

Butterflies to spot in parks and gardens

Peacock



Date seen:

What to look for

Mostly red but with bold eye spots. Dull brown pattern underneath.

Where to look

Common in gardens. The caterpillars feed on stinging nettles.

When to see it

All year round. Sometimes it even flies in winter if the weather is mild.

Red admiral



Date seen:

What to look for

Black wings with red bands and white spots.

Where to look

Try looking on ivy and buddleia. The caterpillars feed on stinging nettles.

When to see it

All year round, but most common in May and June.

Comma



Date seen:

What to look for

Wings with curved edges. Orange, brown and black colouring camouflages it against dead leaves.

Where to look

Look for it feeding on flowers. The caterpillars feed on stinging nettles.

When to see it

Most common in mid summer.

Small tortoiseshell



Date seen:

What to look for

Orange-brown wings, with blue and brown markings. Drab undersides.

Where to look

Try looking on stinging nettles, especially in sunny places.

When to see it

All year round, but most common from March to September.

Ladybirds to spot on stems and leaves

7-spot ladybird



What to look for

Usually 7 black spots. Black head with white patches in the front corners.

Where to look

Lots of plants. Stinging nettles are a good place to look.

When to see it

Adults are active march to October. They over-winter in hollow stems.

Date seen:

Harlequin ladybird



What to look for

Large domed ladybirds. Patterns very variable – sometimes mostly red. Look for the white 'shoulders'.

Where to look

Wide range of plants, including stinging nettle, sycamore and willow.

When to see it

April to October, sometimes winter.

Date seen:

14-spot ladybird



What to look for

Yellow-white body with between 4 and 14 black spots. Sometimes the spots are fused together.

Where to look

Look on the leaves and stems of garden shrubs such as roses.

When to see it

May to September.

Date seen:

22-spot ladybird



What to look for

Yellow body with 20-22 black spots. Each spot is roughly round in shape.

Where to look

Grassy places and hedgerows, particularly on hogweed.

When to see it

May to September.

Date seen:

Shieldbugs to spot on stems and leaves

Hawthorn shieldbug



What to look for

Apple green. Red-tipped shoulders. Broad red-brown markings and edge.

Where to look

Try looking on hawthorn hedges. Sometimes on holly, brambles and nettle, and also in leaf litter.

When to see it

All year round.

Date seen:

Green shieldbug



What to look for

Green all over, except for black tip. Striped edge. Reddish antennae.

Where to look

Try looking around nettles and brambles, especially 50-150cm above ground level.

When to see it

Spring and summer.

Date seen:

Spiked shieldbug



What to look for

Brown with black punctures. Large spine on each shoulder.

Where to look

Try searching low down among grasses and small plants, especially in damp grassland.

When to see it

Late summer and autumn.

Date seen:

Dock bug



What to look for

Rusty brown. Look closely at the head for the two thin pointed lobes.

Where to look

On sheltered dock plants. Sometimes also on nettle, hogweed and ivy.

When to see it

All year round, but especially common in late summer.

Date seen:

Longhorn beetles to spot in hedgerows

Wasp beetle



What to look for

Mostly black, with yellow stripes, like a wasp. Long black antennae. Moves in a jerky motion.

Where to look

Hedgerows and woodland, especially hawthorn flowers and hogweed.

When to see it

April to July.

hogweed



Date seen:

Black and yellow longhorn beetle



What to look for

Yellow with black spots and stripes, but pattern varies. Front two pairs of legs mostly yellow.

Where to look

Hedgerow and woodland, especially hawthorn flowers and hogweed.

When to see it

May to September.

Date seen:

Golden-bloomed grey longhorn beetle



What to look for

Brown-grey. Head with stripes of golden hair. Long antennae with black and white rings.

Where to look

Hedgerow and woodland, especially hawthorn flowers and hogweed.

When to see it

April to July.

hawthorn



Date seen:

Rufous-shouldered longhorn beetle



What to look for

Red and black, grey hair at rear. 3 sets of white markings.

Where to look

Hedgerow and woodland, especially hawthorn flowers and hogweed.

When to see it

April to July.

Date seen: