

Boston Square's Bug Hunt



Welcome to the great Hunstanton Boston Square Bug Hunt. My name is Bob and I'm going to help you find lots of great bugs!

Bugs come in lots of different shapes, colours and sizes. There are ones you'll definitely know like spiders and butterflies and other ones you probably have never thought of before like tiny beetles.

Your garden, local park and school field are home to many thousands of different species of bugs that live right next to us in the UK.



Bugs are really important to you, me and everyone else in the whole world. This is some of the fantastic stuff that they do for us:

- Help to keep our ecosystem going by pollinating flowers and crops
- Put air and nutrients into the soil so that the plants can grow bigger and stronger
- They are food for other wildlife like birds

Now, as there are so many bugs, I can't possibly hunt all of them on my own, which is why I need your help! During your trip to Hunstanton, please come to Boston Square sensory garden to spot some of our native wildlife and learn a thing or two about the different species that we live next to every single day.

Get your grown-ups, brothers and sisters involved as well to help us!

I will look at all of your Spotter cards to see the different types of bugs you have found, living right here in Boston Square.

Once you have finished your hunt, please bring your spotter cards back to the Tourist Information Centre to collect a bug sticker and bubbles. Everyone you see will know what a great big help you've been!

Some of the bugs are really small, and have fascinating details that you may not be able to see easily, so to get up close and personal with the bugs, why not borrow one of our handy magnifying glasses?*



Date of hunt:

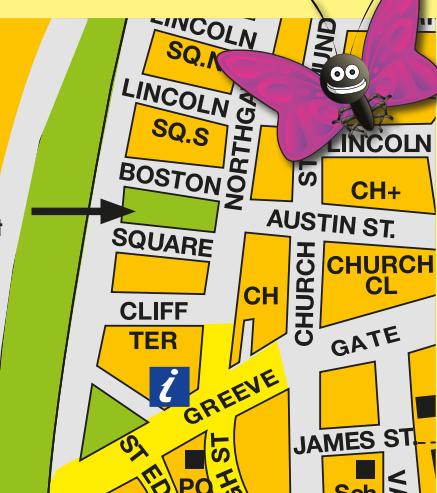
Time:

*A £2.50 refundable deposit per magnifying glass is required at the point of hire. Maximum of two sets per family.

I will give you some handy guides to all the different bugs so that you will be able to find them more easily...



Bug Hunt



Butterflies

There are many different types of butterflies that live in Boston Square.

How many different types can you spot?

1. Speckled Wood Butterfly



- Have big brown wings with yellowy-white spots
- Wings that are rounded at the tips
- A wingspan of approximately 5cm

You'll find them sunbathing in open grasslands or on branches of trees, between April and September.

2. Common Blue Butterfly



- Males have bright blue wings
- Females have light brown wings with blue spots
- Flutter very quickly in flight
- They are one of the smallest butterflies as their wings grow to a maximum of 4cm

You'll find them in large groups in open grassy meadows between April and September.

3. Painted Lady Butterfly



- Have orangey-pink wings with black and white markings on them
- Their wingspan is approximately 6cm wide
- They fly all the way from Africa to Europe every summer

You'll find them in flowery gardens and they are most frequently spotted between July and September.

4. Peacock Butterfly



- Have large red wings eye-shaped markings on them
- They have large hairy bodies
- Their under wings are camouflaged to look like dead leaves

Peacock butterflies can be seen in our gardens from July to September.

6. Red Admiral Butterfly



- Have large black wings with red stripes and white spots on them
- Their under wings are light brown

Female Red Admirals like to rest near nettles, and the males like to sunbathe in the open grass. They are normally found between April and August.

5. Tortoise Shell Butterfly



- They have marbled orangey-yellow and black wings
- They can grow to a maximum of 8cm wide
- They have large hairy bodies

They are widely seen all over southern Britain between May and October.

7. Large White Butterfly

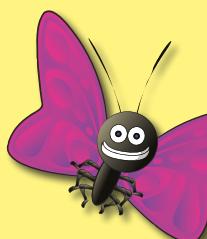


- Have wings that are creamy-white with black tips
- Females also have two spots on their forewings
- They flutter slowly in flight
- They hide under leaves during bad weather

Large Whites can be spotted in our gardens between May and September.

**Did
you know...**

Butterflies can only see red, green and yellow colours!



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.



2. Common Carder Bee



- Have shaggy long hair, which is brown in colour
- They have a reddish-orange band around their abdomen

Carder bees can be found around flowering plants between May and October.

4. Red-tailed bumble Bee



- Are large and hairy
- They are almost black with an orangey-red tail
- Store pollen in pockets on their strong hind legs

These bees can be seen around flowering plants between May and September.

1. Honey Bee



- Are hairy brown bees with a light orange band around their abdomen
- They have a black tail
- Honey bees store pollen in pockets on their hind legs

They can be seen collecting pollen from flowers to make honey and wax from April to September each year.

3. White-tailed bumble Bee



- Have two yellow bands around their abdomen
- A pure white tail
- Their bodies grow up to 1.8cm in length

They can be seen around flowering plants between March and September.

5. Buff-tailed bumble Bee



- Are the largest of the bee species found in our country
- They grow up to 2.5cm long
- They are hairy
- Have black with yellow bands around their abdomen

These bees can be spotted between May and September around flowering plants.

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 Boston Square, can you help me to spot them all?

Did you know...

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



1. Garden Spider



- Are often grey-brown in colour
- Have a row of white dots up their abdomen, which forms a cross on their shoulders

You'll find them in our gardens between July and October.

4. Nursery Web Spider



- Are a grey yellowy-orange colour
- They have pointed abdomens
- If threatened these spiders can jump over 10cm
- They 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.

2. Orb Web Spider

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- 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.

They can be found in gardens during the summer months

5. Harvestman Spider

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- Have light coloured bodies
- Long black, spindly legs

They can often be found in long grassy patches between June and August.

3. Crab Spider

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- Are really clever and their bodies change colour depending on their surroundings
- Females tend to be white, pale green or yellow, whereas males are slightly darker
- These spiders can make their front legs look like crab pincers

Crab spiders can be seen all year round and sit on leaves or petals waiting to pounce on un-expecting prey.

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 in our garden?



1. Lesser Stag Beetle



- Have long, flat grey-black bodies
- Can grow up to 4cm long
- Have antler shaped jaws

They are found foraging around soft decaying wood, most frequently between June and August.

3. Common Woodlouse



- Are oval in shape
- Are normally grey in colour
- Red and orange variations can often be seen in coastal locations such as Hunstanton
- Belong to the crustacean family

Can be spotted rummaging in bark and leaf litter between April and October.

2. Emperor Dragonfly



- Are bluey-green in colour
- Have elongated bodies
- Have two pairs of large net-like wings
- Have long hairy legs

Can often be seen flying close to ponds from June to August.

4. Seven-Spotted Ladybird



- Is the most common ladybird species in Britain
- 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
- They have a bent antenna

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.

7. Lacewing



- Have bright green bodies
- 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.

9. Hoverfly



- Are often mistaken for wasps but they are harmless
- They have elongated yellowy-orange and brown stripy bodies
- A single set of net-like wings

Hoverflies can often be seen hovering around flowering plants between April and November.

6. Mint Leaf Beetle



- Are a shiny greeny-bronze colour
- They are round like a ladybird

They can be found on hedgerows or leafy nettles between May and August.

8. Green Aphid



- Has a soft-flat body
- Long thin legs
- Two claw like legs at the front
- Have large antennae

They can be spotted on green leafy plants throughout the summer months.



Wow, you've managed to find so many creepy-crawlies, well done! I could never have done this without your help.

Please bring your spotter cards back to the Tourist Information Centre so that I can start counting all of the bugs. Also, bring back the magnifying glass so they're ready for my next helpers.

As a big thank you for all your hard work I'll also give you a bloom bug sticker and bubbles



Special thanks

A special thank you is extended on behalf of the Hunstanton 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:

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Finalist 2010



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