

APRIL 2026 BULLETIN

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WELCOME TO OUR APRIL BULLETIN!

It's been an eventful month for MBB, as we undergo yet more updates and changes: a new intern, a new look for our website, a new volunteer system to help them engage with us in different ways, just to name a few. Of course, April was also the month of the City Nature Challenge, and we had a fantastic weekend packed full of events and intense record-taking! I was really impressed not just by the numbers we produced, but also the sheer enthusiasm we saw across our volunteers, including those who recently joined. Finally, the most exciting change has been Elina's (MBB's Manager) imminent maternity leave.

1.1 City Nature Challenge

01

Article by Elina-Marielle Doss

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the City Nature Challenge this year! The first stage of the CNC has now been completed, i.e. collecting data. If you have taken pictures but haven't been able to upload them yet, there is still time. See below some details about the next steps.

24th April - 27th April 2026

Data Collection

Taking pictures of WILD plants and animals.

Completed



28th April - 10th May 2026

Data Upload

Uploading observations and identifying what was found.

Next Step

Results Announcement: 13th May 2026

Prizes

Just a reminder that we have some prizes again for this year's CNC participants:



Most Improved Recorder or Best Newcomer



Best Photo



Most Sites Visited

Recording Kit

A4 weather writer, 3 FSC guides, hand lens, MBB lanyard and MBB pencil

£25 NHBS voucher





£50 NHBS voucher

Check out next month's bulletin where we will be sharing stats for this year's CNC!

Netherley Park

We joined Eleanor Reece and the Friends of Group at Netherley Park on Friday 24th April for the City Nature Challenge. Eleanor guided us around the habitats on site, which have benefited from the local expertise of an eminent local botanist, and improved management including signs educating on what the no mow areas are for. It was a treat to see all the species which are thriving in this area.







 211 observations  32 identifiers
 102 species  12 observers

West Derby Golf Club

On Friday evening, 24th April, Paul was joined by 22 golfers for the nocturnal event at West Derby Golf Club. We started by setting up two moth traps. After a brief demonstration by Tony Parker on how bat detectors work, we set off on our nocturnal wildlife walk. We were rewarded with great views of both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle's flying over our heads. Unfortunately, we didn't record any moths







 134 observations  32 identifiers
 74 species  9 observers

Lunt Meadows

On Saturday 25th April, Assistant Ecologist, Mat Sharples supported the Lancashire Wildlife Trust team at Lunt Meadows helping out with moth trapping and 2 guided walks. Species highlights included Hebrew Character, Gadwall on the wetland, potential Tawny owl pellets on the northwestern embankment, Puccinia Pulverulenta fungi and Common Comfrey.





 152 observations  41 identifiers
 105 species  13 observers

Oak Plantation

On Saturday 25th April, David joined Knowsley Council and the Mersey Rivers Trust at Oak Plantation to celebrate recent investments in the Natural Flood Management Project, including new paths, benches and "leaky" dams designed to reduce flooding, while showcasing the area's rich wildlife and the strong appreciation shown by local residents.



 92 observations  25 identifiers
 157 species  4 observers

Rimrose Valley

Sunday's Spring in a City event at Rimrose Valley Country Park, held alongside Merseyside BioBank partners, attracted over 200 people. Activities ranged from yoga to wicker weaving, and included nature walks led by David, Steve Cross, and volunteer Jo (big thanks to both) exploring the diverse meadows there shaped by Yellow meadow ants *Lasius flavus* hills.



©DAVID HOPKINS

- 📱 169 observations
- 🔍 38 identifiers
- 🌸 103 species
- 🚲 16 observers

Hightown Beach

On Sunday 26th April, Assistant Ecologist Paul Round, led three walks at Hightown Beach on the Sefton Coast, including plants, beach combing and birds. Species highlights included a Click Beetle of the genus *Cidnopus*, Early Forget-Me-Not *Myosotis ramosissima*, and Isle-of-Man Cabbage *Coincya monensis*.



© PAUL ROUND

- 📱 421 observations
- 🔍 64 identifiers
- 🌸 168 species
- 🚲 10 observers

Court Hey Park

On the last day of the CNC, we ran a nature walk and pond dipping session in Court Hey Park. We had two great sessions with enthusiastic attendees and found some great invertebrates and botanicals. In the morning, Mat led volunteers on a plant walk around the park. In the afternoon, David ran a pond-dipping session where the volunteers had a chance to test out BioBank's nifty microscope and observe some microfauna.



©PRIYA



©SAMUEL PEARSON CURRIE

- 📱 387 observations
- 🔍 68 identifiers
- 🌸 148 species
- 🚲 14 observers

Elina is going on Maternity Leave

Our MBB Manager, Elina, is going on maternity leave from 1st May for 12 months. In the interim, MBB Biodiversity Data and GIS Officer, David, who joined the team in October 2025, will be holding the fort with support from Assistant Ecologists, Paul Round and Matthew Sharples, as well as Environment Project Officer, Liv Lightfoot. During this time, the team will be quite stretched for capacity, so we ask for your patience and understanding.



A few words from Elina:

'It's been an absolute fantastic 3 years working at BioBank and I'm going into my maternity leave with very mixed feelings. There are not many people as lucky as our team to be working in a profession that we are all so very passionate about. I will miss working with the team, our recording community and partners but I'm equally excited about the next chapter in my life. Plus, I will be coming back so I have something to look forward to. Plus, the little one needs his daily walks and be introduced to wildlife recording early on. I will definitely be out and about recording wildlife still and engage with people in my local area'

We are wishing Elina all the best. We also are looking forward to when she comes to visit us with her new arrival and to welcoming her back in 12 months.

A big welcome to our new intern, Matthew Hill

Hi, my name is Matthew Hill and I'll be joining Merseyside Biobank for a summer placement until August. I'm currently studying a Master's degree in Wildlife Conservation at LJMU, the fourth year of my studies after an undergraduate degree in Environment, Economics and Ecology in York. I have a great interest in a range of species, particularly reptiles, but I'm more focused on ecosystem processes and the interactions of nature with human activity. During this placement I'm hoping to gain a deeper understanding of the professional world of conservation and how biodiversity data is collected and shared to benefit the natural world.



I hope to get involved with a variety of projects during my time here and expand on my academic knowledge with real-world skills, including GIS mapping, field surveys and community work. I love the variety the role promises, and I am grateful to be a part of the Mersey Biobank team and to be able to learn from others in the field with hands-on experience.

1.4 BIOBANK BOUNTY

EVEN WHILE DODGING BETWEEN THE RAINDROPS AND ICY PUDDLES, THE BIOBANK TEAM HAS SPOTTED A RANGE OF LIFE HERE AT COURT HEY PARK. THIS MONTHS HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



© ROY LOWRY, INAT

COWSLIP
PRIMULA VERIS



© ROY LOWRY, INAT

COMMA BUTTERFLY
POLYGONIA C-ALBUM



© STEVE MCWILLIAM, INAT

GREEN SHIELD BUG
PALOMENA PRASINA



© STEVE MCWILLIAM, INAT

DUSKY CRANES BILL
GERANIUM PHAEUM



© PRIYA SANDHU, INAT

CUCKOO FLOWER
CARDAMINE PRATENSIS



© PAUL ROUND

14-SPOT LADYBIRD
PROPYLEA QUATUORDECIMPUNCTATA

AS ALWAYS, IF YOU DO SPOT ANY OF THESE SPECIES PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORDS TO US HERE AT MERSEYSIDE BIOBANK, SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN OUR DATABASE.

Article by David Hopkins

Swift *Hirundo rustica*

The barn swallow, along with similar-looking mega migrators, the house martins, sand martins, and swifts, will be filling our sky once again, darting over fields and water as they hunt insects with impressive agility. With its cheerful red face patch, the swallow is the easiest to identify of these birds. At this time of year, for both swallows and martins, muddy puddles are good places to get a good look while they collect the mud for nests

Identification tips: Long, deeply forked tail, steel-blue or cobalt-blue back, head, and wings. White to cinnamon underbelly with red face and neck.

Habitat: Found in most open habitats, commonly nest under overhanging roofs



© SEAN HARTNETT, INAT



© SUSAN MARLEY, INAT

Cuckoo flowers *Cardamine pratensis*

While the family **Brassicaceae** might conjure up images of cabbage and mustard seeds, it's a very diverse plant family, but always recognisable by its cross-like four-petalled flowers. **Cuckoo flower** (also known as 'Lady's-smock') is one example that stands out this time of year on grassy banks and species-rich meadows, with its pale-pink to mauve flowers. Like the coming of the cuckoo, its flowering is a traditional sign that spring has arrived!

Identification Tips: Upright (~60cm) with small pinkish-white flowers. Leaves are rosettes at the base

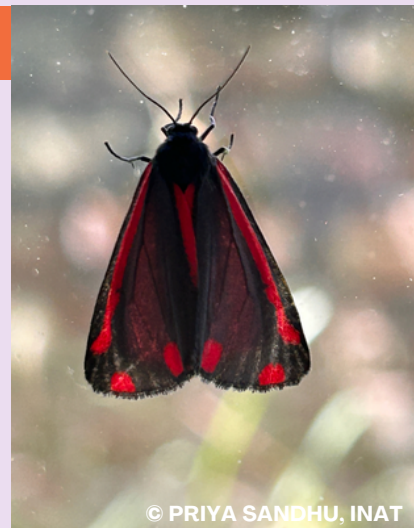
Habitat: Grassy verges, meadows, riverbanks

Cinnabar Moth *Tyria jacobaeae*

While the majority of moths are nocturnal, there are a good number of moths that are day-flying. The Cinnabar moth, with its bright red wing spot and its black and yellow striped caterpillars, is one of the easiest to recognise of these. The bright colourations are a warning of their toxicity, the toxins originating from the ragwort foodplant they eat as larvae.

Identification Tips: Adults are slate black with two pinky-red spots and a single red stripe per top wing. Underwing fully red with a black border. Caterpillars found on ragwort are hairy with a bold back and yellow stripes.

Habitat: Wherever ragwort is abundant. e.g. grassland, wasteground and gardens



© PRIYA SANDHU, INAT



© ROY LOWRY, INAT

Orange-Tipped Butterfly *Anthocharis cardamines*

For someone new to butterfly identification, the "white" family *Pieridae* can be tricky on the wing, but this species is unmistakable thanks to the males' orange-flushed wings. Although not rare and currently increasing, it isn't among the most common in the North West, so it always feels like a treat to see.

Identification Tips: Males have a distinctive orange tip to the white wing, while females are tipped with black. Both sexes show a mottled, 'mossy grey' pattern on the underside of the hindwings when at rest.

Habitat: Foodplants are crucifers, especially Cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis* in damp meadows and Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* along road verges and ditches.

Article by Paul Round



Observations: 3781
Species: 988

This month's records from iNaturalist across North Merseyside included a total of 3,781 records of 988 species. This is an increase on both number of observations and species from March, which saw a total of 2,125 records and 654 species.

Thanks again for all that have helped to record wildlife across the region and uploaded your records to iNaturalist.


This month has seen mostly a change in the top 5 species for plants, with only Red Deadnettle remaining and also taking top spot.

Overall: 552 records of 94 species

Mallard and Carrion Crow continued to dominate the top two spots but the rest has all changed from last month.

Overall: 756 records of 238 species

1 PLANTS



Red Deadnettle
Lamium purpureum

35 Records

2	Garlic Mustard <i>Alliaria petiolate</i>	33
3	Lesser Celandine <i>Ficaria verna</i>	31
4	Ramsons <i>Allium ursinum</i>	30
5	Cuckoo Flower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	25

1 BIRDS



Mallard
Anas platyrhynchos

35 Records

2	Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	27
3	Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>	22
4	Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	21
5	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	18

Article by Paul Round

April has seen a burst of insect life. Whilst both Harlequin and 7-spot Ladybird remain in the top 5, it was good to see a mix of species including Ashy Mining Bee, which has been seen here in our very own Court Hey Park this month.

Overall: 756 records of 238 species

Wood House Spider took top spot again for other invertebrate records, but otherwise all new species this month.

Overall: 176 records of 69 species

1

INSECTS



Peacock Butterfly
Aglais io

34
Records

- 2 **Ashy Mining Bee**
Andrena cineraria 24
- 3 **Aphelonyx cerricola** 23
- 4 **Harlequin Ladybird**
Harmonia axyridis 20
- 5 **7-Spot Ladybird**
Coccinella septempunctata 20

1

OTHER INVERTEBRATE



Wood House Spider
Tegenaria silvestris

8
Records

- 2 **Brown-lipped Snail**
Cepaea nemoralis 7
- 3 **European Nursery Web Spider**
Pisaura mirabilis 5
- 4 **Garden Snail**
Cornu aspersum 5
- 5 **Rabbit Hutch Spider**
Steatoda bipunctata 4

Quite a bit of change for other vertebrate records with Slow worm taking top spot. Another notable record was the inclusion of Common Lizard.

Overall: 57 records of 17 species

Fungi and lichen records were similar in numbers again with the only new entry being King Alfred's Cake.

Overall: 250 records of 81 species

1

OTHER VERTEBRATE



Common Slow worm
Anguis fragilis

11
Records

- 2 **Eastern Grey Squirrel**
Sciurus carolinensis 10
- 3 **Common Lizard**
Zootoca vivipara 4
- 4 **European Rabbit**
Oryctolagus cuniculus 4
- 5 **Brown Rabbit**
Rattus norvegicus 4

1

FUNGI & LICHEN



Golden Shield Lichen
Xanthoria parietina

22
Records

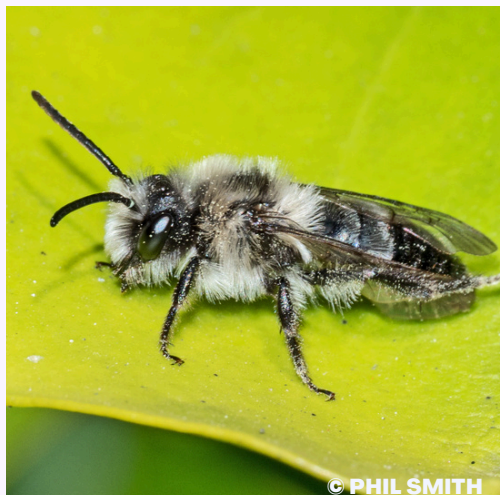
- 2 **Lecidella Lichen**
Lecidella elaeochroma 5
- 3 **King Alfred's Cakes**
Daldinia concentrica 4
- 4 **Jelly Ear**
Auricularia auricula-judae 3
- 5 **Turkey-Tail**
Trametes versicolor 3

Article by Dr. Phil Smith

Following a mild winter, March 2026 was the 10th warmest since records began in 1884. According to the Met Office, rainfall patterns continued to show strong month to month variability. Rachael Parks measured 53mm of precipitation in her Formby garden, about 30% below average for March. There were 14 rain-days but only one really wet day, the 24th, when 15.75mm were recorded. The sand-dune water-table, as measured at the Devil's Hole, Ravenmeols, hardly changed during the month, reaching the fifth highest peak since 2015.

The onset of spring was heralded by the usual duneland flowers, my first Lesser Celandine appearing on 3rd. However, many spring blooms are garden escapes, including a bewildering variety of daffodil cultivars. Genuine wild Daffodils seem to be confined to a small population near the entrance to Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve. I counted 60 flowers, an encouraging increase on last year. Two naturalized non-natives that brighten spring hedgerows in the Formby area are the magenta or white-flowered Honesty and Green Alkanet; the bright blue flowers of the latter belie its English name. Both were well out by mid-March. Much rarer is the Summer Snowflake with its tall, elegant bell-like white flowers tipped with green. For several years, I have enjoyed two small but well-established patches of this beautiful garden-escape on the outskirts of Formby. One of these sites also supports populations of Wood Anemone and Ramsons, both native plants, though perhaps introduced here. Another familiar flower in March is the Sweet Violet, with a particularly large floriferous patch at Falklands Way dunes, Ainsdale. There is some dispute in the literature whether Sweet Violet is native or introduced; our plant is most likely to be a garden escape but is still a welcome addition to the local flora.

My annual visit to see the nationally rare Early Sand-grass on the Southport Marine Lake dunes was delayed until 30th. I should have known better, as this "smallest grass in the world" was pretty well over. Also, there was much less of it than I'm used to seeing, thanks to the usual conservation problem of vegetation overgrowth and scrub development. The Marine Lake dunes have some of the largest areas of Sea Buckthorn remaining on the coast, with at least seven stands totalling around 1.2 ha, as measured using Google Earth...



© PHIL SMITH

Ashy Mining-bee *Andrena cineraria*
Alexandra Park 21.03.26



© PHIL SMITH

Green Alkanet *Pentaglottis*
sempervirens Wicks Path 31.03.26



© PHIL SMITH

Narcissus cultivar
Hawthorn Drive 18.03.26

[To continue reading, please follow this link](#)

Article by Dr. Phil Smith

Dr. Phil Smith has recently completed the below Green Beach report. This year is the 40th Anniversary of their origin and the article provides a summary of what is known about the origin, formation and the biodiversity of these fabulous nature 'hotspots' located between Birkdale and Ainsdale.

Origin and development

The term "green beach" was invented in the Netherlands in the 1960s as "groene stranden" a type of vegetation associated with shores in the Rhine Delta region with similarities to features between Birkdale and Ainsdale on the Sefton Coast.

'Birkdale Green Beach' originated in 1986 as scattered patches of Common Saltmarsh-grass on the open shore about 100 m out from the dune front, just south of Birkdale (National Grid Reference SD321163) (Fig. 1). These rapidly accumulated silt and blown sand to form low hummocks which then became an intermittent line of embryo dunes up to 50 cm high (Fig. 2), later colonised by more typical dune-forming grasses, such as Sand Couch, Lyme-grass and, eventually, Marram.



© PHIL SMITH
Early stage in Green Beach formation, Birkdale 1987



© PHIL SMITH
Flooded slack, 'Newest Green Beach', January 2021

Behind the embryo dunes, saltmarsh vegetation initially developed, becoming richer in species as time progressed. The new ridge impeded runoff of rainfall and groundwater seawards, resulting a series of seasonally-flooded freshwater slacks (Fig. 3). Over a few years, the slacks developed a complex mosaic of dune slack, high-level saltmarsh, swamp and fen plant communities.

Alder bushes germinating on old strand-lines from about 1998 grew to produce parallel lines of wet-woodland extending for over 2 km and covering an area of 1.85 ha by 2008 (Fig. 4). Over time, this 'carr' woodland became even more extensive, the Alder being joined by willows and Sea Buckthorn, forming dense thickets.

Meanwhile, the Green Beach was still developing westwards, new embryo dune ridges cutting off sand-supply to the older ones which became low fixed dunes, while additional saltmarsh formed to the west of the dune ridges, especially in the northern section. These habitats developed southwards towards Ainsdale and, by 2015, the entire feature was over 4 km long and up to 200 m wide, covering an area of over 60 ha.

Reasons for Green Beach development

Birkdale is situated on the southern fringe of the Ribble Estuary at a transition point between saltmarsh and sand dune formation. The estuary has been silting up since the end of the last Ice Age, most material being derived from glacial sediments of sand and silt in the south-east Irish Sea and from eroding dunes at Formby Point, the latter transported north by long-shore drift...



© PHIL SMITH
Embryo dunes, 'Even Newer Green Beach', June 2025

[To continue reading, please follow this link](#)

Article by Josh Styles

When I moved to Netherley in October 2021, it was obvious straight away that the council-mown grasslands in Netherley Park and nearby were bursting with suppressed biodiversity. Orchid rosettes were popping up across a handful of places, and in other areas there were masses of Pignut *Conopodium majus* - a reliable indicator of ancient grassland and rare species in Liverpool.

But there was a problem. Across the whole area, fantastic though they were, so many of the wildflowers were clinging onto existence. One such example is the population of truly wild Cowslip *Primula veris* here, with only 12 counted in the old grassland back then.



Wild Cowslip *Primula veris*

© JOSH STYLES



Wild Cowslip *Primula veris*

© JOSH STYLES

A month or so later, I contacted Liverpool City Council to highlight the value of these fab grasslands. I asked them to let the areas grow through summer, and to allow me to manage them properly, with cutting and removal of clippings afterwards.

Fast forward to now, and things have come a long way to say the least. In the example of cowslip, from a population of twelve, we now have one of (if not the) largest populations of wild cowslips remaining in the entire city region. Thousands of plants now grow in these restoration grasslands with hundreds now in flower – entirely the result of giving these creatures chance to flower and seed naturally.

And it's not just cowslips. So many species which were in small numbers here before are thriving, just like the population of Southern marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* which exploded from a population of just one to over 60 as of last year.

Alongside all of these species which have done so well where they were clinging on before, the grassland restoration in Netherley presented a serious opportunity to bring back species that were missing before. So many plants have been established responsibly from nearby wild populations, all the way from Yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* to wild Red clover *Trifolium pratense*, Bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and even rare plants like Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* – a species which was formerly extinct in the city region!



Wildflower meadow at Netherley

© JOSH STYLES

1.10 Ancient Woodland Surveys 2026

12

Article by Elina-Marielle Doss

The 2026 survey season is nearly upon us, and with the warmer weather we're already seeing many woodland species coming into bloom. Several ancient woodland indicator species, such as wood anemone, which is one of the first woodland plants to flower in early spring, do indeed appear early in the season.

This year, there are many opportunities to get involved in ancient woodland surveys. While MEAS and MBB continue ground-truthing sites within Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) as part of our annual survey programme, we are also developing a publicly accessible map to help anyone interested in going out and surveying these sites independently.

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with David via david@merseysidebiobank.org.uk

[David Hopkins](#)



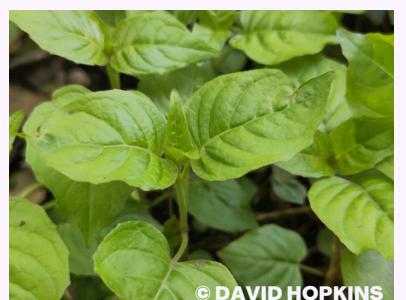
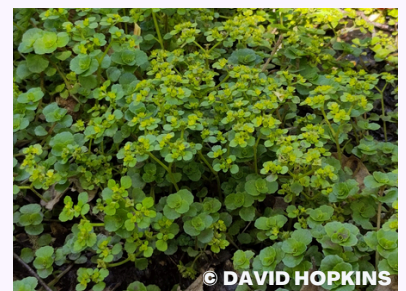
1.11 Ancient Woodland Indicator Training

Article by David Hopkins

As part of efforts to validate the Ancient Woodland Inventory, BioBank's indoor and outdoor training sessions have been organised to teach people how to identify the plant species that characterise ancient woodlands. These sessions, led by Steve Cross (President of the Liverpool Botanical Society), not only provided training but also drew on his local expertise to curate a list of plant species you'd expect to see in North Merseyside.

This month featured the outdoor session, with Steve guiding us through Sankey Valley's picturesque woodlands on a lovely sunny day. Participants learned to recognise ancient woodland species, such as true native bluebells and ramsons, as well as wood sorrel and golden saxifrage. We'd like to deeply thank Steve for his time, not only for making this training possible but also for giving us such a lovely experience!

If you couldn't join us in person but would love to be involved, the Ancient Woodland Indicators indoor training is available online below, and please feel free to reach out. Every record counts in protecting this important heritage.



Follow this [link](#) for some free Ancient Woodland Indicator Species Training and follow this [link](#) to find out more on the AWI project

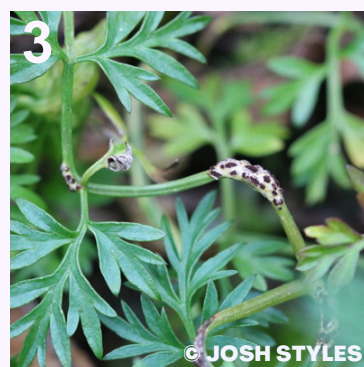
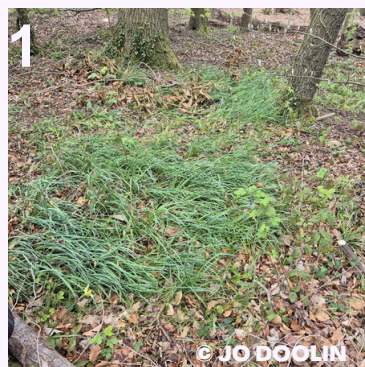
Article by Paul Round

Local Finds

Following on from last month's wild daffodil find, our LNRS Advisor, Jo Doolin, found another spot with wild daffodils in North Merseyside (1).

A few years ago, local expert botanist, Josh Styles, introduced the formerly extinct Sheep's bit *Jasione montana* and Small cudweed *Logfia minima* on the Sefton Coast at Freshfield Dune Heath. Whilst the Sheep's bit is still around in small numbers, the small cudweed (2) has extended into a much larger area than originally introduced into with now thousands of plants enjoying their new habitat.

Green Winged Orchid (3) has been spotted over the weekend in Sefton, and in a first for North Merseyside, Pignut rust *Puccinia tumida* (4) has been recently spotted; a first sighting for the region!



Regional Finds

Regionally, there were some great sightings too. Paul Brewster recorded Frosted Green *Polyplocia ridens* - this is the first Cheshire record for 118 years. Also, the first record in 1908 was a pupae, so this is the first adult recorded in Cheshire (1).

Other noteworthy species spotted this month were Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* in Burton Marsh (Cheshire) (2), Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala* on Hilbre Island (Cheshire) (trapped and ringed) (3), and Common Crane *Grus grus* in Stockport (Greater Manchester) (4).



3.1 Twilight Sessions

Article by Liv Lightfoot



14

Our Twilight Sessions are back for 2026!

We are again looking forward to providing new sessions in 2026, with more talks lead by our team and outside experts. We will continue to cater to nature enthusiasts, whether you are a beginner or seasoned recorder, please join us to learn something new.

Why attend?

- Connect with Nature
- Gain new skills and knowledge
- Contribute to conservation
- Join a community of like-minded people

How can you join?

Spaces for these workshops are limited, so be sure to register early to secure your spot! All sessions are expected to run between 18:30-20:30 on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

2026 Programme*:

FEB
3 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Owl Pellets

MAR
3 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Bees

APR
7 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Seabirds or Waders

MAY
5 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Common caterpillars and foodplants
[Click here to book your tickets](#)

JUN
2 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Longhorn beetles
[Click here to book your tickets](#)

JUL
7 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Ferns
[Click here to book your tickets](#)

AUG
4 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Hoverflies

SEP
1 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Spiders

OCT
6 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Fungi/Waxcap Grasslands Project

NOV
3 Tuesday, 18:30-20:30
Winter species

*Times and dates subject to change. Keep an eye on our social media for up to date information. Tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#), and will be advertised through our monthly bulletin and on social media.

Liverpool Biological Society

The Liverpool Botanical Society, our local BSBI group, have released their indoor meetings for 2026. To attend any indoor meetings or field visits, you need to be a member. Membership is **£5 per year**. These meetings are a great opportunity to improve your botanical skills, learn about new species and projects and to have a great time with like-minded people.

Upcoming Field Meetings

Croxteth Country Park, Liverpool - Woodland Plants

Saturday 9th May | 10.30am

Location: Meet at the main car park (off Muirhead Avenue East)
L11 1EH.

SJ4048394156 / What3words: object.pass.flight

Limited places available

Speke Hall, Speke - Woodland Plants

Saturday 30th May | 10.30am

Location: Meet at the National Trust car park, The Walk, L24 1XD.

SJ422825 / What3words: monopoly.joys.family



Liverpool Botanical Society

[More information here](#)

Mersey Naturalist's Association

Upcoming Meetings

Sandwell Valley RSPB Reserve | Saturday 16th May

Dibbinsdale | Sunday 31st May | 11am

Festival Gardens | Thursday 16th June | 11am

Sudley House | Tuesday 16th June | 11am

More details for all events available on the link below



[More information here](#)

Ento Live

In May and June, Ento Live have the below events available. All of them are free to attend online for people with a passion and interest for invertebrates. Well worth checking them out and tuning in for the ones that are of an interest to you. To book on to any sessions, please click on the links below.



Wednesday 13th May 2026 | 18:30 - 19:30

[Pan-Species Listing: How to Become a Super-Naturalist](#)



Thursday 28th May 2026 | 13:00 - 14:00

[Underexplored Freshwater Habitats in Ireland: Case Studies Using Riverflies](#)



Tuesday 2nd June 2026 | 13:00 - 14:00

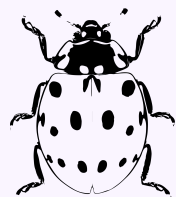
[Friend, Foe, or Freeloader? The Flower Crab Spider](#)

[More events here](#)



Tanyptera Trust

Lots of interesting events, workshops, webinars and recording days are coming up in May and June with the Tanyptera Trust. See the dates below and follow the links for more information and how to book:



Friday 15th May | 10:00 - 16:00

[Risley Moss Invertebrate Recording Day](#)

Location: Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve, WA3 6QX

There is a car park on site.

Cost: Free



Friday 5th June | 10:00 - 16:00

[Crag Bank Invertebrate Recording Day Visit 1](#)

Location: Crag Bank Nature Reserve, LA5 9UR)

There is a car park on site.

Cost: Free

More information on these events are available on the links above



[More events here](#)

Kindling Farm

Kindling Farm have the following events available. Well worth getting involved. More information is available via the links below. Booking for all events is essential, please follow the links below to book

Sunday 3rd May 2026 | 7:30-10:30

[Dawn Chorus Walk](#)

Sunday 3rd May 2026 | 11:00-13:00

[Eco Hacks: Introduction to Composting](#)

Saturday 16th May 2026 | 11:00-13:00

[Agroforestry Open Day: Farm Tour](#)

Sunday 17th May 2026 | 10:30-13:30

[World Bee Day Family Activities \(AM\)](#)

[World Bee Day Family Activities \(PM\)](#)

Kindling Farm also host various volunteering days, check out the link below for more information



[More events here](#)

British Botany

British Botany provide a series of online courses, which you might be interested in if you want to expand your knowledge on plants. We have highlighted a few below for you to have a browse:

[Reading the Landscape: An Introduction to Wetland & Fen Identification](#)

Cost: £9.99

[An Introduction to Botanical Survey: NVC](#)

Cost: £12.99

[Plants in the Planning Process](#)

Cost: £7.00



[More courses here](#)

Article by Liv Lightfoot

May

The logo for Plantlife, featuring the word "Plantlife" in a bold, dark green font with a small green leaf icon to the left.

No Mow May - May

Plantlife's No Mow Movement is back for 2026 – let's let it grow for nature! No Mow May is one of the easiest ways to help and connect with wildlife, and the perfect way to start supporting nature in your garden (in May and beyond!). Join in by letting the wildflowers grow and be part of the No Mow Movement.

[More info here](#)

Endangered Species Day - 16th May

Learn more about some of the world's most endangered species and how WWF is working to help protect them. To celebrate Endangered Species Day, we'd love to invite you to learn more about some of these amazing animals.

[More info here](#)



World Bee Day - 20th May

By observing World Bee Day each year, we can raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. The FAO has been celebrating this day since 2018.

[More info here](#)

International Day for Biological Diversity - 22nd May

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

[More info here](#)



Who we are

Merseyside BioBank is the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Merseyside. We collect, manage and share vital information about the wildlife and habitats in our area.

By bringing together records from volunteers, community groups, researchers and professionals, we provide a trusted evidence base that supports conservation, planning and environmental decision-making.

We also help strengthen local recording through training, volunteer opportunities and projects that encourage people to get involved in understanding and protecting North Merseyside's natural environment.

Interested in volunteering with us?

See the next page on our volunteering process & how you can get involved with us

Want to keep in touch?

Follow us on social media, and sign up to receive our monthly bulletin



[Merseyside BioBank](#)



[mbblerc](#)



[Merseyside BioBank](#)



[Merseyside BioBank LERC](#)



[mbblerc.bsky.social](#)

[Sign up to our monthly bulletin here](#)

Want us to advertise for you?

We would like to support any local wildlife, conservation, recording, species-specific groups or Friends of Groups.

We hope to continue to develop our local biodiversity network by:

- Advertising your up-coming events
- Help recruit new members and volunteers
- Provide support on wildlife ID and recording
- Opportunities to work together on projects, and
- Provide connections between local biodiversity groups

Please get in touch: info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk



Express interest

Get in touch by:

- Following links in our social media & monthly bulletin
- Applying via our online platform
- Contacting us directly at info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk

Attend an induction session

Held monthly, allows you to:

- Meet MBB staff
- Learn about what we do and why it is important
- Discuss your opportunities

Sign up to our volunteer portal

The portal allows you to:

- Book volunteer shifts
- Log hours worked on projects

Start volunteering

Office

- Collate records
- Digitise maps
- Write articles

Field

- Outreach events
- Surveying
- Collect data

Personal Projects: Have your own personal interests supported

To see our volunteer opportunities, or to register for the volunteer platform, please scan the QR code or click [here](#)

