

**The Burren 2018
species list and trip report, 7th-12th June 2018**

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



The Burren 2018

The Burren 2018 species list and trip report, 7th-12th June 2018

Day 1: 7th June: Arrive in Lisdoonvarna; supper at Rathbaun Hotel

Arriving by a variety of routes and means, we all gathered at Caherleigh House by 6pm, sustained by a round of fresh tea, coffee and delightful home-made scones from our ever-helpful host, Dermot. After introductions and some background to the geology and floral elements in the Burren from Brian (stressing the Mediterranean component of the flora after a day's Mediterranean heat and sun), we made our way to the Rathbaun, for some substantial and tasty local food and our first taste of Irish music from the three young ladies of Ceolan, and their energetic four-hour performance (not sure any of us had the stamina to stay to the end).

Day 2: 8th June: Poulsallach

At 9am we were collected by Tony, our driver from Glynn's Coaches for the week, and following a half-hour drive we arrived at a coastal stretch of species-rich limestone pavement which represented the perfect introduction to the Burren's flora: a stunningly beautiful mix of coastal, Mediterranean, Atlantic and Arctic-Alpine species gathered together uniquely in a natural rock garden. First impressions were of patchy grassland, sparkling with heath spotted-orchids *Dactylorhiza maculata ericetorum* and drifts of the ubiquitous and glowing-purple bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*, between bare rock. A closer look revealed a diverse and colourful tapestry of dozens of flowers - the yellows of goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea*, kidney-vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, and bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (and its attendant common blue butterflies *Polyommatus Icarus*), pink splashes of wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus* and the hairy local subspecies of lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* ssp. *hibernica*, and the whites and creams of burnet rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, mountain-everlasting *Antennaria dioica*, and limestone bedstraw *Galium sternerii*. A few steps further, and the cool shade of the grykes (deep, shady cracks between the large slabs of limestone - clints) revealed its special flora: lush ferns including hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and male-fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, and our first small and leathery spleenworts. Then suddenly, a gleam of intense blue, and our first spring gentian, *Gentiana verna*, and nearby, the tightly packed rounded seed pods of dense-flowered orchid, *Neotinea maculata*: one of the most strictly Mediterranean species in the flora, known only from the Burren, Arran Islands and nearby Co Galway, otherwise found from Portugal and Spain to Cyprus and Turkey.

Flitting between the flowers, we enjoyed a Burren speciality among the moths - transparent burnet, *Zygaena purpuralis* ssp. *sabulosa*, a constant companion throughout the trip. Even more exciting was a handful of small blue butterflies, *Cupido minimus*, appearing brown at first, but with a soft powder-blue underside.

Casting our eyes upwards we saw and heard meadow pipits and skylarks which were proclaiming their territories, and a loud bubbling call from a nearby ridge drew our attention to a female cuckoo, in what was the first of several encounters with this iconic species over the course of the holiday.

Before boarding the coach again, a walk toward the low sea-cliffs revealed salt-tolerant plants such as sea aster *Aster tripolium*, sea-milkwort *Glaux maritima*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima* and sea campion *Silene maritima*. The grykes nearer the sea had the delicate feathery fronds of maidenhair fern, *Adiantum capillis-veneris*. The buzz of green-and-brown garden chafers *Phyllopertha horticola* and a single spectacular green-metallic rose chafer *Cetonia aurata* were also found in this coastal area, and we were accompanied by a vocal rock pipit that clearly had a nest somewhere nearby and was asking us to move on!

A second stop along the coast produced several gentians in full bloom, our first flowering mountain avens *Dryas octapetala*, and a tiny fawn plume-moth which turned out to be the western thyme plume *Merrifieldia tridactyla*, another Burren speciality. A common whitethroat sang from a nearby bush and a few sandwich terns flew past offshore here. As we drove onwards towards Ballyvaughan, one side of the bus was treated to great views of a kestrel which flew alongside and proceeded to keep pace with us for several seconds before veering off across the road. Along the coastline we also saw some impressive great northern divers, but alas the road we were driving along was narrow and we couldn't stop safely to take a closer look.

Ballyvaughan tea garden and harbour

Our first Irish lunch - tasty soups, generous sandwiches and some superb cakes - was in the beautiful setting of the tea garden, a mix of exotics and native flora, including bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and Babbington's Leek *Allium ameloprasum*. Before setting off for the afternoon's walk, we browsed the edge of the harbour, with more sea-

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milkwort, thrift, sea fern-grass *Catapodium marinum*, and one of the sea-spurries, *Spergularia*. Perched on an abandoned tyre, a hooded crow delicately preened her fledgling while allowing us to take photos.

Caher Valley

The Caher River is the only water course in the Burren which runs its full course above ground. Approaching via a rather too exciting small road over the hills from Ballyvaughan, we stopped by the bridge while the coach drove down to the chapel, and we spent the afternoon meandering down the valley. A delightful and varied walk, with hazel scrub and ash trees shading sweet woodruff *Galium odoratum* and sanicle *Sanicula vulgaris*, then revealing a semi-shaded bank of orchids and gentians! Here were a dozen or more gentians of the brightest blue, in perfect condition, at least a fortnight later than the morning's, then a bank starred with equally pristine mountain avens.

A song thrush sang from the scrub, whilst a willow warbler was much more accommodating and perched at close range atop a bush, delivering its delicate descending song for us to appreciate. Several butterflies were seen in the area including orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*, speckled wood *Pararge aegeria* and green-veined white *Pieris napi*, and we also noticed the destructive efforts of Green Dock Beetles *Gastrophysa viridula*, the larvae of which could be seen clearly enjoying the local dock plants.

On a sunny verge we came across the pure-white, frilly-edged O'Kelly's spotted-orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsia* ssp. *okellyi*, subtly distinct from the occasional white form of common spotted orchid. Strolling on, a pair of pale pink early purple orchids, *Orchis mascula*, confirmed that the valley was a couple of weeks behind coastal Burren; we also found a thickset clump of dark red helleborine *Epipactis atrorubens*, still a month away from flowering but advanced enough to show its pointed leaves in two opposite ranks. And finally a landscape puzzle: were stripes on a hillside strip lynchets, sheepwalk, solifluction, or a mix of all three?

Back to Dermot's for the welcome cups of tea and piles of scones, a rapid revisiting of the day's species, and the short walk to the Roadside Tavern for another tasty dinner, this time with their own red beer or tangy Burren black, even more full and complex than the Guinness on its home range.

Day 3: 9th June: Keelhilla (Eagle's Rock and St Colman Mac Duagh's hermitage)

After less than an hour's drive via Lemaneah Castle and Kilfenora, we paused briefly on the hillside at Carran, to admire the broad, flat-bottomed valley which is the largest *polje* or flat limestone plain in Ireland, in this case a seasonally flooded glacial depression. It's capable of flooding to a depth of 6 feet or more, over several square miles almost overnight, and draining just as quickly. A little further on we stopped again to see a cuckoo fly up to and land on a telegraph wire; almost immediately a meadow pipit, recognising the bird as a threat, flew in and persistently mobbed the cuckoo until it was forced to vacate the wire and leave the area – it was impressive to see this small bird acting so fearlessly! At this same stop we also saw mistle thrush and a smart male bullfinch close to the bus. Next we meandered across the hazel-covered old pavement, and despite a delay for a Dublin driver apparently unable to reverse, we arrived at the small car park with the high cliffs of Eagle's Rock in the morning mist. A gap in the wall marked by an ancient hairy rocket *Arabis hirsuta*, growing there for at least 15 years, led us to the steady path across the pavement to the meadows, and then to the hermitage in the hazel woodland at the foot of the cliffs.

A few yards from the entrance we found a few more dense-flowered orchids, again as seedpods - a visit in April or mid May would be needed to find it in bloom. A pure-white heath spotted-orchid, lots of flowering burnet rose, twayblades *Neottinea ovata*, more dark red helleborines, and among a bed of wild thyme, the deep purple glossy leaves of the semi-parasitic Irish eyebright, *Euphrasia salisburgensis*, yet another species not found in Britain.

In addition to the widespread transparent burnet moths, we also found our first six-spot burnets of the trip *Zygaena filipendulae*, and a couple of the group were lucky enough to briefly see a narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth *Hemaris tityus* which flew in from out of nowhere and departed again almost as quickly.

We then passed through a belt of open hazel scrub into meadows with fewer flowers and deeper soils. Even here, there were new flowers to find: three species of lady's-mantle, the woolly, smooth and yellow-green, *Alchemilla filicaulis vestita*, *glabra* and *xanthochlora*, growing within a few yards of each other. Then a scatter of pink, this time

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chalk fragrant orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, and into the cool shade of the woodland, with the chapel, the saint's cell, the well and the stream. The very different local climate transforms the flora into true woodland, with masses of ferns - lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, male-fern, golden-scaled male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*, broad buckler-fern *D. dilatata*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum aculeatum*, and around the well, brittle bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis* and hart's-tongue. The wettest areas had patches of opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia vulgaris* and water avens *Geum rivale*. The most impressive feature however was the enormous ancient goat willow *Salix caprea*, with a trunk almost 2m in diameter, whose bark was thickly coated with the most pollution-sensitive of all lichens, the tree-lungworts, bright yellow-green of *Lobaria virens*, the blue-grey of *L. scrobiculata*, and smaller patches of the white-fringed grey lobes of *Pannaria conoplea*, and the slate-grey *Degelia atlantica* with black furry underside, and the gelatinous *Leptogium hibernicum*; such a rich assemblage of lichens is characteristic of humid ancient woodlands on the western fringes of Europe.

Despite hearing their piercing calls on the approach to the hermitage, the peregrine falcons of Eagle's Rock failed to reveal themselves to us, and so we started to head back to the coach. We took a slight detour to climb over a drystone wall and into another world - a species-rich calcareous fen. Dominated by black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, the rare broad-leaved cottongrass, *Eriophorum latifolium*, waving in the light breeze hinted at more to come: common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* indicated a low-nutrient habitat where plants were desperate for additional nitrogen fertilisers. Among them, a good range of scarcer sedges including short yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*, long-stalked yellow-sedge *C. lepidocarpa*, and tawny sedge *C. hostiana*, a lovely lesser butterfly-orchid *Platanthera bifolia*, and sitting obligingly on a clump of its larval foodplant devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, a fresh and colourful marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*. Nearby, the brightly coloured caterpillar with white and orange stripes and spots turned out to be a sweet gale moth *Acrionicta euphorbiae myricae*, more frequent in the Burren than elsewhere, though also found in northern Scotland...so perhaps there was some bog myrtle in the amazing little wetland, too.

We had no sooner boarded the coach when Mike saw a thin spike of an orchid out the window - our first fly orchid *Ophrys insectifera*. Well worth disembarking for a few minutes, and the walk also produced the bright red stems of thyme broomrape *Orobanche alba* - well worth the emergency stop!

Linnane's Lobster Bar at New Quay

And so to lunch in the bar overlooking Galway Bay, where we were able to watch terns fishing and a grey seal swimming past while enjoying a relaxed lunch of seafood chowder, soup or salad. Before boarding the coach we paused to look over the harbour edge, to see a moon jellyfish *Aurelia aurita* pulsating elegantly, and an eel *Anguilla anguilla* swim sinuously past.

Corcomroe Abbey

Just a couple of miles from New Quay, on the outskirts of Ballyvaughan, the extensive remains of Corcomroe Abbey area good example of 15th century church architecture, with earthworks and ruins representing the wider Carthusian community. Among the carvings were two versions of bluebells in the capitols. The stone walls were greened with a lush display of pellitory-of-the-wall *Parietaria judiaca* and the creamy candelabras of navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*, and the grounds of the church had some interesting annual plants including a small white-flowered form of field speedwell *Veronica persica*. The local birdlife had taken advantage of the Abbey ruins, with Jackdaws nesting in the stonework and swallows perching on the crosses in the graveyard outside the building.

Cappanawalla

Parking the coach at the Burren college of art, at the foot of Newtown Castle, we walked along a pleasant shady lane, lined with sweet woodruff and a range of ferns, and patrolled by weakly fluttering wood white butterflies *Leptidea sinapis*. We headed up the slope on to the hillside, with superb views of the castle and the surrounding limestone hillsides. Among the typical flora were flowering tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*, and some of the tallest, least spleenwort-like black spleenworts *Asplenium nigrum*, till we reached a grassy, mossy horse-grazed slope which showed signs of a seepage or flush, recently dried up. Within seconds the group found the large bright blue, white-striped flowers of large-flowered butterwort *Pinguicula grandiflora*, with several dozen plants over the hillside. A closer look and there were several spring gentians, Irish lousewort, the distinctive little flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*,

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and nearby several lesser butterfly orchids and a couple of showy bee orchids *Ophrys apifera*. Heading back along the track, a huge *Boletus* fungus looking rather like a Cep, *B. edulis*, turned a rather shocking blue when damaged, and was eventually identified as the surprisingly edible bay bolete, *Boletus badius*.

Having negotiated a couple of horses with the aid of a length of hurdles, it was back to Dermot's for the well-deserved tea and scones, before our second dinner at the Rathbaun Hotel.

Day 4: 10th June: Lough Gillain

Today we headed towards the concave massif of Mullaghmore, via Kilfenora and Corofin, and after an emergency stop to avoid an Irish hare on the road, we came down to Lough Gillain and into surprisingly heavy traffic, including the mountain rescue team and numerous cyclists. However as soon as we left the road and walked into the lough basin, we had the place to ourselves.

Lough Gillain (variously spelt Gullain and Gaillain) is one of the more stable turloughs or fluctuating lakes. Fed and drained by underground channels, it has a large draw-down zone covered in stable highly calcareous mud (thankfully safe to walk on), and a central area which remains wet. It's surrounded by high quality limestone pavement which slopes very gently into the lough, so there's a wide zone which floods in the winter and is dry by early summer. And in that zone, there was a large population of a characteristic new plant, shrubby cinquefoil *Potentilla fruticosa*.

Among the cinquefoil were low-lying areas of grass and sedge, among which we found our first marsh-orchids. These were mostly the purple-pink form of early marsh-orchid, *Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp. *pulchella*, and the much rarer and restricted flecked marsh-orchid, *D. incarnata* ssp. *cruenta*, unique in having heavy spotting on both sides of its leaves, and typical of western Ireland and parts of western Scotland. We found a single northern marsh-orchid, *D. purpurella*, and one example of what appeared to be the hybrid between early and northern. They are beautiful plants, in a lovely setting, whatever names we attach to them.

Common gulls, mallard, hooded crows and a grey heron were all seen around the lough, and we also heard and then saw a common sandpiper at the water's edge. As it flew across the water we could see its distinctive flight action, low over the water surface with rapid bursts of shallow wingbeats. Several common snipe were flushed from the marsh, flying strongly up and out of sight across the lough. A few common frogs were noted, and several blue-tailed damselflies *Ischnura elegans* were found clinging to the low vegetation.

As we moved across the mud on the lough margins, someone found a lovely three-petalled pink flower – our first lesser water-plantain, *Baldellia ranunculoides*, which turned out to be widespread and locally abundant on the drawdown zone. Among them stood the small white-flowered turrets of brookweed *Samolus valerandi*, and a huge bed of tall, rigid and sharply saw-edged great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*. Among the wetland habitats were areas of high quality pavement, supporting many of the species which had already become familiar, such as prostrate forms of juniper *Juniperus communis* and alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, and the tall and handsome northern bedstraw, *Galium boreale*, with its whorls of broad leaves rather like woodruff. As we left the lough, a striking and very approachable male reed bunting serenaded us from his favourite great fen-sedge perch.

Lough Bunny

A short drive took us to our next turlough, one of the largest in the Burren, with some superb limestone pavement running right into the water, Lough Bunny. Within a few yards of the coach we found a fly orchid for ourselves, and a damp shallow gryke had a stand of the very rare and rather elegant little variegated horsetail *Equisetum variegatum*. Although it had finished flowering, the leaf rosettes of turlough dandelion, *Taraxacum webbiai*, an Irish endemic confined to seasonally flooded ground, were distinctive. Again we found O'Kelly's spotted-orchid, and northern bedstraw.

Trailing over the pavements were the thin red stems or stone bramble, *Rubus saxatilis*, and there was an abundance of freshly emerged damselflies, mainly common blue *Enallagma cyathigerum*, with some more blue-tailed, and while we had our picnic lunch, a fresh four-spotted chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* was seen. Despite a thorough search, there were no lake-shore violets to be seen this year: but the winter strandline was high up on the

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pavement, so perhaps all the mature plants had been flooded for too long, and a new generation had not yet appeared from seed.

Before leaving Lough Bunny we visited a small boggy basin at the eastern end, composed of black bog-rush, with a large stand of fragrant and sticky bog-myrtle *Myrica gale* in the middle. Close to the edges were scattered large, few-flowered spikes in a deep magenta - classic narrow-leaved or Pugsley's marsh-orchid, *Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides*. This rare species is confined to western Ireland, western Scotland and a handful of top-class fens in northern England and perhaps East Anglia, always with black bog-rush and very clean ground-water. A specimen with very narrow flowers was probably the hybrid with early marsh-orchid, and a couple of pale-flowered individuals seemed likely to be the hybrid with heath spotted-orchid. While analysing the orchids themselves, we were treated to a rare combination - a marsh fritillary settled on a narrow-leaved marsh-orchid! And before we left, we checked out a small whitebeam bush next to the roadside stone wall, which proved to be the elusive Irish whitebeam, *Sorbus hibernica*, unlike the larger lake-shore bushes of common whitebeam, *S. aria*.

Kilfenora

Driving back to the characterful town of Kilfenora, we explored the superb collection of Celtic crosses in the grounds of the cathedral, including the wonderful carvings on the Doorty Cross, with birds or possibly angels as well as complex examples of Celtic strapwork. Beyond the cathedral, a single large cross could be seen in open fields, looking all the more striking in its natural habitat. And for the unceasing botanist, as well as the classic species of ancient stonework such as navelwort, pellitory-of-the-wall and rue-leaved saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites*, there were masses of lesser swinecress *Coronopus didymus* and the large liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* with its parasol-like male fruiting bodies.

Next to the cathedral and crosses is the Burren Centre, with a small bookshop and a very efficient teashop, with an excellent selection of cakes, which some of us explored in more detail...

Bog near Lisdoonvarna

As we approached Lisdoonvarna, our coach parked next to the Stella Maris hospital, and we walked to a remarkable lowland bog. Along the path was a rich strip of wet woodland including alder *Alnus glutinosa* and several willow species. The bog had peat diggings of a variety of ages and technologies. The owner, who introduced himself as 'Paddy the Bog-man', a friend of Dermot's, came over for a chat, and explained the history of peat digging in the area, and the workings of his latest machine, the deep cutting extrusion or 'sausage' machine. The current and past scale of operations on this bog seemed to have done rather little damage, with many of the scarcer bog plants surviving and finding new habitats in previous peat diggings, quite a contrast to modern industrial peat extraction.

As we entered the bog, a huge stand of very handsome royal fern *Osmunda regalis*, was flanked by a thick bed of water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* among which grew the lovely pink-purple flowers of marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and the tiny fragile bog stitchwort, *Stellaria uliginosa*. Nearby, among common cottongrass, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, were several bog-mosses including the big and chunky *Sphagnum papillosum*, the smaller denser and rather pinkish *S. capillifolium*, and the smooth-surfaced *S. compactum* indicating, if we had not seen the direct evidence, that the site had been disturbed recently. There were several plants of round-leaved sundews, and a range of sedges, including bottle-sedge *Carex rostrata*. The orchids included heath spotted and northern marsh, and at least one hybrid between them. Examining a handful of the 'sausage' peat revealed fragments of several millennia of vegetation - the early bog-forming *Sphagnum* mosses, twigs of birch *Betula* and heather *Calluna vulgaris*, and the silver-shining strands of Rannoch-rush *Scheuchzeria palustris*, most likely from the immediate post-Roman period when many British and Irish bogs were dominated by this water-demanding species.

Only a couple of minutes' drive from Caherleigh House, the bog was a demonstration of the quality of habitats in 'ordinary' Irish countryside. And to complete our 'set' of marsh-orchids, a hundred-yard stroll from the house before tea let us see Irish marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza occidentalis*, in a rather lovely meadow which, in most of England, would have merited SSSI status!

After the customary tea and scones, a well-earned rest and a review of the day, dinner was at the Roadside Tavern.

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Day 5: 11th June: Poulnabrone portal tomb

Today we gave more time to archaeology and prehistory, visiting sites in roughly chronological order. Starting at perhaps the most famous megalithic monument in the Burren, the portal tomb is now considered to be Neolithic in origin, and at least 6000 years old - older than the Pyramids. But it had been in use over a period of at least 600 years, and again at the beginning of the Bronze age, at least 1500 years after the first use. It was interesting to see how recent research had been incorporated in the interpretation: current thinking is that the stones of the tomb had been supported by the mound of soil which forms the cairn on which they stand, but had not been covered; previous explanations suggested that all or most of the tomb had been underground.

The tomb stands on high quality limestone pavement, with many of the classic plant species we had seen at other sites. Highlights included Irish eyebright, spring sandwort *Minuartia verna*, and heath speedwell *Veronica officinalis*.

Gleninsheen wedge tombs

Just a few miles south, we saw two wedge tombs from the roadside, about 4000 years old, on the cusp of the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. Less dominating of the landscape than the Poulnabrone tomb, but still quite impressive. Whilst contemplating these ancient features, our attention was drawn to the sight of at least three (possibly four) cuckoos in the air together at the same time, complete with attendant meadow pipits.

Caherconnell Ring Fort

Before exploring the site, we saw a 20-minute video explaining the landscape history of the area, and the archaeology and uses of the ring fort itself, before enjoying a hearty lunch in the restaurant. The ring fort is an impressive and well-preserved structure from the 10th-12th centuries, but the site has been occupied for very much longer. Post holes and a fire pit were dated to the early Bronze Age and modified in the middle ages, and the site was occupied and extended as recently as the 17th century - quite remarkable to think the same site had been used for over 4000 years.

We also found a range of flora at Caherconnell. The most exciting new species was mossy saxifrage *Saxifraga hypnoides*, growing on a mossy slope on the side of the fort, and the bright apple-green lichen, *Solorina saccata*, in crevices in the walls.

Cliffs of Moher

Next we drove the short distance to the coast, and to the huge new car park inland of the cliffs. For a midweek day outside of the summer holidays, the thousands of visitors made for a very different experience of the 'countryside' than anywhere else we visited, and a transformation for those who had visited 20 years ago or more, when you could walk the clifftop path and see no-one.

Despite the crowds, the cliffs themselves were awesome (in the traditional sense), and the wildlife was good, too. A brief glimpse of a peregrine speeding past, good views of fulmars gliding on stiff wings along the clifftop, and fairly distant views of guillemots, kittiwakes and a few razorbills and puffins were exciting. An early fly-past from a calling pair of choughs was reassuring: they were still around. But later in the afternoon, we watched the choughs mobbing a raven, presumably not far from their nest site, and then the pair walked up and down in the grass, perhaps looking for ants. Finally, just before we left, we were treated to another fly-past from the birds, this time a bit closer with their bright metallic call ringing in our ears as they drifted overhead.

The cliffs had some botanical interest too, with lots of thrift and sea campion, sea mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*, small patches of bright blue sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*, and on the eroding cliff slopes, big stands of blue-grey roseroot *Sedum roseum* with flat heads of yellow flowers.

After such a good walk on a pleasantly cool and almost windless day, we were back at Caherleigh in good time to enjoy our tea and cakes, catch up on species lists, spend half an hour reviewing the marsh and spotted orchids we'd seen, and still be ready for dinner.

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Ballynalackan Castle

As the final evening of the formal holiday, we headed by coach to Ballynalackan, on the way to our first stop on day 1, Poulisallach. The modern house, where we had dinner, dated from 1840 and provided a fine setting for a fine meal. The castle dates from 1390 and after dinner the owner showed us around and explained its history, as a defensive site built by the O'Brien family whose descendants had sold it to the current owner's grandfather last century. As we walked to the tower, the view to the Aran Islands was superb, and the rays of the setting sun broke through the clouds to provide a golden end to a splendid day.

Day 6: 12th June: formal end of trip; some leave while others head for Doolin and Aran Islands

After breakfast at the usual time, most of the party were ready for their coach to Doolin, and thence a boat trip to Inisheer, while Ken and Brian awaited their taxi to the airport, and the holiday moved to its close.

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Top: Poul nabrone Tomb and Transparent Burnet on Bloody Crane's-bill
Middle: Bee Orchid, Lesser Butterfly Orchid and Fly Orchid
Bottom: Reed Bunting and Poulsallach limestone pavement

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BIRDS		
ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
Family Anatidae (Swans, geese and ducks)		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓ 9 th
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓ 10 th
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)		
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓ 9 th
Family Gaviidae (Divers)		
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	✓ 8 th (along coastline near Ballyvaughan)
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters)		
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)		
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓ 9 th
Family Ardeidae (Herons)		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓ 8 th , 10 th
Family Falconidae (Falcons)		
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓ 8 th
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓ 9 th (heard at Keelhilla), 11 th (seen briefly at Cliffs of Moher)
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)		
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓ 11 th
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Gillain)
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Gillain)
Family Laridae (Gulls)		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓ 8 th , 10 th
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓ 10 th
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 11 th
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 11 th
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓ 8 th
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Family Sternidae (Terns)		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalassache sandvicensis</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Family Alcidae (Auks)		
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)		
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓ 9 th , 11 th
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)		
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Apodidae (Swifts)		
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓ 11 th
Family Alaudidae (Larks)		
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)		
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)		
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	✓ 8 th , 11 th
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarelli</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 11 th

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Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)		
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Prunellidae (Accentors)		
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)		
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓ 8 th (Caher Valley)
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓ 9 th (on telegraph wire near Keelhilla)
Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers and Chats)		
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach area)
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)		
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓ 9 th , 11 th
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)		
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Corvidae (Crows)		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓ 9 th (heard at Keelhilla)
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓ 9 th , 11 th
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	✓ 11 th (Cliffs of Moher)
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓ 8 th , 11 th
Family Fringillidae (Finches)		
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Bunny)
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach)
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	✓ 9 th (at roadside near Keelhilla)
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)		
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla)
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Gillain)

MAMMALS

Family Leporidae (Rabbits and Hares)

Irish Hare	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>	✓ 9 th , 10 th (on the road near Lough Gillain)
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Family Phocidae (Seals)

Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	✓ 9 th (in bay at Linnanes, New Quay)
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AMPHIBIANS

Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla), 10 th (Lough Gillain)
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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
BUTTERFLIES		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓ 11 th (Caherconnell)
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓ 8 th (Caher Valley)
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓ 9 th (Cappanawalla)
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓ 8 th (Caher Valley)
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach)
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	✓ 8 th (larvae seen in Caher Valley)
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	✓ 8 th (larvae seen in Caher Valley)
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla), 10 th (Lough Bunny)
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓ 8 th (Caher Valley)
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach), 9 th (Cappanawalla)
MOTHS		
6 spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla)
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	✓ 8 th (larvae seen in Caher Valley)
Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis ssp sabulosa</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th (common in limestone pavement areas)
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	✓ 9 th (in guesthouse, Lisdoonvarna)
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>	✓ 9 th (seen briefly at Keelhilla)
White-spotted Sable	<i>Anania funebris</i>	✓ 9 th (Cappanawalla)
Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	✓ 9 th , 10 th (larvae seen at Cappanawalla & at the bog near Lisdoonvarna)
Least Minor	<i>Photedes captiuncula tincta</i>	✓ 9 th (Cappanawalla)
Western Thyme Plume	<i>Merrifieldia tridactyla</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach)
Sweet Gale Moth	<i>Acronicta euphorbiae myrica</i>	✓ 9 th (larva seen at Keelhilla)
DRAGONFLIES		
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Gillain & Lough Bunny)
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Bunny)
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	✓ 10 th (Lough Bunny)
OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
European Black Slug	<i>Arion ater</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach)
Garden Chafer	<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>	✓ 8 th (Poulsallach)
Pyramid Snail	<i>Pyramidula rupestris</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla)
Garden Snail	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla)
Brown-lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	✓ 9 th (Keelhilla), 10 th (Lough Bunny)
Heath Snail	<i>Helicella itala</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th , 10 th
Orchid Beetle	<i>Dascillus cervinus</i>	✓ 8 th , 9 th
Green Dock Beetle	<i>Gastrophysa viridula</i>	✓ 8 th (larvae & adult seen in Caher Valley)
Moon Jellyfish	<i>Aurelia aurita</i>	✓ 9 th (in bay at Linnanes, New Quay)

Corrections and clarifications to identifications, The Burren, 7-12 June 2018

Wood White: the only species recorded from The Burren is the same as in southern England, *Leptidea sinapis*. A second species, now called Cryptic Wood White, *Leptidea juvernica*, is known from much of Ireland but not the Burren. It has a stronger greenish caste to the underside.

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PLANTS

Date/Location codes used in the plant list

7 th -11 th June	0	Lisdoonvarna
8 th June	2A	Pollsallach
	B	Ballyvaghan Saltmarsh
	2C	Caher Valley
9 th June	3A	Keelhilla, Eagle's Rock
	3B	Corcomroe Abbey
	3C	Cappanawalla, above Newtown Castle
10 th June	4A	Lough Gillain
	4B	Lough Bunny
	4C	Kilfenora
	4D	Bog near Lisdoonvarna
11 th June	5A	Poulnabrone Portal Tomb
	5B	Glenisheen Wedge Tombs
	5C	Caherconnell Ring Fort
	5D	Cliffs of Moher

C – seen from moving coach

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	First seen
Pteridophytes - non seed plants				
Polypodiales (Ferns)				
	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern		2A
	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort		3C
	<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	Sea Spleenwort		2A
	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	fleshy leaves	2A
	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort		2A
	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern		3A
	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback		2A
	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern		3A
	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male-fern		4D
	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern		3A
	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern		2A
	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern		4D
	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue		2A
	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody		2C
	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Hard Shield-fern		3A
	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern		2C
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken		2A
Equisetaceae: horsetail				
	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail		3C
	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail		2C
	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail		4D
	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail		0
	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Variegated Horsetail		4B
Spermatophytes - seed plants				
Gymnosperms				
Cupressaceae: cypress				
	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper		2C

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	First seen
	Angiosperms	Flowering Plants		
	Dicotyledons			
	Aceraceae: maple	Order Sapindales		
	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	IN	2C
	Adoxaceae	Order Dipsacales		
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		5C
	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose		2C
	Amaranthaceae	Order Caryophyllales		
	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane		2B
	<i>Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima</i>	Sea Beet		2A
	Apiaceae: carrot	Order Apiales		
	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica		2C
	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		5D
	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut		2A
	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire		2A
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot		2C
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		5D
	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort		5D
	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle		2C
	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders		3B
	Aquifoliaceae: holly	Order Aquifoliales		
	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly		2A
	Araliaceae: ivy	Order Apiales		
	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		2A
	<i>Hedera helix subsp. hibernica</i>	Atlantic Ivy		3A
	Asteraceae: daisy	Order Asterales		
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		2C
	<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting		2A
	<i>Aster tripolium</i>	Sea Aster		2A
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		2A
	<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle		2A
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed		2A
	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed		3A
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle		2C
	<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	Meadow Thistle		2A
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle		3C
	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony		2A
	<i>Hieracium agg.</i>	Hawkweeds		2A
	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort		2C
	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawksbit		4B
	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy		2A
	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed		2C
	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce		3A
	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed		2A
	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort		2A

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	First seen
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel		3B
	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod		2A
	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial Sow-thistle		2A
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle		2C
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle		2A
	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelions		2A
	<i>Taraxacum webbia</i>	Turlough Dandelion		4B
	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Sea Mayweed		5D
	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot		2A
	Betulaceae: birch	Order Fagales		
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		2A
	Boraginaceae: borage	Order Boraginales		
	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not		4C
	Brassicaceae: cabbage	Order Brassicales		
	<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock-cress		2C
	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress		2C
	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress		4C
	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower		3B
	<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser Swine-cress		4C
	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum agg.</i>	Water-cress		2C
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock		2C
	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard		3B
	Campanulaceae: bellflower	Order Asterales		
	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell		3A
	<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's-bit		5D
	Caprifoliaceae: honeysuckle	Order Dipsacales		
	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian		5B
	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious		4B
	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle		2A
	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious		2A
	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian		2C
	Caryophyllaceae: carnation	Order Caryophyllales		
	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia subsp. serpylli.</i>	Broad Thyme-leaved Sandwort		2B
	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear		5C
	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear		2C
	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-Robin		4D
	<i>Minuartia verna</i>	Spring Sandwort		2A
	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion		2A
	<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Lesser Sea-spurrey		2B
	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed		2C
	<i>Stellaria uliginosa</i>	Bog Stitchwort		4D
	Celastraceae: spindle	Order Celastrales		
	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle		2A
	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus		4B

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	First seen
	Cistaceae: rock rose	Order Malvales		
	<i>Helianthemum oelandicum subsp. piloselloides</i>	Hoary Rock-rose		2A
	Convolvulaceae: bindweed	Order Solanales		
	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed		3C
	Crassulaceae: sedum	Order Saxifragales		
	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop		2C
	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop	white flowers	2C
	<i>Sedum roseum</i>	Roseroot		5D
	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort		3B
	Droseraceae: sundew	Order Caryophyllales		
	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew		3A
	Ericaceae: heather	Order Ericales		
	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather		2A
	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather		2A
	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath		4D
	Euphorbiaceae: spurge	Order Malpighiales		
	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge		2C
	Fabaceae: pea	Order Fabales		
	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch		2A
	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch		2A
	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling		2C
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil		2A
	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil		4D
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick		3A
	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil		4D
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		2A
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover		2A
	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse		4D
	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch		2A
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch		2A
	Gentianaceae: gentian	Order Gentianales		
	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort		3C
	<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian		2A
	Geraniaceae: geranium	Order Geraneales		
	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill		3B
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert		2A
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill		2A
	Hypericaceae: St Johns wort	Order Malpighiales		
	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan		2A
	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort		3A
	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort		2A
	<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St John's-wort		2C
	Lamiaceae: mint	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint		2A

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	First seen
	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		2C
	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort		3C
	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage		2A
	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme		2A
	Lentibulariaceae	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Butterwort		3C
	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort		3A
	Linaceae: flax	Order Malpighiales		
	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax		2A
	Malvaceae: mallow	Order Malvales		
	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree-mallow		C
	Menyanthaceae	Order Asterales		
	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	Introduced	2B
	Myricaceae	Order Fagales		
	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog-myrtle		4B
	Oleaceae: olive	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		2A
	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden Privet		4A
	Onagraceae: willowherb	Order Myrtales		
	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade		2C
	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb	IN	3B
	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb		3C
	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb		3C
	<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Fuchsia	IN	C
	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple-loosestrife		4A
	Orobanchaceae: broomrape	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Euphrasia confusa</i>	Small-flowered Eyebright		4A
	<i>Euphrasia salisburgensis</i>	Irish Eyebright	On wild thyme	3A
	<i>Odontites verna</i>	Red Bartsia		2C
	<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape		3A
	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort		2A
	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle		2A
	Oxalidaceae: oxalis	Order Oxalidales		
	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel		3A
	Plantaginaceae: plantain	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax		3B
	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove		C
	<i>Littorella uniflora</i>	Shoreweed		4A
	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain		2B
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		2C
	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain		2C
	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain		2A
	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell		3B
	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime		2C

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	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell		2A
	<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell		3B
	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell		5A
	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell		3B
	Plumbaginaceae: plumbago	Order Caryophyllales		
	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift		2A
	Polygalaceae	Order Fabales		
	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort		2A
	Polygonaceae: dock	Order Caryophyllales		
	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed		4D
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel		2C
	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel		4D
	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock		2A
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock		2C
	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock		3B
	Primulaceae: primula	Order Ericales		
	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		2C
	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Bog Pimpernel		3A
	<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea-milkwort		2A
	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel		3A
	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Yellow Loosestrife		4A
	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip		2C
	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose		C
	<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed		4A
	Ranunculaceae: buttercup	Order Ranunculales		
	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold		2C
	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup		2C
	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine		3A
	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort		2A
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		3B
	<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue		4A
	Rhamnaceae: buckthorn	Order Rosales		
	<i>Fragula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn		4A
	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn		2A
	Rosaceae: rose	Order Rosales		
	<i>Alchemilla filicaulis subsp. vestita</i>	Woolly Lady's-mantle		3A
	<i>Alchemilla glabra</i>	Smooth Lady's-mantle		3A
	<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>	Yellow-green Lady's-mantle		3A
	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		2A
	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens		2A
	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet		2C
	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort		3A
	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry		2C
	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens		2C
	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		2C

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	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed		2A
	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil		2A
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil		4A
	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Marsh Cinquefoil		4D
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		2A
	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose		2C
	<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Burnet Rose		2A
	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry		2A
	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry		3A
	<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Stone Bramble		4B
	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam		4B
	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan		3A
	<i>Sorbus hibernica</i>	Irish Whitebeam		4B
	Rubiaceae: madder	Order Gentianales		
	<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort		2A
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		2C
	<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw		4A
	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff		2C
	<i>Galium palustre</i>	Common Marsh-bedstraw		4A
	<i>Galium sternerii</i>	Limestone Bedstraw		3A
	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw		2A
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder		2A
	Salicaceae: willow	Order Malpighiales		
	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow		2C
	<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow		2C
	<i>Salix aurita x cinerea</i>	Hybrid Sallow		4D
	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow		3D
	<i>Salix caprea x cinerea</i>	Sallow-Osier Hybrid		2C
	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Common Sallow		2C
	<i>Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia</i>	Grey Sallow		2C
	<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping Willow		2A
	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Common Osier		4D
	Saxifragaceae	Order Saxifragaceae		
	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage		3A
	<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	Mossy Saxifrage		5C
	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage		2C
	Scrophulariaceae: foxglove	Order Lamiales		
	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort		2C
	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort		2C
	Urticaceae: nettle	Order Rosales		
	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall		3B
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle		2C
	Violaceae: violet	Order Malpighiales		
	<i>Viola palustris</i>	Marsh Violet		4D
	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet		2C

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	Monocotyledons			
	Alismataceae		Order Alismatales	
	<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	Lesser Water-plantain		4A
	Amaryllidaceae: daffodil		Order Asparagales	
	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek		2B (INT)
	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons		3A
	Araceae: arum		Order Alismatales	
	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies		2C
	Cyperaceae: sedge		Order Poales	
	<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge		4D
	<i>Carex elata</i>	Tufted-sedge		4A
	<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge		2A
	<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge		3A
	<i>Carex hostiana</i>	Tawny Sedge		3A
	<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox-sedge		4d
	<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge		2A
	<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge		C
	<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea Sedge		2A
	<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge		3A
	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	Bottle Sedge		4A
	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge		3A
	<i>Carex viridula subsp. oedocarpa</i>	Small Yellow-sedge		2A
	<i>Carex viridula subsp. viridula</i>	Tall yellow-sedge		2A
	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Great Fen-sedge		4A
	<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Many-stalked Spike-rush		4A
	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common Spike-rush		4A
	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass		3B
	<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Cottongrass		3A
	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush		2A
	Iridaceae: iris		Order Asparagales	
	<i>Crocsmia aurea x pottsii</i>	Montbretia	IN	2C
	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris		C
	Juncaceae: rush		Order Alismatales	
	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp-flowered Rush		4D
	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush		3A
	<i>Juncus bufonius sens. str.</i>	Toad Rush		3A
	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush		3A
	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Wood-rush		4D
	Orchidaceae: orchid		Order Asparagales	
	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid		2C
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid		2A
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii var. o'kellyi</i>	Irish Spotted orchid		2C
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii x maculata</i>	Common x Heath Spotted Orchid		2C
	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. cruenta</i>	Flecked Marsh Orchid	spots below/ above leaves	4A

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	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. pulchella</i>	Purple Early Marsh Orchid	acid bogs	4A
	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata x purpurella</i>	Early x Northern Marsh Orchid		4A
	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata x traunsteinerioides</i>	Early x Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid		4B
	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata subsp. ericetorum</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid	frilly lip	2A
	<i>Dactylorhiza macula x purpurella</i>	Heath Spotted x Northern Marsh Orchid		4D
	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata x traunsteinerioides</i>	Heath Spotted x Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid		4B
	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis subsp. occidentalis</i>	Irish Marsh Orchid		0
	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis subsp.traunsteinerioides</i>	Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid (Pugsleys)		4B
	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Northern Marsh Orchid	diamond shape lip	4A
	<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	Dark-red Helleborine	leaves	2C
	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	leaves	3A
	<i>Gymnadenia borealis</i>	Heath Fragrant Orchid	(flowers not open)	4D
	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Chalk Fragrant Orchid		3A
	<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid		2A
	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade		2A
	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid		3C
	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid		3A
	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early-purple Orchid		2A
	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid		3A
Poaceae: grass		Order Poales		
	<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass		2A
	<i>Catapodium marinum</i>	Sea Fern-grass		2A
	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail		2A
	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	Crested Hair-grass		2A
	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass		2A
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed		4A
	<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	Blue Moor-grass		2A
Typhaceae		Order Poales		
	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed		2C
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Reedmace		2C

Corrections and clarifications to identifications, The Burren, 7-12 June 2018

Large Hook-moss, *Pseudocalliergon lycopodioides*: the abundant large brown moss on the mud at Lough Gillain was this species, which I confused with *Drepanocladus aduncus*, a smaller species which was also present in the area. It is extremely local in Britain and Ireland, and has declined because it requires low-nutrient water. The bryophyte field guide says: 'Its fat shoots form spongy carpets in suitable conditions'. The species name reflects its resemblance to a club-moss.

Bay Bolete, *Boletus badius*: the unusually large and much slug-eaten bolete on the path up Cappanawalla which looked like *Boletus edulis* from above, but revealed strongly and instantly blue-staining flesh when damaged, turned out to be the bay bolete, *Boletus badius*, which is usually rather smaller. Despite the shocking blue colour, it's supposedly edible and good to eat.