

Bug Hunt in King's Lynn



Bugs come in lots of different shapes, colours and sizes. From eight-legged spiders to beautiful butterflies, tiny beetles and busy bees, our local gardens and parks are home to many of the thousands of different species of bugs that live in the UK.



Bugs are essential for life and play a vital role in keeping our ecosystem going: pollinating flowers and crops, aerating and nourishing the

soil, providing food for other wildlife and generally maintaining the balance of nature.

During your trip to King's Lynn, why not take some time out to spot some of our native wildlife and learn a thing or two about the different species that we share our planet with?



Date of hunt:

Time:

Butterflies

There are many different types of butterflies that live in King's Lynn. How many different types can you spot?

1. Speckled Wood

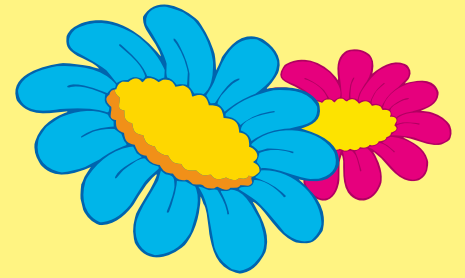
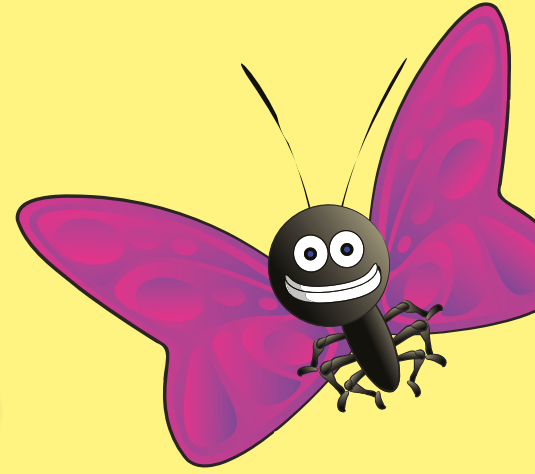


Speckled Wood butterflies have big brown wings with yellowy-white spots. Their wings are rounded at the tips. They like to sunbathe in open grasslands or on branches of trees. They can have a wingspan of approximately 5cm and can be seen between April and June, and July and September.

2. Common Blue



Male Common Blue butterflies have bright blue wings, whilst females tend to have light brown wings with blue spots. They flutter very quickly in flight and can often be seen in large groups in open grassy meadows. Common Blues are smaller than many of the other species of butterflies, with their wings growing to a maximum of 4cm wide. They are most frequently spotted between April and September.

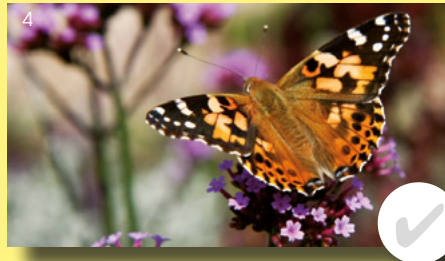


3. Peacock



The large red wings of the Peacock butterfly, with large eye shaped markings on them, mean that this butterfly is easy to spot. They have large hairy bodies and their under wings are camouflaged to look like dead leaves. Peacock butterflies can be seen in our gardens from July to September.

4. Painted Lady



Painted Ladies migrate from Africa to Europe every summer. They like flowery gardens and have orangey-pink wings with black and white markings on them. Their wingspan is approximately 6cm wide and they are most frequently spotted between July and September.

5. Tortoise Shell



The marbled orangey-yellow and black wings of the Tortoise Shell butterfly can grow to a maximum of 8cm wide. They have large hairy bodies and are widely seen all over southern Britain between May and October.

6. Red Admiral



Red Admiral butterflies have large black wings with red stripes and white spots on them. Their under wings are light brown and they are widely spotted in Britain between April and August. Female Red Admirals like to rest near nettles, whilst the males like to sunbathe in the open grass.

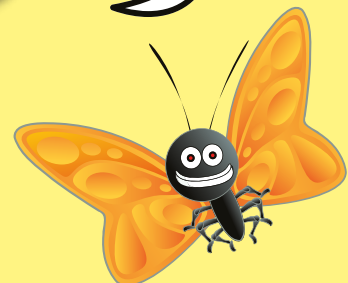
7. Large White



The wings of a Large White butterfly are creamy-white with black tips. Females also have two spots on their forewings. They flutter slowly in flight and hide under leaves during bad weather. Large Whites can be spotted in our gardens between May and September.

Did you know...

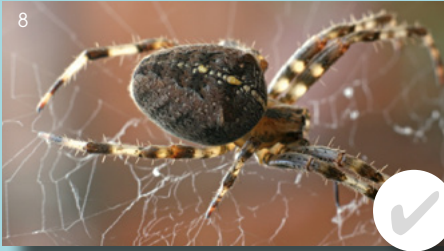
Butterflies can only see red, green and yellow colours!



Spiders

There are over 40,000 different species of spiders living all around the world. Spiders use their eight long legs to spin delicate webs, in order to catch prey. We have five different types of spiders living in King's Lynn, can you spot them all?

1. Garden



Garden spiders can be frequently spotted in our gardens between July and October. They are often grey-brown in colour and have a row of white dots up their abdomen, which forms a cross across their shoulders.

2. Orb Web



Orb Web spiders have long abdomens which can grow up to 2cm long. They are an orangey-reddish brown colour. Female Orb Webs also have four white dots on their abdomen.

3. Crab



Crab spiders can be seen all year round. They sit on leaves or petals waiting to pounce on an unsuspecting prey. Their bodies change colour depending on their surroundings. Females tend to be white, pale green or yellow, whilst males are slightly darker. These spiders elbow their front legs to look like crab pincers.

4. Nursery Web



Nursery Web spiders are a grey yellowy-orange colour and have pointed abdomens. If threatened these spiders can jump over 10cm and can even walk on still water! In June and July female Nursery Web spiders can be seen carrying their eggs between webs in hedgerows or on plants.

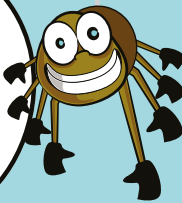
5. Harvestman



Harvestmen spiders have light coloured bodies with long black, spindly legs. They can often be found in long grassy patches between June and August.

Did you know...

Spiders silk is one of the strongest materials in the world!



Bees

Bees are flying insects, closely related to wasps and ants. They pollinate plants as they search for nectar to make honey and beeswax. Bees live in large colonies. At the centre of each colony is a queen bee, who is supported by approximately 250 male drones and up to 60,000 female worker bees.

1. Honey



Honey bees are hairy brown bees with a light orange band around their abdomen and a black tail. They can be seen collecting pollen from flowers to make honey and wax from April to September each year. Honey bees store pollen in pockets on their hind legs.

2. Common Carder



Common Carder Bees have shaggy long hair, which is brown in colour, with reddish-orange bands around their abdomen. Carder bees can be found around flowering plants between May and October.

3. White-tailed bumble



White-tailed bumble bees have two yellow bands around their abdomen and a pure white tail. Their bodies grow up to 1.8cm in length and they can be seen around flowering plants between March and September.

5. Red-tailed bumble



Red Tailed bumble bees are large and hairy. They are almost black with an orangey-red tail. These bees can be seen around flowering plants between May and September. Like the honey bee, these species also store pollen in pockets on their strong hind legs.

6. Buff-tailed bumble



Buff-tailed bumble bees are the largest of the bee species found in our gardens. Growing up to 2.5cm long, Buff-tailed bumble bees are hairy and black with yellow bands around their abdomen. These bees can be spotted between May and September around flowering plants.

Did you know...

Only female bees can sting!



Beetles

There are many different types of creepy crawlies, some with six legs and some with hundreds. Some can fly and some are camouflaged to protect them from predators. How many can you find?

1. Lesser Stag



Lesser Stag beetles have long, flat grey-black bodies, which can grow up to 4cm long. Often seen foraging around soft decaying wood, these beetles have antler shaped jaws. Stag beetles are most frequently seen between June and August.

2. Emperor Dragonfly



Emperor Dragonflies are bluey-green in colour. They have elongated bodies and two pairs of large net-like wings. Dragonflies have long hairy legs and can often be seen flying close to ponds from June to August.

3. Common Woodlouse



Common Woodlouses are oval in shape and grey in colour. Woodlouses belong to the crustacean family and can be spotted rummaging in bark and leaf litter between April and October.

4. Seven-Spotted Ladybird



The Seven-Spotted Ladybird is the most common ladybird species in Britain and is easily recognisable. They have small red bodies with seven black spots across their wing cases. Most frequently seen on leafy green plants, Seven-Spotted Ladybirds can be seen from March until October.

5. Garden Ant



The dark brown Garden Ant is almost black in colour. They have three pairs of legs and bent antennae. Nesting in soil or piles of sticks and debris, Garden Ants can be seen from April to October. Flying ants can also be widely seen in July and August.

6. Mint Leaf Beetle



Mint Leaf Beetles are shiny greeny-bronze colour, round in shape, like a ladybird. They can be found on hedgerows or leafy nettles between May and August.

7. Hoverfly



Hoverflies, are often mistaken for wasps. They are harmless and have elongated yellowy-orange and brown stripy bodies and a single set of net-like wings. Hoverflies can often be seen hovering around flowering plants between April and November.

8. Green Aphid



The Green Aphid has a soft-flat body, with long thin legs and two claw like legs at the front. Aphids have large antennae and can be spotted on green leafy plants throughout the summer months.

9. Lacewing



Lacewings have bright green bodies with two pairs of see-through veiny wings. Most frequently seen at night, lacewings can be seen in dense vegetation or on grassy meadows between May and August.



Special thanks

A special thank you is extended on behalf of the King's Lynn in Bloom committee and Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to the individual photographers and trusts that have provided images for inclusion in this bug hunt. All photos are copyrighted to the original authors as follows:

(1 & 7) Vince Massimo; (2 & 5) Peter Eeles; (3) Nikaus Hunzicker; (4) Tina Phillips;
(6, 8 & 22) DigitalFreePress.net; (9) Alan Dale www.bugsandweeds.co.uk;
(10, 11 & 12) Stock.xchng; (14) Richard Burkmar; (13 & 15) Bumblebee Conservation Trust; (16) Angela Jewell; (17) Penny Firth; (18 & 19) Stock.xchng;
(20) Istock.photo; (21) Paul Martin Eldridge; (23) Christian Meyn; (24) Tom Curtis; (25) Paul Brentnall; (26) Tony Houlton (www.tobyh.zenfolio.com).



Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk

