them, and well-trodden paths gave clues to where the Badgers would appear. After a 45-minute wait we were rewarded with over half an hour of entertainment from at least five and possibly six or seven different Badgers. At one point two of this spring's cubs alongside three adults (one possible a cub from last year) were feeding metres away from where we were sat. The cubs were two-thirds the size of the adults, more compact and darker-haired. Some of the earlier adults disappeared off right into the grassland, and one of the cubs headed into a tunnel that had been dug under the hide! When the main gang disappeared this youngster darted out about five minutes later to join them back in the woods! During the earlier wait for them to re-appear there was plenty else to spot including a male Yellowhammer, Meadow Brown butterfly, and a Ringlet butterfly. At 8.30pm in still glorious evening sunlight we headed out back across the field to the minibus and exchanged stories on what we saw! We headed back to the hotel via Stoborough Heath but were a little too early for Nightjars.

Day 4

Wednesday 25th June

After breakfast and checking out we headed for the fossil-rich beaches of Charmouth, an hour's drive away. In the sunshine Ed introduced the cliffs and geology of the area, as well as Mary Anning, who first found various important fossil back in the early 1800s. The cliffs were formed 200 million years ago when the UK was down near the Equator and shallow, tropical seas surrounded islands. Here lived the west's very own dinosaur (the *Thecodontosaurus*) alongside ammonites, belemnites, seadragons (Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs) and much more. The beach seemed a little devoid of fossils to begin with, but with a gentle low tide it was soon apparent the sea had deposited the belemnites further down the beach. Suddenly everyone was finding belemnites, the internal structures called rostrums that gave these squid-like creatures some rigidity.

They came in many different sizes including some as thick as chunky crayons and others very thin. Most were parts of belemnites – some were the pointed, bullet-like end and others were the shaft, and others the flattened end. While ammonites were in short supply today a few examples of piritised species that have been turned into Fool's Gold or iron pyrites were discovered alongside a few piece of crinoids or sea lily. Some rock pools had become exposed and revealed various seaweeds and marine life including a Strawberry Anemone.

On the way back we stopped in the heritage centre to look at some incredible examples of other fossils found on the beach including Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs, and fishes. We then headed for lunch at the Hunters Lodge Inn in Axminster before completing our checklist and saying goodbye to Catherine and Deidre. Charlie then drove us back to the hotel in Corfe Castle where we said our farewells. Some were staying an extra night, while others headed straight off or caught a lift with Charlie back to Wareham Station.

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Sainfoin by Charlie Rugeroni



Pyramidal Orchid by Ed Drewitt

Species Lists

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

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			22	23	24	25
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	1
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓	✓	
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓	
5	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			3	
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓
7	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			2	
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓	
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			✓	
10	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			1	
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		h	h	
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		h		
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓	
14	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	2		6+	
15	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	
16	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	2+		✓	
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		6+	1	
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea alba</i>		2	1	
19	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			2	
20	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓
21	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2	✓	
22	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1	
23	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	
24	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	
25	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓	✓	
26	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			6+	
27	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			2+	
28	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		100+		
29	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		100+		
30	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓		
31	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			6	
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓
33	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		1	3	
34	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	2	1	✓	✓
36	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			1	
37	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			60+	
38	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1	6+		
39	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	
40	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	50+		✓	
41	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	2+		4	
42	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		h		
45	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			1	
47	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		1		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			22	23	24	25
48	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		✓		
49	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓
50	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		h	h	
51	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1	
52	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	h		✓	
53	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		1		
56	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		1	✓	
57	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	1		3+	
58	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓
59	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	h	✓	1	h
60	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	h	h	✓	✓
61	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	1	
62	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		3	✓	
63	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2	h	h	
65	Cetti's' Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			✓	
66	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓	h
67	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	h	✓	h	
68	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			1	
69	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	
70	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		6+		2+
71	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	6+	h	h	h
72	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1	h	
73	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			2+	
74	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	h	h		
75	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	h	✓	✓	
76	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	h	✓	✓	
77	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		✓		
78	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		1		
79	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	1		
80	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	
81	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2	✓	
85	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓
87	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	✓	✓	✓
89	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓
90	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2	✓	12+	
91	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		✓		h
92	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	h		2	h
93	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		h	2+	h

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			22	23	24	25

Mammals

1	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			1	
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1	h	
3	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>			6 to 7	
4	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓	
5	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>		3	✓	
6	Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		✓		1

Reptiles

1	Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>		2		
2	Common or Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		1		
3	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		2		
4	Slow Worms	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		1		

Amphibians

1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>		1		
2	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		1		

Sea life

1	Grey Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>				30+
2	Strawberry Anemone	<i>Actinia fragacea</i>				✓
3	Spider Crab	<i>Maja squinado</i>				✓
4	Shore Crab	<i>Carcinus maenas</i>		✓		
5	Acorn Barnacle	<i>Semibalanus balanoides</i>		✓		
6	Common Periwinkle	<i>Littorina littorea</i>		✓		
7	Sea Lettuce	<i>Ulva lactuca</i>			✓	
8	Bootlace seaweed	<i>Chorda filum</i>			✓	

Dragonflies and Damselflies

1	Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>		✓		
2	Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>		✓		
3	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓		
4	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓		
5	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		✓	1	
6	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		✓		
7	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		1		
8	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		1	1	
9	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>		1		
10	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	✓	✓	1	

Butterflies & Moths

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	
2	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				
3	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	6+			
4	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysabdra bellargus</i>	3			
5	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1	✓		
6	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			22	23	24	25
7	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓	
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	1	✓	✓	
9	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓	✓		
10	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓		
11	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	
12	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>			1	
13	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	2	1	2	
14	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	1		
15	6-Spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓			
16	5-Spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>		✓		
17	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	2			
18	Latticed Heath Moth	<i>Semiothisa clathrata</i>	1			
19	Mullein Moth (caterpillar)	<i>Cucullia verbasci</i>	1			

Other inverts

1	7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	1			
2	Red-headed Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>	1			
3	Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>	1			
4	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	2			
5	Glow Worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>		✓		
6	Ruby-tail solitary wasp	<i>Hedychridium ardens</i>		✓		
7	Solitary wasp sp.	<i>Odynerus spinipes</i>		✓		

Fossils

Pyritised Ammonites

Belemnites



Ammonites and belemnites

Plants

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

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Farm at Arne
Hedgerow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Arne & Durlston
Large-flowered Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	Farm at Arne
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Portland Bill
Family: Resedaceae		
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Arne
Family: Brassicaceae		
Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Dotted around here and there
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Portland Bill
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	
Family: Droseraceae		
Oblong-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Bog at Stoborough Heath NNR
Family: Caryophyllaceae		
Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Chesil Beach & Portland Bill
Rock Sea Spurrey	<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>	Chesil Beach
Family: Amaranthe		
Sea Purslane	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Chesil & Portland Bill
Glassworts	<i>Salicornia</i> species	Chesil Beach
Sea Beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	Portland Bill
Family: Rubiaceae		
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium album</i>	
Wild madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	
Family: Gentianaceae		
Common Centaury	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	
Family: Boraginaceae		
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Portland Bill
Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	
Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Radipole
Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	Radipole
White Comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	Radipole
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Mypsotis scorpioides</i>	Radipole
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Arne
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Charmouth
Family: Solanaceae		
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Radipole
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Hartland Moor & elsewhere
Family: Plantaginacea		
Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Portland Bill
Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Portland Bill & Chesil Beach

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Family: Scrophulariaceae		
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsis</i>	Farm at Arne
Family: Lamiaceae		
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Farm at Arne
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichum</i>	
Water Mint	<i>Menta aquatica</i>	Radipole
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia species</i>	
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	
Family: Campanulaceae		
Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Arne track
Family: Asteraceae		
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Radipole and Durlston
Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	
Golden Samphire	<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Nationally Scacre
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	
Hemp Agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Arne and Radipole
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenicum</i>	Arne beach
Oxe-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	
Fox-and-cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	
Sea Mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Portland Bill
Family: Dipsacaceae		
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	
Family: Apiaceae		
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	
Rock Samphire	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Portland Bill
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Observatory Portland Bill
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	
Hemlock Water-droplet	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Radipole
Corky-fruited Water-droplet	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	
Family: Orchidaceae		
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	
Family: Nartheciaceae		
Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog at Stoborough Heath NNR

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Family: Iridaceae		
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	
Family: Alliaceae		
Wild Onion	<i>Allium vineale</i>	
<u>Shrubs</u>		
Family: Fabaceae		
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Arne
Dwarf Gorse	<i>Ulex minor</i>	Arne
Family: Cornaceae		
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguineum</i>	Radipole
Family: Amaranthaceae		
Shrubby Seablite	<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Nationally Scarce - Chesil Beach
Family: Ericaceae		
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Arne
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Arne
Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Arne
Dorset Heath	<i>Erica ciliaris</i>	Arne
Family: Tamariacaceae		
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Arne and Portland Bill
Family: Scrophulariaceae		
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Radipole
Family: Cucurbitaceae		
White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	Farm at Arne
Family: Dioscoreaceae		
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Radipole
<u>Grasses</u>		
Family: Poaceae		
Nit Grass	<i>Gastridium ventricosum</i>	Nationally Scarce
<u>Sedges</u>		
Family: Cyperaceae		
Cotongrass	<i>Eriophorum</i> species	Arne & Stoborough Heath NNR
<u>Lichen</u>		
Family: Cladoniaceae		
Devil's Matchstick / British Soldier	<i>Cladonia floerkeana</i>	Arne