# LBS West Kirby Dunes to Red Rocks Plant species list – 2018 June 30th

Plants seen in order of the two & a third mile walk around this site. This list is from my 2 visits during the last week of June, plus the Saturday 30th June LBS field-trip. Those species not seen on Saturday during the LBS walk have ‘Missed today’ in the comments column. The walk started at 10:40 & finish by 15:05 = 4hrs 25minute. Hot sunshine throughout the day, rising to 28c. A total of 27 LBS members & BSBI Cheshire group members were present.

This site ‘enjoys’ many people walking dogs in the winter & sun-seekers in the summer, so the plant list often has seeds brought in on footwear & clothing from other places. During the last ten days we have had very warm, full sunshine days during June so the dunes have noticeably dried out. Some small annual plants & grass species in particular have died. During May & June 2018 we have experienced a prolonged dry & mostly sunny period: with 34 long sunny days & 8 other days with significant sunshine. Only 4 days have had some light rain during this 61 day period in this area. So the plant community has been modified by this uncommon weather.

Page numbers from “Collins Wildflower Guide” second edition 2016 book, unless Stace’s name is given, which refers to “New Flora of the British Isles” third edition 2010.

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| **Latin Names** | **English Names** | **Comments** |
|  |  | By WK buildings edge of beach area. |
| *Leymus arenarius* | Lyme-grass | 1) p638. Pale grey-green wide leaves. Also in saltmarsh & dunes. |
| *Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima* | Sea Beet | 2) p108. Occasional. |
| *Erigeron glaucus* | Seaside Daisy | 3) Stace p744. Common in the town. |
| *Lotus corniculatus* | Common Bird’s-foot-trefoil | 4) p278. In patches on dunes. |
| *Papaver rhoeas* | Common Poppy | 5) p90. One plant on garden wall. |
| *Elytrigia repens* | Common Couch | 6) p638. Occasional in dunes, now drying out. |
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|  |  | Start of Dunes & Rocks |
| *Tripleurospermum maritimum* | Sea Mayweed | 7) p506. A few plants only. |
| *Raphanus raphanistrum ssp. maritimus* | Sea Radish | 8) p210. Occasional in dunes. |
| *Hippophae rhamnoides* | Sea-buckthorn | 9) p304. Behind rocks by fence. Much more by Hoylake gardens. |
| *Senecio jacobaea* | Common Ragwort | 10) p508. Coming into flower. |
| *Sonchus oleraceus* | Smooth Sow-thistle | 11) p488. 2 plants seen during walk. |
| *Populus x canescens* | Grey Poplar | 12) p174. Young trees by golf-course & W.K. garden. |
| *Lycium barbarum* | Duke of Argyles’ Teaplant | 13) p366. Some bushes in W.K. garden & along first dunes tops. |
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|  |  | Along saltmarsh edge towards sea. |
| *Agrostis stolonifera* | Creeping Bent | 14) p626. Saltmarsh & sand clumps out towards the sea. |
| *Glaux maritima* | Sea-milkwort | 15) p226. Common in saltmarsh. |
| *Armeria maritima* | Thrift | 16) p154. Common in saltmarsh. |
| *Plantago maritima* | Sea Plantain | 17) p404. Common in saltmarsh. |
| *Cochlearia atlantica* | Atlantic Scurvygrass | 18) Stace p424. Id by Eric Greenwood in seed since mid-June. There may also be the hybrid with C.officinalis? |
| *Carex extensa* | Long-bracted Sedge | 19) p578. Common in saltmarsh. |
| *Juncus gerardii* | Saltmarsh Rush | 20) p540. Common in saltmarsh. In flower by mid-June, now in seed. |
| *Bolboschoenus maritimus* | Sea Club-rush | 21) p550. Common in saltmarsh. |
| *Spergularia media* | Greater Sea-spurrey | 22) p132. A few plants with pale flowers & triangular stipule not silvery. No seeds present. |
| *Festuca rubra* | Red Fescue | 23) p604. Swathes in drier saltmarsh areas. Red in mid-June, now yellow & dry as most other grasses. |
| *Triglochin maritima* | Sea Arrowgrass | 24) p526. Frequent, now in seed. |
| *Spartina anglica* | Common Cord-grass | 25) p642. Young plants, few flowers. An early colonizer of open sands.  |
| *Salicornia europaea?* | Common Glasswort? | 26) p110. Sea sands, first species to colonize sand mounds & edge of saltmarsh. Too early to distinguish species. Others seen during late summer 2017 were common S. ramosissima & some S. fragilis. |
| *Parapholis strigosa* | Hard-grass | 27) p618. Peter Gateley find. |
| *Atriplex portulacoides* | Sea-purslane | 28) p108. More along the saltmarsh & at Red Rocks. |
| *Plantago coronopus* | Buck’s-horn Plantain | 29) p404. Main track sides. |
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|  |  | Start of dunes near waste bin. |
| *Atriplex prostrata?* | Spear-leaved Orache? | 30) p106. Young plants, so not yet typical. |
| *Polygonum aviculare* | Knotgrass | 31) p144. Along main track. |
| *Polygonum arenastrum* | Equal-leaved Knotgrass | 32) p144. Eric Greenwood took samples of others. See end of plant list for his sample details. |
| *Lolium perenne* | Perennial Rye-grass | 33) p606. Also along tracks & golf-course fence. |
| *Anthyllis vulneraria* | Kidney Vetch | 34) p278. Common, but dried out. |
| *Hypochaeris radicata* | Cat’s-ear | 35) p484. Occasional in dunes. |
| *Arrhenatherum elatius* | False Oat-grass | 36) p620. Common in dunes. |
| *Crepis capillaris* | Smooth’s Hawk’s-beard | 37) p490. A few plants. |
| *Dactylis glomerata* | Cock’s-foot | 38) p614. Dried out by trackways. |
| *Phleum arenarium* | Sand Cat's-tail | 39) p632. Dried out by steps & golf-fence. On open dunes by reed-bed. |
| *Foeniculum vulgare* | Fennel | 40) p350. A new plant by steps, behind rocks. |
| *Daucus carota ssp. carota* | Wild Carrot | 41) p358. & dune tops by reed-bed. |
| *Parthenocissus vitae?* | False Virginia-creeper? | 42) Stace p144. By steps, fence, & early dune tops. Used Stace’s key to determine likely species, as plants have few tendrils & no pads seen. |
| *Ononis repens* | Common Restharrow | 43) p288. In patches. |
| *Anthoxanthum odoratum* | Sweet Vernal-grass | 44) p624. Now dried out in dunes. |
| *Linaria purpurea* | Purple Toadflax | 45) p414. In leaf only. |
| *Hedera helix* | Ivy | 46) p338. Top of steps behind golf-course fence. Also by Hoylake gardens. |
| *Ulmus sp?* | Elm sp? | 47) p96. Young trees 1m tall, with alternate, unequal sided leaves at base. Missed today, as did not walk up steps to fence side. |
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|  |  | Along top path, golf-course fence. |
| *Anisantha sterilis* | Barren Brome | 48) p636. By trackways & golf-course fence. Missed today. |
| *Salix fragilis* | Crack Willow | 49) p176. One young tree 2m tall by a large Teaplant bush. Missed today. |
| *Rumex crispus* | Curled Dock | 50) p152. Occasional in dunes. |
| *Lapsana communis* | Nipplewort | 51) p484. A few along fence. |
| *Rosa spinosissima* | Burnet Rose | 52) p258. Both sides of fence. Mostly in seed & a few white flowers. Later a group of pink flowered plants in golf-course. |
| *Sisymbrium officinale* | Hedge Mustard | 53) p186. A few in seed. |
| *Galium verum var. maritimum* | Maritime Lady’s-bedstraw | 54) p448. In short grass on tops of dunes, still surviving the draught. |
| *Malus pumila* | Apple | 55) p226. A small tree with fruits. |
| *Sambucus nigra* | Elder | 56) p452. One tree on dune side. |
| *Convolvulus arvensis* | Field Bindweed | 57) p368. On golf-course fence. |
| *Holcus lanatus* | Yorkshire-fog | 58) p622. Common in dunes. |
| *Rubus caesius* | Dewberry | 59) p246. Dune tops & golf-course. |
| *Allium vineale* | Wild Onion | 60) p658. Dune tops & golf-course. |
| *Poa trivialis* | Rough Meadow-grass | 61) p612. Seen previously by golf-course fence. Dried out today. |
| *Erodium lebelii* | Sticky Stork’s-bill | 62) p336. Open sand behind golf-course fence with whitish flowers. |
| *Vulpia fasciculata* | Dune Fescue | 63) p608. Open sand behind fence. |
| *Asparagus officinalis* | Garden Asparagus | 64) p660. Few. |
| *Leontodon saxatilis* | Lesser Hawkbit | 65) p484. Grey under ligules. |
| *Rubus ‘fruticosus’* | Bramble | 66) p246. Few. |
| *Ammophila arenaria* | Marram | 67) p628. In-rolled green leaves. Saltmarsh edge & dunes. |
| *Euphorbia portlandica* | Portland Spurge | 68) p320. Id by Julie opening seed pod to find pitted seeds. By fence. |
| *Pimpinella saxifraga* | Burnet-saxifrage | 69) p344. Peter Gateley find. |
| *Honkenya peploides* | Thyme-leaved Sandwort | 70) p122. Green shiny leaves. Id by Peter Gateley. |
| *Trifolium campestre* | Hare’s-foot Clover | 71) p292. By golf-course fence. |
| *Achillea millefolium* | Yarrow | 72) p502. Occasional. |
| *Sonchus asper* | Prickly Sow-thistle | 73) p488. 1 seen today. |
| *Vicia sativa* | Common Vetch | 74) p284. Missed today. |
| *Taraxacum spp.* | Dandelions | 75) p492. A few in seed or leaf. |
| *Ulex europaeus* | Gorse | 76) p300. In seed. In golf-course. |
| *Anthriscus sylvestris* | Cow Parsley | 77) p344. In seed behind fence. |
| *Allium scorodoprasum* | Sand Leek | 78) p658. Inside golf-course on hillock near Pinfold Lane path across golf-course. Id by Graeme Kay. Larger seed head than Wild Onion & with flat linear leaf. |
| *Oenothera x fallax* | Intermediate Evening-primrose | 79) p312. Near golf-course fence. |
| *Urtica dioica* | Common Nettle | 80) p96. Occasional. |
| *Tragopogon pratensis* | Goat’s-beard | 81) p486. Big seed heads. |
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|  |  | In lower grassy areas approaching open pool by reed-bed. |
| *Equisetum x meridionale* | Wirral Horsetail | 82) Stace p13. Common by reed-bed pool. First identified in Anglesey 2000. Hybrid parents are E. ramosissimum x E. variegatum. |
| *Vicia cracca* | Tufted Vetch | 83) p280. Common near reed-bed. |
| *Trifolium repens* | White Clover | 84) p292. Common near reed-bed. |
| *Centaurea nigra* | Common Knapweed | 85) p482. Patches. |
| *Cerastium tomentosum?* | Snow-in-summer? | 86) p126. Pale plants in golf-course. |
| *Lilium x hollandicum* | Garden Orange Lily | 87) Stace p858. Golf-course hillside after Gorse removed. 20 plants from 2016 onwards. Id by Graeme Kay. |
| *Cerastium glomeratum* | Sticky Mouse-ear | 88) p128. In seed, pale & dried out. |
| *Trifolium pratense* | Red Clover | 89) p296. Occasional. |
| *Odontites verna* | Red Bartsia | 90) p430. In leaf looking healthy. In flower along main track during return from Red Rocks. |
| *Ranunculus acris* | Meadow Buttercup | 91) p82. Dispersed in this area. |
| *Heracleum sphondylium* | Hogweed | 92) p358. 1 plant seen in flower. |
| *Hypericum perforatum* | Perforated St. John’s-wort | 93) p156. A patch behind golf-course fence. |
| *Philadelphus ‘Lemoinei’ group* | A Mock Orange | 94) Stace p510/1 key id. A few bushes in the golf-course by fence.Leaf hairy underside. Simple white flowers cup shaped. |
| *Stachys sylvatica* | Hedge Woundwort | 95) p384. 2 plants in flower by golf-course fence. |
| *Aegopodium podagraria* | Ground-elder | 96) p352. A patch here in flower & by Hoylake gardens. |
| *Calystegia silvatica* | Large Bindweed | 97) p368. In golf-course. |
| *Epilobium hirsutum* | Great Willowherb | 98) p306. Patches starting to flower. |
| *Geranium robertianum* | Herb-robert | 99) p334. Missed today. |
| *Lathyrus latifolius* | Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea | 100) p286. One plant in golf-course. |
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|  |  | Around Open Pool by Reed-bed. |
| *Galium palustre* | Common Marsh-bedstraw | 101) p446. |
| *Lycopus europaeus* | Gipsywort | 102) p400. |
| *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* | Southern Marsh-orchid | 103) p678. Also between the 2 main Toad scrapes. About 100 this year. |
| *Vicia hirsuta* | Hairy Tare | 104) p284. Missed today. |
| *Iris pseudacorus* | Yellow Flag Iris | 105) p662. Big green seed-pods. |
| *Rumex hydrolapathum* | Water Dock | 106) p150. |
| *Potentilla anserina* | Silverweed | 107) p246. A few in flower. |
| *Plantago major* | Greater Plantain | 108) p404. In leaf only on tracks. |
| *Sparganium erectum* | Branched Bur-reed | 109) p644. With Water Docks, only stem leaves currently present. |
| *Juncus tenuis* | Slender Rush | 110) p540. Dunes near reed-bed. |
| *Phragmites australis* | Common Reed | 111) p640. In reed-bed & spreading into dunes & even the saltmarsh at Red Rocks end. |
| *Juncus articulatus* | Jointed Rush | 112) p542. Edge of open water. |
| *Cerastium fontanum* | Common Mouse-ear | 113) p128. |
| *Carex remota* | Remote Sedge | 114) p570. Sample taken. |
| *Plantago lanceolata* | Ribwort Plantain | 115) p404. Mostly in seed. |
| *Carex distans* | Distant Sedge | 116) p576. Eric Greenwood find. |
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|  |  | Lunch break here for half hour.Along track seaside of reed-bed. |
| *Equisetum arvense* | Field Horse-tail | 117) p12. Common by Hoylake gardens disturbed area. |
| *Salix cinerea* | Grey Willow | 118) p176. Small trees in reed-bed. |
| *Stachys palustris* | Marsh Woundwort | 119) p384. Clustered by reed-bed. Stem leaves sessile & oblong-lanceolate. No unpleasant smell, so not a hybrid with S. sylvatica. |
| *Fraxinus excelsior* | Ash | 120) p406. 2 young trees. |
| *Calystegia sepium* | Hedge Bindweed | 121) p368. |
| *Filipendula ulmaria* | Meadowsweet | 122) p240. Coming into flower. |
| *Cirsium arvense* | Creeping Thistle | 123) p480. Coming into flower. |
| *Alnus glutinosa* | Alder | 124) p100. A small group. |
| *Crataegus monogyna* | Hawthorn | 125) p. A few small trees <1m tall on side of dunes. |
| *Oenanthe crocata* | Hemlock Water-dropwort | 126) p346. Edge of reed-bed. Also in most seaward fenced Toad scrape. |
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|  |  | On open Sand Dune tops. |
| *Campanula rotundifolia* | Harebell | 127) p442. Some now in flower. |
| *Bromus hordeaceus* | Soft-brome | 128) p634. By tracks & in dunes. |
| *Eryngium maritimum* | Sea-holly | 129) p338. Flowers starting to open. |
| *Euphorbia lathyris* | Sea Spurge | 130) p320. A patch. |
| *Elytrigia juncea* | Sand Couch | 131) p638. Larger grey spikelets. |
| *Carex arenaria* | Sand Sedge | 132) p568. Also at start of WK dunes |
|  |  | Red Rocks end of narrow track seaside of reed-bed. |
| *Betula pendula* | Silver Birch | 133) p100. A young tree 1m tall. |
| *Cerastium fontanum* | Common Mouse-ear | 134) p128. |
| *Pyrola rotundifolia* | Round-leaved Wintergreen | 135) p220. About 20 plants with no flower spikes visible in gardened area. First time recorded here last year after reed-bed & Willow clearing work by Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Struggling in this draught. |
| *Triticum aestivum* | Bread Wheat | 136) p638. 2 plants with 2 rows of large seeds both sides of stem. Steve Cross find. |
| *Oenanthe lachenalii* | Parsley Water-dropwort | 137) p346. 1 on edge of reed-bed. |
| *Juncus bufonius* | Toad Rush | 138) p540. A few in tracks at edge of reed-bed & saltmarsh. |
| *Salix aurita?* | Eared Willow? | 139) p176. Long wrinkled rectangular leaved with curved ends & prominent stipules. Perhaps a hybrid with common Grey Willow here? S. cinerea x S. aurita = S.multinervis in Stace p329.  |
| *Myosotis arvensis* | Field Forget-me-not | 140) p378. |
| *Lathyrus pratensis* | Meadow Vetchling | 141) p288. |
| *Scutellaria galericulata* | Skullcap | 142) p392. Also any more present between 2 main Toad scrapes. |
| *Ranunculus repens* | Creeping Buttercup | 143) p82. |
| *Salix caprea* | Goat Willow | 144) p176. Young tree. |
| *Ophrys apifera* | Bee Orchid | 145) p682. One seen only this year last week. Missing today. |
| *Anacamptis pyramidalis* | Pyramidal Orchid | 146) p676. Steve Cross found 3 plants. |
| *Juncus ranarius* | Frog Rush | 147) p540. Eric Greenwood find. |
| *Honckenya peploides* | Sea Sandwort | 148) p122. Peter Gateley find. |
| *Aster hybrid?* | A Michaelmas-daisy hybrid? | 149) p500. Many young plants to 50cms tall with thin leaves. Probably Aster x salignus or Aster x versicolor as both grow in this area. |
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|  |  | Hoylake back garden’s disturbed area. |
| *Populus nigra?* | Black-poplar? | 150) p174. About 45 young trees, mostly behind new fence where the cut down mature trees had been since 1960s. |
| *Poa annua* | Annual Meadow-grass | 151) p612. |
| *Oenothera glazioviana* | Large-flowered Evening-primrose | 152) p312. Protruding style. Behind new fence. |
| *Geranium pratense* | Meadow Crane’s-bill | 153) p332. By new fence. |
| *Galium aparine* | Cleavers | 154) p450. |
| *Acer pseudoplatanus* | Sycamore | 155) p326. Backs of gardens. |
| *Saponaria officinalis* | Soapwort | 156) p138. Not yet in flower. |
| *Fallopia baldschuanica* | Russian-vine | 157) p146. Spreading in trees from gardens. |
| *Elytrigia x laxa* | Hybrid Couch | 158) Stace p1049. Hybrid between E. repens x E. juncea. Spikelets intermediate in size & greyish. |
| *Prunus spinosa* | Blackthorn | 159) p262. Backs of gardens. |
| *Cakile maritima* | Sea Rocket | 160) p210. A few. |
| *Senecio vulgaris* | Groundsel | 161) p510. By slipway entrance. |
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|  |  | Red Rocks beyond Stanley Road. |
| *Hordeum murinum* | Wall Barley | 162) p640. By slipway entrance. |
| *Malva sylvestris* | Common Mallow | 163) p162. By slipway entrance. |
| *Diplotaxis muralis* | Annual Wall-rocket | 164) p206. Now dried out. |
| *Aira caryophyllea?* | Silver Hair-grass? | 165) p622. Now dried out. |
| *Cochlearia danica* | Danish Scurvygrass | 166) p200. Now dried out. |
| *Spergularia rupicola* | Rock Sea-spurrey | 167) p132. Mostly in seed. |
| *Crithmum maritium* | Rock Samphire | 168) p353/4. 20 or so young plants on rocks about to flower. |
| *Parietaria judaica* | Pellitory-of-the-wall | 169) p96. Along stone wall. |
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|  |  | Return to Saltmarsh outer edge. |
| *Suaeda maritima* | Annual Sea-blite | 170) p112. Peter Gateley find. |
| *Atriplex littoralis* | Glass-leaved Orache | 171) p108. A few young plants with long linear stem leaved. |
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|  |  | Return. Along main track by saltmarsh side. |
| *Artemisia absinthium?* | Wormwood? | 172) p504. 1 grey/green plant 1m tall with pleasantly aromatic leaves, unlike Mugwort. |
| *Potentilla reptans* | Creeping Cinquefoil | 173) p250. A patch in dunes by track |
| *Silene latifolia* | White Campion | 174) p136. A small patch, dune side. |
| *Cirsium vulgare* | Spear Thistle | 175) p478. Coming into flower. |
| *Sonchus arvensis* | Perennial Sow-thistle | 176) p488. Coming into flower. |
| *Chamerion angustifolium* | Rosebay Willowherb | 177) p310. 1 patch in flower. |
| *Rosa rugosa* | Japanese Rose | 178) p258. 1 patch with red flowers. |
| *Samolus valerandi* | Brookweed | 179) p224. By Toad scrape open water. |
|  |  | Between 2 inland Toad scrapes. |
| *Rumex conglomeratus* | Clustered Dock | 180) p152. Red looking. Plus many Skullcaps & S. Marsh-orchids here. |
| *Silene uniflora* | Sea Campion | 181) p136. In sandy trackway. |
| *Centaurium erythraea* | Common Centaury | 182) p362. A few plants in flower. |
| *Trifolium fragiferum* | Strawberry Clover | 183) p296. Started flowering. Common along main track. |
| *Ranunculus sceleratus* | Celery-leaved Buttercup | 184) p84. In seaward Toad scrape. |
| *Carex otrubae* | False Fox-sedge | 185) p566. Patches in saltmarsh edge & in seaward Toad scrape. |
| *Blysmus rufus* | Saltmarsh Flat-sedge | 186) p554. Common along edge of saltmarsh. Eric Greenwood id. |
|  |  | Last quarter of a mile on main track. |
| *Juncus maritimus* | Sea Rush | 187) p544. Vaguely lined stem, pointed tip but not sharp. Saltmarsh edge. Occurs in 1m+ tall clumps. |
| *Centranthus ruber* | Red Valerian | 188) p454. Red form only on side of dunes. |
| *Artemisia vulgaris* | Mugwort | 189) p504. Not yet in flower, on side of dunes. |
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|  |  | Eric Greenwood samples. |
| *Polygonum agrestinum* | A Knotgrass | Species id from Sell & Murrell book. |
| *Polygonum polychnemiforme* | A Knotgrass | Ditto. |
| *Polygonum raii* | A Knotgrass | Ditto - All 3 are common. |
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|  | **Birds** |  |
|  | Kestrel | 1 quartering the golf-course. |
|  | Swallows | 5 low over open pool at lunch. |
|  | Reed Bunting | 1 on boardwalk fence at lunch. |
|  | Reed Warbler | Singing in reed-bed during lunch. |
|  | Skylark | Singing on & off during the day. |
|  | Sedge Warbler | Singing in reed-bed at times. |
|  | Herring Gull | Flying. |
|  | Swifts | Flying around low later in day. |
|  | **Butterflies** |  |
|  | Meadow Brown | Common - including 5 on Mock Orange flowers. |
|  | Small Skipper | Several during the walk. |
|  | Large White | Several, including 2 on Sea Radish. |
|  | Gatekeeper | A few seen flying for the first time this year. |
|  | Grayling | Probably 3, as all large dark butterflies. |
|  | Small Heath | 2 seen. |
|  | Red Admiral | 1 seen. |
|  | Cinnabar Moth | 1 seen flying, plus many caterpillars on Common Ragwort. |
|  | **Dragonflies** |  |
|  | Emperor | 1 male over open pool at lunch. |
|  | Broad-bodied Chaser | 2 over open pool at lunch time. |
|  | A Blue Damselfly species | Several around open pool area. |
|  | **Others** |  |
|  | Common Lizard | 1 active near Saltmarsh edge at the start of the walk. |
|  | Common Frog | 10s of small froglets seen near Toad scrapes. |