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Genedlaethol
National Trust

National Trust Wales

Wild Guide

How many can you spot?

This is your guide to go wild at National Trust places across Wales and experience wildlife live for yourself, from spotting a red squirrel feeding at Plas Newydd to catching a glimpse of dolphins off the coast of Marloes Sands.

Share stories, pictures and videos of the wildlife you've spotted for the first time on social using #NTFirst



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Brown Hairstreak Butterfly

Chances of seeing me: 40%

Habitat

West Williamston woodlands

What do I eat?

Blackthorn

Did you know?

Brown hairstreak butterflies are sun-lovers, basking in the warmth and rarely spotted on overcast days.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look up! I spend a lot of time basking high up in trees and tall shrubs.

Where can you find me?

Cleddau

Cormorants

Chances of seeing me: 80%

Habitat

On the shores of the Menai Strait

What do I eat?

Fish

Did you know?

Cormorants spread their wings in the sun to dry them.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look around the rocky shores and lagoons.

Where can you find me?

Glan Faenol

Damselfly

Chances of seeing me: 80%

Habitat

In wildflower meadows and around streams

What do I eat?

Insects

Did you know?

Damselflies are ancient creatures that have been around some 300 million years.

Tips for spotting me

1 My life cycle revolves around water, so keep an eye out at Colby's streams and ponds.

2 Most of us are in flight by mid-June.

Where can you find me?

Bodnant Garden, Colby, Dyffryn Gardens, Erddig

Dolphin

Chances of seeing me: 20%

Habitat

In the rough water

What do I eat?

Fish

Did you know?

Dolphins have to be conscious to breath so only one-half of their brain sleeps at a time.

Tips for spotting me

1 Sit quietly on the Deer Park headland and watch the rough stretch of water between the mainland and Midland Isle.

2 I can be seen year-round, but between June and September is deemed to be the best time for sightings.

Where can you find me?

Marloes

Dragonfly

Chances of seeing me: 80%

Habitat

In wildflower meadows

What do I eat?

Insects

Did you know?

Dragonflies have among the largest eyes in the insect world, with up to 30,000 individual lenses!

Tips for spotting me

1 Look around the edges of water and check vegetation to see if I have landed.

2 Like damselflies, dragonflies are in flight by mid-June.

Where can you find me?

Brecon Beacons, Colby, Dyffryn Gardens, Erddig

Gannet

Chances of seeing me: 60%

Habitat

Pembrokeshire coastline

What do I eat?

Fish

Did you know?

Around 39,000 pairs breed on Grassholm Island just offshore, visible from the Marloes Peninsula and St David's Head.

Tips for spotting me

1 Visit in spring and summer to see me, I'm here from late February and stay until late August.

2 I'm a champion diver, you'll spot me plunging into the sea for food.

Where can you find me?

Marloes, St Davids Peninsula

Great crested newts

Chances of seeing me: 40%

Habitat

In ponds and tree roots

What do I eat?

Insects, worms, water snails and larvae

Did you know?

The Great Crested Newt can live for up to 27 years.

Tips for spotting me

1 I'm protected by law so its best to visit an NT site that can help you spot me with a licensed ecologist.

2 I'm active at night so bring a torch to shine into the pools.

Where can you find me?

Chirk Castle, Dyffryn Gardens

Grey seal

Chances of seeing me: 70%

Habitat

In the rookeries

What do I eat?

Fish

Did you know?

Seals can hold their breath for an hour and a half underwater, and can dive to depths of almost 1,500 metres.

Tips for spotting me

1 You'll usually see me and the pups hauled out on the rocks of secluded beaches, we're best viewed from afar.

2 Binoculars and check for bobbing objects on the sea.

Where can you find me?

Glan Faenol, Marloes, Llyn Peninsula

Heron

Chances of seeing me: 50%

Habitat

Near lakes and ponds

What do I eat?

Fish, insects, small mammals

Did you know?

Hérons are the largest bird you're ever likely to see in your garden. Their wing span is around 6ft.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look for me around the water's edge, with my long legs and beak I'm unmistakable.

2 I don't migrate, I'm here year round - sit on one of the benches around the lakes and get spotting.

Where can you find me?

Aberdulais Falls, Llanerchaeron, Powis, Stackpole, Tredegar House

Kingfisher

Chances of seeing me: 40%

Habitat

Nesting by river mud banks

What do I eat?

Fish, small amphibians and aquatic insects

Did you know?

Kingfishers' amazing colours are not due to pigment, but to the way light is reflected off their feathers.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look for my blue and orange plumage as I fly low over the water or hunt from lakeside perches.

2 Sit quietly.

Where can you find me?

Aberdulais Falls, Bodnant Garden, Erddig, Stackpole

Lesser horseshoe bat

Chances of seeing me: 60%

Habitat

In old buildings and woodland

What do I eat?

Insects

Did you know?

One of the smallest British bat species, around the size of a plum!

Tips for spotting me

1 Look for me at dusk between April and September before I go into hibernation.

Where can you find me?

Chirk Castle, Colby, Powis Castle

Otter

Chances of seeing me: 40%

Habitat

In rivers and lakes

What do I eat?

Fish and insects

Did you know?

Otters poo is known as 'spraint' and smells not unpleasant, like jasmine tea or newly mown hay.

Tips for spotting me

1 Best time to see me is early morning or evening.

2 Patience is key. Sit where I have been spotted in the past, and be prepared to stay there for at least an hour.

Where can you find me?

Bodnant, Erddig, Gower, Stackpole

Peacock

Chances of seeing me: 100%

Habitat

In the courtyard at Powis Castle

What do I eat?

Special peacock food and insects from the lawn

Did you know?

A group of peacocks is called a bevy, a muster or an ostentation.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look for me in the Courtyard where I like to eye-up visitor's cream teas.

Where can you find me?

Powis Castle

Peregrine

Chances of seeing me: 60%

Habitat

Near the coast

What do I eat?

Medium-sized birds, rabbits and mice

Did you know?

The peregrine can reach over 200 mph during its characteristic hunting stoop.

Tips for spotting me

1 Look near rocky sea cliffs and crevices.

2 Look for my blue-grey colour and an obvious black 'moustache' that contrasts with my white face.

Where can you find me?

Brecon Beacons, Marloes, Snowdonia, St Davids Peninsula

Pig

Chances of seeing me: 100%

Habitat

Farms, gardens and pigsties

What do I eat?

They are omnivores which means they eat everything

Did you know?

Pigs enjoy listening to music, playing with soccer balls, and getting massages.

Tips for spotting me

1 Visit Dyffryn in April at feeding time to see me.

2 Open the pigsty gate at Llanerchaeron. Just remember to shut it after you!

Where can you find me?

Dyffryn Gardens, Llanerchaeron

