

Insects of Dumfries

A checklist of the insects recorded in and around Dumfries · 79 species

☐		Angle Shades <i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Rests with its wings rolled and creased so it looks exactly like a withered leaf.
☐		Azure Damselfly <i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Tell it from the common blue by a small black U on the shoulder segment.
☐		Beautiful Demoiselle <i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Metallic blue-green with dark wings, fluttering over a fast burn like a butterfly.
☐		Black Darter <i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Britain's smallest dragonfly, and a specialist of acid peat bogs and moorland pools.
☐		Blue-tailed Damselfly <i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Almost entirely black, with a single bright blue segment near the tail — like a lit match head.
☐		Buff-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Our biggest bumblebee, and increasingly seen on flowers in the middle of winter.
☐		Caddisfly larva <i>Limnephilus lunatus</i>	Builds itself a portable case out of sand, twigs and snail shells, and carries it everywhere.
☐		Cinnabar Moth <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Slate-grey with crimson stripes and spots — the adult of the black-and-orange ragwort caterpillar.
☐		Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar <i>Tyria jacobaeae caterpillar</i>	Black-and-orange stripes that mean exactly what they say — don't eat me.
☐		Cockchafer <i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	The 'maybug' that blunders into a lit window on a warm May evening with a considerable thud.
☐		Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Ragged-edged and named for a single white mark under the wing, shaped exactly like a comma.
☐		Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	The male is violet-blue; the female is mostly brown, which catches almost everybody out.
☐		Common Blue Damselfly <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	One of several near-identical blue damselflies — this one wears a mushroom on its shoulder.
☐		Common Carder Bee <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	The gingery bumblebee — the only common one here with a wholly brown thorax.
☐		Common Darter <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	The dragonfly still flying in late October, returning again and again to the same warm fence post.
☐		Common Froghopper <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	The insect inside the cuckoo spit — and, for its size, the best jumper on earth.

☐		Common Green Grasshopper <i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	The long, accelerating sewing-machine whirr from a damp meadow on a July afternoon.
☐		Common Hawker <i>Aeshna juncea</i>	A big hawkler of moorland pools that patrols tirelessly and hardly ever settles.
☐		Common Pond Skater <i>Gerris lacustris</i>	Stands on the water without breaking it, and feels for struggling insects through the ripples.
☐		Common Red Soldier Beetle <i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Orange-red with black wing tips, and almost always found in pairs on a hogweed head.
☐		Common Stonefly <i>Perla bipunctata</i>	Needs cold, fast, clean, well-oxygenated water — which is why its presence is such good news.
☐		Common Wasp <i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	Spends the summer as a useful predator of garden pests, then turns up at your picnic in September.
☐		Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	A big, fast, powerful orange butterfly — and the green wash is on the underside, not the top.
☐		Devil's Coach Horse <i>Ocypus olens</i>	Curls its tail up like a scorpion when cornered — all bluff, but convincing bluff.
☐		Drone Fly <i>Eristalis tenax</i>	A honey bee lookalike whose larva breathes through a snorkel in liquid filth.
☐		Early Bumblebee <i>Bombus pratorum</i>	Small, neat and out early — and finished for the year while other bumblebees are still building up.
☐		Elephant Hawk-moth <i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Pink and olive-green like nothing else here — and the caterpillar is named for its trunk.
☐		Emperor Dragonfly <i>Anax imperator</i>	Britain's bulkiest dragonfly, and it eats its catch without ever landing.
☐		Emperor Moth <i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	The male flies by day in a fast zig-zag, tracking a female's scent from a mile away.
☐		Four-spotted Chaser <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Count the dark spots — two on each wing, halfway along the leading edge.
☐		Freshwater Shrimp <i>Gammarus pulex</i>	Not an insect and not really a shrimp — but it is what half the burn's food chain runs on.
☐		Garden Bumblebee <i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Has the longest tongue of any British bumblebee — long enough to reach the base of a foxglove.
☐		Garden Spider <i>Araneus diadematus</i>	The white cross on its back gives it away — and it rebuilds its whole web most mornings.
☐		Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	Cream and chocolate above, scarlet beneath — and the caterpillar is the original woolly bear.

☐		Golden-ringed Dragonfly <i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	Britain's longest dragonfly — black with gold rings, and a hunter of acid hill burns.
☐		Great Diving Beetle <i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>	Carries its own air supply under its wing cases, and will take on a newt or a small fish.
☐		Green Drake Mayfly <i>Ephemera danica</i>	Two years in the riverbed, then a single day in the air — the mayfly proper.
☐		Green Hairstreak <i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Britain's only green butterfly — and it always sits with its wings shut, so green is all you see.
☐		Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>	The white butterfly that is not eating your cabbages — look for the smoky green veining underneath.
☐		Harlequin Ladybird <i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Arrived in Britain in 2004 and is now the fastest-spreading invasive insect on record here.
☐		Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	The blue butterfly flying around the tops of hedges rather than down in the grass.
☐		Honey Bee <i>Apis mellifera</i>	The only bee here whose whole colony overwinters — by shivering to keep the hive warm.
☐		Hummingbird Hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	People report it as a hummingbird every year — and it does hover, hum and feed exactly like one.
☐		Large Red Damselfly <i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i>	The first damselfly of the year — often on the wing before the end of April.
☐		Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	The 'cabbage white' proper — and its caterpillars really will strip a brassica bed.
☐		Marmalade Hoverfly <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Double black bands on orange, no sting whatsoever, and its larvae eat aphids by the hundred.
☐		Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	The most abundant butterfly of British grassland, and it will fly on a dull day when nothing else will.
☐		Meadow Grasshopper <i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Our only native grasshopper that cannot fly — the wings never finish growing.
☐		Orange-tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	The male's blazing orange wingtips are one of the first real signals that spring has arrived.
☐		Painted Lady Butterfly <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	A butterfly that's flown here from the edge of the Sahara.
☐		Peacock <i>Aglais io</i>	Four enormous eyespots, and a hiss if you disturb it — this butterfly is built to bluff.
☐		Pellucid Hoverfly <i>Volucella pellucens</i>	One of our largest hoverflies — black, with a broad ivory-white sash across the middle.

☐		Peppered Moth <i>Biston betularia</i>	The textbook example of evolution watched happening — and the story ran through Britain's industrial towns.
☐		Poplar Hawk-moth <i>Laothoe populi</i>	Rests with its hindwings pushed out in front of the forewings — no other moth here sits like that.
☐		Purple Hairstreak <i>Favonius quercus</i>	Lives in the tops of oak trees and feeds on honeydew — which is why almost nobody sees one.
☐		Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	A migrant from the Mediterranean that has started, in mild winters, to simply stay.
☐		Red Mason Bee <i>Osmia bicornis</i>	The bee that fills your bee hotel, one mud-walled cell at a time.
☐		Red-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Jet black with a blazing orange-red tail — and the males look like a different species entirely.
☐		Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Almost black when freshly emerged, with a row of small gold-ringed eyes underneath.
☐		Ruby Tiger <i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Dull pinkish-brown until it opens up and shows a crimson body and hindwings.
☐		Scotch Argus <i>Erebia aethiops</i>	A butterfly of damp Scottish hillsides that will only fly when the sun is actually out.
☐		Seven-spot Ladybird <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	The archetypal ladybird — three spots on each side and one shared across the middle.
☐		Signal Crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Introduced from North America, and it brought a plague that wiped out our own crayfish.
☐		Silver Y <i>Autographa gamma</i>	Named for a silver letter Y on each wing, and it flies here from southern Europe every year.
☐		Six-spot Burnet <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	A moth that flies in bright sunshine, and can make its own cyanide.
☐		Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	A small scrap of burnished copper, and startlingly aggressive for its size.
☐		Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Never once seen with its wings open — it always settles closed, and always tilted towards the sun.
☐		Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria selene</i>	Named for the row of silver 'pearls' along the edge of the underwing.
☐		Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>	The butterfly that wakes up in your bedroom in February, having quietly overwintered in the curtains.
☐		Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	The other cabbage white — smaller, with greyer wingtips and solitary green caterpillars.

☐		Southern Hawker <i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Inquisitive to the point of rudeness — it will hover a foot from your face to look at you.
☐		Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Owens a sunny gap in the trees, and will spiral upwards with any male that tries to take it.
☐		Tawny Mining Bee <i>Andrena fulva</i>	The little volcano of fine soil on a spring lawn is a female's front door.
☐		Tree Bumblebee <i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Arrived in Britain in 2001 and has spread the length of the country since.
☐		Violet Ground Beetle <i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Black until the light catches the rim of its wing cases, which glow violet and gold.
☐		Wall Brown Butterfly <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	A sun-basking butterfly named for its favourite perch.
☐		Whirligig Beetle <i>Gyrinus substriatus</i>	Spins in frantic circles on the surface — with each eye split in two, half above water and half below.
☐		White-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	Yellow, pink or brown, striped or plain — and the white rim of the shell mouth is the giveaway.
☐		White-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Brighter yellow bands and a clean white tail — but honestly, even experts need a microscope.

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