



MOOR WILDLIFE

Welcome to Moors for the Future Partnership's guide to the birds, mammals, insects and reptiles of the UK's peatlands.

Use this guide to try your hand at spotting and identifying some of the many beautiful and fascinating animals that help to make the moors such important and unique places.

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BUZZARD

🔄 Year Round

Sphagnum austinii

- A medium sized bird of prey (length 48–56cm, wing span 110–130cm) with broad wings which have obvious “fingers”.
- Soars frequently and commonly seen sitting on fence posts and telegraph poles.
- Eats a wide variety of prey; mostly voles, also rabbits, reptiles, amphibians, insects and birds. Can often be seen in fields eating earthworms.
- Sexes are alike.
- Voice – Highly vocal for a bird of prey. Often a plaintive, mewling “puiiyay” call, especially in flight.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve the moorland habitats they use to hunt throughout the year.



CURLEW

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Numenius arquata

- Large (length 48–57cm (incl. bill), wing span 89–106cm), elegant brown wader with a long (9–15cm), strongly decurved beak.
- Sexes are alike.
- Voice – a beautiful bubbling call in flight. Also onomatopoeic “coorliiii” call.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve their summer breeding habitats.



DUNLIN

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Calidris alpina

- A relatively common, small starling-sized wader (length 17–21cm, wing span 32–36cm) with a rather short, slightly decurved bill.
- In summer plumage both sexes have a black belly patch, striped breast and rufous back.
- Voice – flight call is a buzzy, short “chheereet”. Song is a slightly mechanical, ascending then descending whirring sound.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve their summer breeding habitats.



GOLDEN PLOVER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Pluvialis apricaria

- A shy, medium-sized wader (length 25–28cm, wing span 53–59cm) with a small bill.
- In summer plumage males have a striking black face, breast and belly (more washed out in females). This is offset by a white edge. Plumage on the wings and back appears brown from a distance but on closer inspection is patterned with white, brown and golden hues. Breeds on moors – very well camouflaged against heather.
- Voice in flight, or alarm call often uttered on the ground, is a thin, plaintive “piuuu” whistle that sounds like a squeaky wheelbarrow.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve their summer breeding habitats.



KESTREL

🔄 Year Round

Falco tinnunculus

- A medium sized falcon (length 31–37cm, wing span 68–78cm).
- Both sexes have a chestnut brown back with pale brown, heavily dark-streaked chest and belly. Males have a smart grey head, females brown. Hovers frequently when hunting with the long tail spread like a fan, and when in flight it has quick wing strokes and rarely glides (unlike sparrowhawk). Wings are long, pointed and narrow at the base.
- Voice – often only heard when another bird of prey is present. Series of short, penetrating “kee, kee, kee...” notes.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve the moorland habitats they use to hunt throughout the year.



LAPWING

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Vanellus vanellus

- Beautiful, black and white pigeon-sized wader (length 28–31 cm, wing span 67–72cm). Lovely curved crest and iridescent dark green (almost black) plumage on back contrasts with pure white undersides. Has distinctly rounded wings and an aerobatic, rolling display flight.
- Voice – when displaying, song consists of extraordinary wheezy, bubbling notes delivered whilst tumbling through the air.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve their summer breeding habitats.



LINNET

🔄 Year Round

Carduelis cannabina

- Small and slim finch (length 12.5–14cm) typical of moorland and heathland.
- In summer male has a crimson red forehead and breast and smart grey head. Females more subtle brown-grey. Nearly always found as a pair in the breeding season or in large flocks in the winter.
- Very vocal. Voice is a pleasing twittering song with longer, drawn out nasal notes.



MEADOW PIPIT

🔄 Year Round

Anthus pratensis

- “A small (length 14–15.5cm), buff-olive-brown, sparrow-sized passerine which is very common on moors and heaths.
- Often flushed from the ground a few metres from your feet, meadow pipits jink away uttering a thin “suu-eet” call or tremulous “sitt-itt” or “tirri” call. On closer inspection they are more elegant birds than sparrows with longer proportions including longer pink-orange legs and a streaked buff coloured breast.
- In the spring males climb high and perform trilling song flights “zi zi zi zi...zu zu zu...zvizvizvi...tuu tuu... tii-svia” whilst parachuting down to earth. In the winter they gather together into loose flocks, often 20–30 together.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve their summer breeding habitats.



MERLIN

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Falco columbarius

- Handsome, diminutive falcon (length 26–33cm, wing span 55–69cm) which is the smallest in the UK.
- Males have blue-grey back and head with streaked orange breast. Females are mottled dark brown with paler streaked breast.
- Voice – generally silent.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve the moorland habitats they use to hunt.



PEREGRINE

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Falco peregrinus

- A powerfully built, large falcon (length 38–45cm, wing span 89–100cm male / length 46–51 cm, wing span 104–113cm females).
- Slate grey and blue-grey above with a strongly streaked white underside. Head is grey-black with an obvious black “moustache”.
- Voice – Call is drawn out “reeeeehhkkk, reeeehhkkk, reeeehhkkk”.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve the moorland habitats they use to hunt.



RAVEN

🔄 Year Round

Corvus corax

- Large, heavily built crow (length 54–67cm, wing span 84–100cm) often heard well before being seen but are very shy and wary.
- Extremely vocal often a deep, resonant “raarrp, raarrp, raarrp” but vocally dexterous.
- Wedge shaped tail and very heavily built bill are diagnostic features in flight.



RED GROUSE

🔄 Year Round

Lagopus lagopus scoticus

- Red grouse are territorial and males will frequently seek out vantage points such as walls and rocky outcrops to keep an eye on their territory. The female of the pair will generally always be somewhere close by (but are much harder to spot due to their more camouflaged plumage and discreet habits).
- About the size of a small, stocky chicken (Length 33–38cm).
- Males have rusty red-brown plumage. Females are more brown and mottled. The males are very vocal and their unique song “goback, goback, goback”, can be heard across the moors at all times of the year but most obviously during the breeding season.
- The life history of red grouse is intrinsically tied to the heather moors. The birds spend all of their lives in and around heather, feeding on the shoots of younger plants and breeding/sheltering in the areas containing more mature plants.



REDWING

❄️ Winter (Dec–Feb)

Turdus iliacus

- A distinctive winter visiting thrush – slightly smaller than a song thrush, but with a brown back and creamy-white underside; characteristic rusty-red patches under its wings and on its flanks; and an obvious creamy stripe above each eye. Both sexes look alike. When wintering in the UK these birds can form flocks of 200 birds or more. In the South Pennines they feed on berries including bilberry and rowan.
- Voice – whilst migrating, redwing flocks can be heard making a high pitched soft “seep” call during flight, often at night during the autumn.



RING OUZEL

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Turdus torquatus

- Ring ouzels – also known as mountain blackbirds - are very similar in size and shape to blackbirds, but distinguished easily by a white crescent or “bib” around their neck. Males are all black with a white “bib”, while females are chocolate brown with an off-white “bib”. Both sexes have paler wings. This species can be sensitive to disturbance and should not be approached directly. Birds are generally seen in pairs or alone.
- Voice – Alarm call is an angry “tac tac tac!” – like stones being knocked together. If you hear this please move away quietly. Song is loud with slightly mournful notes and is repeated at a slow tempo. Single notes are often repeated.
- Ring ouzels usually arrive back in upland areas every March to breed after a marathon flight from their wintering grounds in North Africa. They feed on worms, insects in the bracken and later in the year, bilberry and rowan berries.



SHORT-EARED OWL

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Asio flammeus

- Medium sized owl (length 33–40cm, wing span 95–105cm). A (partly) diurnal species they have long wings and small, rounded head. Unusually buoyant flight, at times appearing butterfly-like.
- Frequently perch on posts and readily on the ground. Plumage pale yellow-brown and buff-white; can appear whitish, especially against dark backgrounds and at dusk, but plumage more complex/patterned than the more crepuscular barn owl.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to preserve the moorland habitats they use to hunt.



SKYLARK

Year Round

Alauda arvensis

- Relatively large passerine (getting on for starling size) which is greyish-brown with a streaked breast. Males can erect a blunt crest (although crest is not always obvious).
- When flushed, skylarks have a fluttery flight and tend not to fly far, keeping low and dropping into vegetation.
- Unmistakeable when males are singing. Males rise from the ground, hovering and singing constantly to +150m.
- Restoring degraded peatlands helps to restore and preserve their summer breeding habitats.



SNIPE

Spring Summer (Mar–Aug)

Gallinago gallinago

- Dumpy, short-legged medium-sized (length 23–28cm incl. bill, wing span 39–45cm) wader with beautiful mottled brown plumage. It has a long (7cm), straight bill which it uses to probe the ground for earthworms and insects.
- If startled from the ground snipe will zig-zag away uttering a short croaky call.
- In spring males may be seen perching on walls and fence posts, which they use to sing from. The song is a simple, disyllabic “chip-pu, chip-pu, chip-pu”. Males also have a display flight called “drumming” where modified tail feathers are made to reverberate by the birds performing short, steep dives.



STONECHAT

Year Round

Saxicola torquata

- Stonechats are common and familiar birds of heaths and moors more or less robin sized.
- Often making themselves obvious by their constant calling (which sounds like two pebbles being knocked together), stonechats are usually found as a pair.
- Males are a smart bird with black head and chin, half white collar and unmarked orange underparts. Females are a slightly paler brown and have more obviously streaked upperparts.



SWALLOW

Spring Summer (Mar–Aug)

Hirundo rustica

- One of our most familiar summer migrants.
- Swallows arrive in early April (depart September/October) and adults can be easily told apart from other superficially similar hirundines (e.g. house martin) by the long tail streamers, most pronounced in males (short in juveniles).
- They have glossy blue-black upper parts and are largely white below with a deep-red face/chin (adults) or rusty buffy-white or brownish-pink (juveniles).



TWITE

Spring (Mar - May)

Carduelis flavirostris

- The twite is a handsome “brown jobby”; a small, streaked finch (length 12.5–14 cm).
- Twite are rare birds in England and there are probably no more than 100 breeding pairs. Found on treeless moors and coastal heaths, sexes are alike and both bear some resemblance to a female linnet. Overall, however, twite are more heavily dark-streaked birds with a distinctly buff tinged plumage. If you manage to get a good view there is no dark spotting or striping on the throat (which there is on linnets).
- Male twite also have an attractive pink rump. In the autumn and winter twite have a yellow bill (with dark tip) which is a great way to distinguish them from linnets, which have a grey bill all the year through. Breeding pairs tend to remain close together in summer.
- Conservation work to protect active blanket bog and introduce native moorland plants, including bilberry and crowberry benefits the twite population in both the short and long term.



WHEATEAR

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Oenanthe oenanthe

- One of the earliest summer migrants to return to the UK the wheatear is a distinctive bird of coastal grasslands and moorland habitats.
- The size of a large robin (to which it is related), wheatears spend most of their time on the ground where they hunt for insects. Often inconspicuous until disturbed they are then easily identified by their bright white rump (wheatear is thought to be a corruption of “white arse”) and black T-shaped tip to the tail.
- Males have a handsome slate-grey back, black wings and white underside. Females are a toned down version showing more pale brown. Both sexes have a pale orangey-brown breast and distinctive thick black eye stripe.



BILBERRY BUMBLEBEE

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Bombus monticola

- An upland specialist, the bilberry bumblebee is largely found above 300m and is associated closely with the plants found there such as the bilberry, cranberry and cowberry. The Peak District lies at the southernmost edge of its range in Great Britain.
- It is a distinctive, small and compact bee having a yellow-to-red abdomen (bottom) with a large pale yellow stripe on the thorax (area below the head) with a less obvious stripe just above the abdomen.
- Peatland restoration work includes planting a large number of bilberry shrubs to restore damaged habitats. This benefits many species such as the bilberry bumblebee that depend on such plants.



BLACK DARTER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Sympetrum danae

- A small darter (abdomen length is 18–24mm) which is typically on the wing in the late summer (mid-July to early September).
- Favours shallow acid water pools where it frequently alights on vegetation.
- Mature males are almost totally black with some yellow/orange on the side of the abdomen which darkens with age. Females/immature adults are a golden yellow while more mature females become browner.
- Both sexes have completely black legs.



BROWN HAWKER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Aeshna grandis

- A large hawker (abdomen 49–60mm) which in flight gives the impression of being completely brown with bronze wings.
- Males have small patches of blue on the side of the abdomen and blue eyes. Females have yellowish eyes.
- Flight period is from late June to early October.



COMMON DARTER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Sympetrum striolatum

- A small dragonfly (abdomen length is 25–30mm). Males are orange-red and females/immature are yellow-brown. Legs are black with pale stripe running down length of the leg.
- Restless but often alights on emergent vegetation and, unlike most other darters, also settles readily on the ground, rocks, fences etc to bask. Very often returns to the same spot after a hunting flight or after being disturbed.
- Flight period is June–October (or even later in mild years)



FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Libellula quadrimaculata

- The four-spotted chaser is a medium sized dragonfly. Females and immature individuals have a golden-yellow body with a black tail. Males are darker. Both sexes have yellow spots along the side of the abdomen. The dark spot in the centre of each wing is diagnostic, making this an easy dragonfly to identify when a good view is possible.
- Males are territorial. Often seen perching on vegetation close to water they make frequent sorties to investigate and intercept other passing dragonflies, returning afterwards to the same vantage point.
- It is a widespread dragonfly which occurs in many habitat types including heathland and moorland bogs.
- The main flight period is from late May until the end of July.



GREEN HAIRSTREAK

Spring (Mar–May)

Callophrys rubi

- Unmistakeable butterfly when not in flight. Undersides of wings are almost completely green. Always rests with wings closed.
- When in flight it appears dull brown and is very inconspicuous.
- On the wing in May and June.
- Can sometimes be found in large numbers but both sexes spend much of their time at rest and might only be spotted when disturbed (it's worth checking any small butterfly disturbed from heather and gorse bushes during the flight period).
- It has a wide range of larval food plants, including bilberry, cross-leaved heather and gorse.



LARGE RED DAMSELFLY

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Pyrrhosoma nymphula

- A very distinctive, common red and black damselfly which is often the first to be seen in spring. The females can occur in one of several subtly different colour variants.
- Abdomen length is 25–29mm.
- On the wing from April–August.
- It can only be confused with the smaller and more scarce Small Red Damselfly (only found in West Wales, the South-West and areas of Southern England)



LARGE SKIPPER

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Ochlodes sylvanus

- The most widespread of our “orange” skippers it is also the largest (but still relatively small).
- A common sight in rough grassland and woodland rides in late May–mid Aug often found sitting on vegetation with forewings held up at an angle.
- Mottled pattern of dark markings on both the upper and lower sides distinguishes from other orange skippers.



ORANGE-TIP

Spring (Mar–May)

Anthocharis cardamines

- The orange-tip is one of our most distinctive butterflies. Males are unmistakable with their clean white, orange tipped forewings. They are much more obvious than the more secretive females which have dark tips to the forewing instead.
- Both sexes have a beautifully marbled olive-green/yellow underside to the hind wing, which is obvious when at rest.
- Orange-tips are among the first butterflies to appear in the spring and will usually be on the wing from early April through to the end of June.



PEACOCK

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Inachis io

- The peacock is one of the most recognisable butterflies in the United Kingdom due partly to its wide distribution across the UK but also its habit of visiting gardens to seek out buddleia and other nectar rich plants.
- It can be seen throughout the spring, summer and autumn and sexes are alike. It is largely a claret red butterfly with four pronounced black, blue and yellow eyespots on the wings.
- When at rest the dark brown hind wings offer very good camouflage against leaves and other vegetation.



RED-TAILED BUMBLEBEE

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Bombus lapidarius

- Probably our most easily recognised species with a black body and bright auburn-red tail. Males also have a yellow band on the chest and on the face.
- It is a very common bumblebee, regularly seen in the garden. Large queens (twice the size of males and workers) emerge early in the spring from hibernation and all of the colony feed on the nectar of flowers right through to the autumn.



SMALL HEATH

Spring ☀ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Coenonympha pamphilus

- The small heath butterfly is very widespread across the United Kingdom and a common butterfly of meadows and other grassland habitats.
- As its name suggests it is a relatively small butterfly and one that is never seen at rest with its wings open. The upper-side of the wing is tawny with a black with a black spot on the forewing. The underside of the hind wing is greyish-brown and darker towards the head fading towards the rear and the underside of the forewing is orange with a single white centred, black eyespot.



TREE BUMBLEBEE

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Bombus hypnorum

- The tree bumblebee is a recent (2001) arrival to the UK. Despite this, it is already a very common bumblebee and will often take over bird boxes and so has become very familiar to naturalists and gardeners and has now reached Scotland and Wales.
- The colour banding of the tree bumblebee is unique amongst the UK species. The thorax (area immediately behind the head) is ginger, the abdomen is black and the tail has a white tip.
- Queens, workers and males all share the same colour pattern.



BROWN HARE

🔄 Year Round

Lepus europaeus

- Although introduced to Britain about 2000 years ago (probably by the Romans) brown hares are now naturalised and considered an important part of UK biodiversity. They are similar in size to a mountain hare (about 60cm length), but appear less compact due to their very long ears, and long hind legs. Brown hares have a generally rufous (red-brown) coat all year round, a black top to their tail, and distinctive golden coloured eyes.
- Brown hares occupy open habitats such as moorland fringes, including farmland, grassland and woodland edges. Unlike rabbits, brown hares don't dig burrows but lie flat in a small hollow known as a "form". If disturbed, they can run at up to 45 mph – making them Britain's fastest land mammal.
- Brown hares breed between February and September and can have up to 3 litters of 2–4 leverets per year. The "boxing" behaviour for which they are famous is in fact females repelling unwanted male suitors.



MOUNTAIN HARE

Year Round

Lepus timidus

- Although native to Britain, they died out in this area between 2–6 thousand years ago. The present population was introduced in the late 1800s for sporting purposes. Similar size to brown hare but with shorter ears and a coat that is grey or grey-brown rather than brown. Coat changes to white in the winter when they are easy to see in the absence of snow.
- Mountain hares occupy heather moor, mixed moor, wet heath, blanket bog, areas of mixed heath and grassland and often lie up among rocks, shallow heather, clumps of bilberry or crowberry, in runnels, between tussocks of mat grass and in the open on the side of a peat grough or under a peat hag.
- Mountain hares benefit a great deal from peatland restoration interventions that have revegetated their moorland habitats; increasing food availability and providing more cover from predators.



RABBIT

Year Round

Oryctolagus cuniculus

- Introduced here in the 12th century by the Normans, rabbits are now found throughout Britain.
- At about 40cm in length they are much smaller than hares. They have light brown fur (with a possible greyish appearance) and a small tail showing a black upper side and white underside. The white underside is obvious when the rabbit is in motion, and raised when it is alarmed.
- Their ears appear short compared to hares and are about same length as the head. Rabbits have brown eyes (compared with golden/amber eyes of brown hare).
- Rabbits can be found in a wide variety of habitats including woodland edge, farmland, grassland and heathland. They eat a range of vegetation (especially grasses) and they favour young, succulent leaves and shoots, choosing the more nutritious species.
- Rabbits burrow and create a complex network of tunnels which they share with a social group of up to 30 other individuals. Breeding occurs between January and August and an adult female can give birth to a litter of up to 7 kittens per month.



STOAT

🔄 Year Round

Mustela erminea

- Stoats are very similar to weasels in terms of body shape and colouration but are considerably larger, growing to 27–30cm (males) 24–29cm (females) in length (tail 9–14cm) and can most easily be distinguished by the black tip to the tail. They have brown upper parts and a white cream underside separated by a neat, straight line.
- The coat may turn partially white during the winter months and almost all white in areas that are snow covered (unlike weasels in the UK which never change colour).



WATER VOLE

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Arvicola amphibius

- Water voles are a similar size to brown rats but lack the long tail. They have a more rounded body shape in general and a blunt muzzle with short rounded ears and unlike rats their tails, paws and ears are covered with hair.
- Always found in association with water, often the first sign is a characteristic “plop” as they enter the water when disturbed. Water voles often swim with the head and body above the water but they are also capable of swimming under the water. As well as frequenting typical lowland wetland habitats, water voles are also just as at home in upland “peatland” areas.
- Water voles eat mostly vegetation including grass, reeds and sedges. The presence of water voles can often be told from areas they utilise for feeding where neatly chewed grass stems may litter the ground. Water voles mark their territories with latrines of droppings located near the nest, burrow and favoured water’s edge platforms, where they leave or enter the water.



WEASEL

🔄 Year Round

Mustela nivalis

- The UK's smallest carnivore (up to 22cm in length) with the male larger than the female.
- Gingerly brown fur with a cream coloured underside. Tail is short (looks docked) and lacks the black tip of a stoat.
- Weasels in the UK do not turn white in the winter.
- Predates small mammals such as voles, mice but also tackles rabbits.



ADDER

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Vipera berus

- The UK's only venomous snake. Small and compact (50–80cm) with square looking head typical of vipers.
- Obvious dark zig-zag pattern down the back, black oval spots down the flanks and a “V” mark on the back of the head. Females are brown and have longer, fatter bodies. Males silver-grey in colour but may also be dark or completely black.
- Eyes are often red with vertical pupil.



COMMON LIZARD

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Zootoca vivipara

- The most common of the two indigenous “legged” lizards found within the UK, the common lizard can be found in wide range of habitats from areas in wet meadows and bogs to dry sandy heathlands.
- Most often seen whilst basking on walls, logs, fence posts or on sturdy vegetation. Extremely variable in colour but generally light-dark brown. Most males and some females have dark spots in their undersides. Males have brightly coloured undersides – typically yellow or orange, but more rarely red. Females have paler, whitish underparts. The throat is white, sometimes blue.
- 13–15cm in length when fully grown.

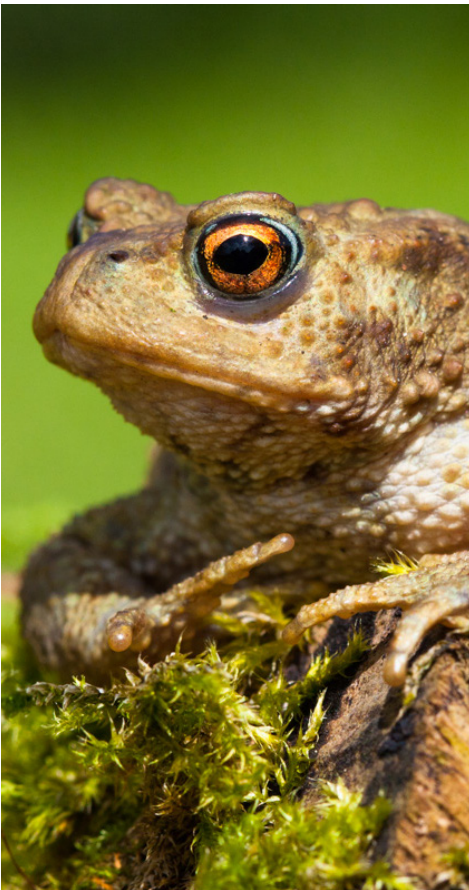


GRASS SNAKE

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Natrix natrix

- Grass snakes are completely harmless to humans (non-venomous) and are the largest indigenous snakes in the UK with males typically reaching 100cm and females up to 130cm. They are slender bodied with two yellow or white collars around the neck and the pupils are round not vertical slits.
- Generally a pale olive green colour with black stripes down the flanks and a pale yellow-green belly. May feign death when startled (thanatosos), turning over on their backs and producing a foul garlic-smelling fluid from the anal-glands.
- Always found close to water and are happy to enter water. Preys mainly on amphibians.



COMMON TOAD

🌱 Spring ☀️ Summer (Mar–Aug)

Bufo bufo

- Colour varies from dark or olive-brown to a light or sandy green. Skin is dull, dry-looking and warty. Eyes are copper or golden and have two distinct lumps behind them.
- Toads usually live away from water except when they are breeding in spring. Most active at night, toads will migrate back to their ancestral pool to mate. Spawn is laid in long strings around vegetation.
- Toads hibernate during the winter, and can live for up to 40 years.
- Confusion species: Frogs have moist-looking and smooth skin, long striped legs and two raised ridges along their backs. Frogs jump whereas toads tend to walk. Frogspawn is laid in clumps, not strings.
- Up to 13cm in length when fully grown.

Moors for the Future Partnership



Since 2003, Moors for the Future Partnership has been working to reverse more than 200 years of damage from industrial pollution and wildfires that left large areas of uplands bare of vegetation in the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

The £16 million EU LIFE MoorLIFE 2020 project is a key part of the initiative, preserving biodiversity and protected active blanket bog, an EU priority habitat, by restoring moorland habitats of European importance in the Peak District and South Pennines.

The project has key benefits for communities on both sides of the Pennines and beyond in terms of improved landscape and its resilience, water quality and diversity of upland fauna and flora. These rare blanket bogs are home to many important birds including the endangered twite, curlew and golden plover. Peat-forming sphagnum moss, which had nearly disappeared from this area due to industrial pollution and wildfires, and other key upland plants – heather, cottongrass, bilberry, crowberry, cloudberry and cross-leaved heath – has been re-introduced.



MoorLIFE 2020 is a Moors for the Future Partnership project in the EU-designated South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation. It was delivered by the Peak District National Park Authority as the lead and accountable body (the Coordinating Beneficiary). On-the-ground delivery was undertaken largely by the Moors for the Future staff team alongside staff of the National Trust High Peak and Marsden Moor Estates, the RSPB Dove Stone team and The South Pennines Park (the Associated Beneficiaries).

Moors for the Future Partnership is led by the Peak District National Park Authority. It receives financial support from the Environment Agency, National Trust, South Pennines Park, RSPB, Severn Trent, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, and support and advice from Natural England, National Farmers Union, Heather Trust, Woodland Trust, ethical finance sector and the British Mountaineering Council.

Find out more at www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

