

RENAISSANCE CLUB

BIOBLITZ 2026 REVIEW

oleo ecology



A BioBlitz is a race against time to create a snapshot of the variety of life found in a specific location.

On 27th and 28th May 2026, wildlife experts and the local community worked together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals and fungi as possible across the golf course at **The Renaissance Club** (TRC). Developed and delivered by Caitlin Gracey, Sustainability Coordinator at TRC, and Sophie Olejnik, Ecologist at Oleo Ecology.

Wandering through the mosaic of dunes, woodlands, and scrub, a total of **38 attendees** joined in the inaugural BioBlitz to record **143 species** in total!

BIOBLITZ SCHEDULE

Wednesday 27th May

- Dusk Bat Walk

Thursday 28th May

- Birds and Butties
- Mystery Moths
- Wildflower Wander
- Butterfly Bonanza



DUSK BAT WALK

Guided by Ecologist Sophie Olejnik, bat detectors were handed around and the BioBlitz team wandered the links just after sunset in search of bats. It wasn't long before the first bat was heard, a **Soprano Pipistrelle**, passing through the woodland along the practice ground, much to the delight of all!

The second encounter came a while later in the form of a **Common Pipistrelle**, the same genus as Soprano Pipistrelle, but echolocating slightly lower at 45kHz compared to 55kHz – the two species only being separated in 1999!

Two bat species were recorded along with a bonus **Badger** which made an inquisitive appearance along the 7th hole.



BIRDS AND BUTTIES

An early rise for a 7:30am start to spot birds loafing, flying, foraging, and singing across the golf course.

Guided by Ecologist Bob Taylor and East Lothian Rangers Robbie MacEwan and Kristian Purchase, the team were equipped with binoculars and scopes to aide their vision, and the excellent app Merlin, to help with bird song ID.

A total of 23 species were seen and heard across the links including red-listed species **Skylark**, **Herring Gull**, and **Linnet**.



MYSTERY MOTHS

Two moth traps were set overnight by local moth enthusiast Richard Riddell, who kindly lent his equipment for the BioBlitz! One trap was set in the dunes and another in the wetland – both offering different habitats for different species of moth.

Upon collection, a total of 10 moth species were captured, with the wetland trap capturing the most! Highlights included the regal-looking **Muslin**, the beautiful **Cinnabar**, and the brightly coloured **Green Carpet**. A bonus **Ichneumon Wasp** was also captured which is a parasitoid wasp, much smaller than a regular wasp!

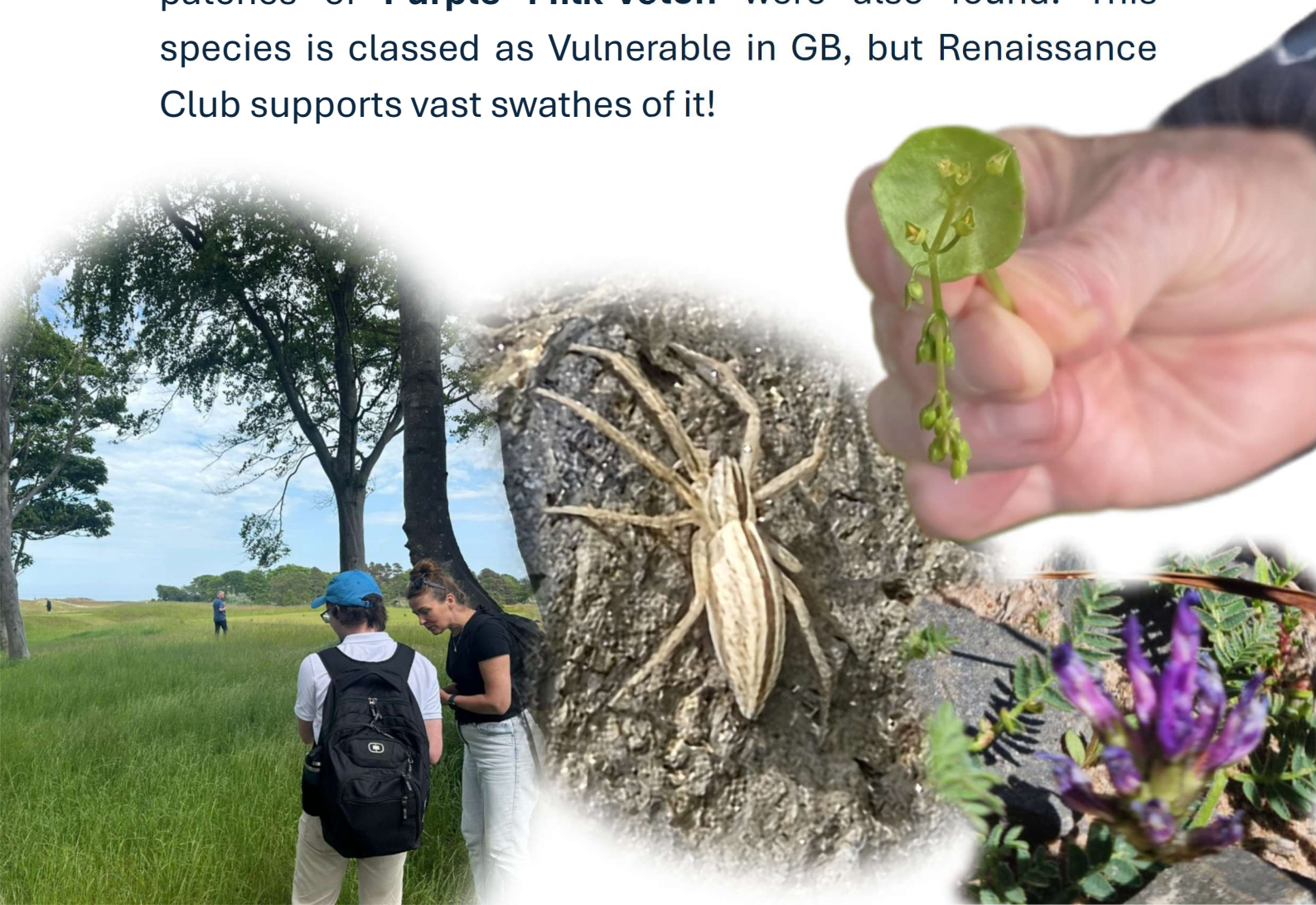


WILDFLOWER WANDER

A wildflower wander to discover more than just wildflowers! Attendees swept amongst the roughs unearthing **Oblong Running Spiders,** roamed through the dunes getting on hands and knees to sniff **Wild Thyme**, and pored over bark to find **Eyed Ladybirds**.

Local botanist, Marion Moir, pointed out **Spring-beauty** *Claytonia perfoliata,* 'perfoliata' referring to the flower growing through the leaf – see the photo!

In the dunes and alongside tees and footpaths, dense patches of **Purple Milk-vetch** were also found. This species is classed as Vulnerable in GB, but Renaissance Club supports vast swathes of it!

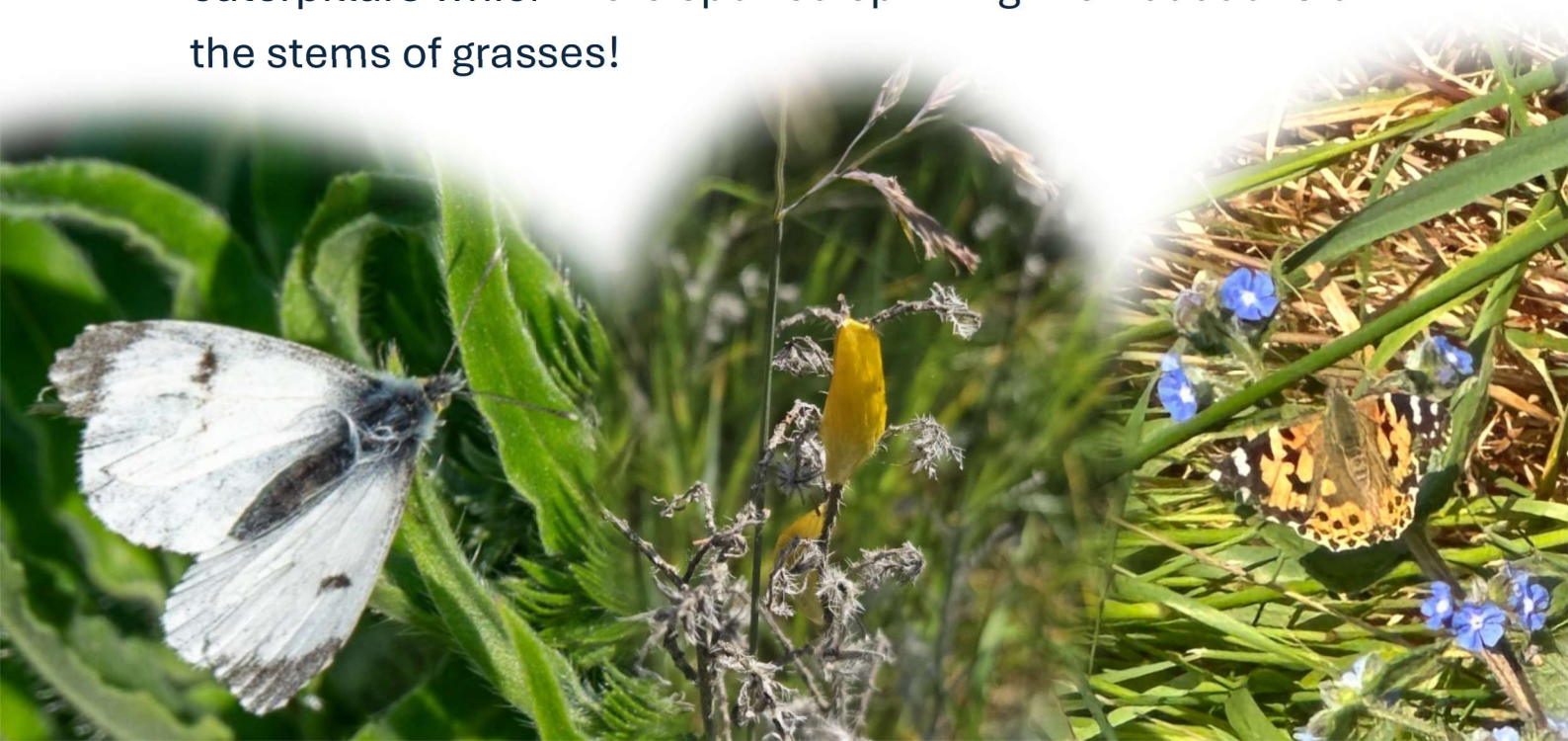


BUTTERFLY BONANZA

Butterflies were recorded throughout the BioBlitz, darting from **Hawthorn** blossom and **Bird's-foot Trefoil** in the dunes, and patches of **Common Nettle** in the woodlands. Species recorded included plenty of **Painted Lady**, a migrant species which seems to be having a boom year in 2026, **Small Heath,** a species whose caterpillars need fine grasses like **Red Fescue**, which is abundant on the golf course!

Orange Tip butterflies were also spotted on the wing, including males with their orange tips and females with their mottled green wings, alongside two of their larval foodplants, **Garlic Mustard** and **Cuckooflower.**

Six butterfly species were recorded in total along with the day-flying **Silver-Y** moth and unknown **Burnet** moth caterpillars which were spotted spinning their cocoons on the stems of grasses!



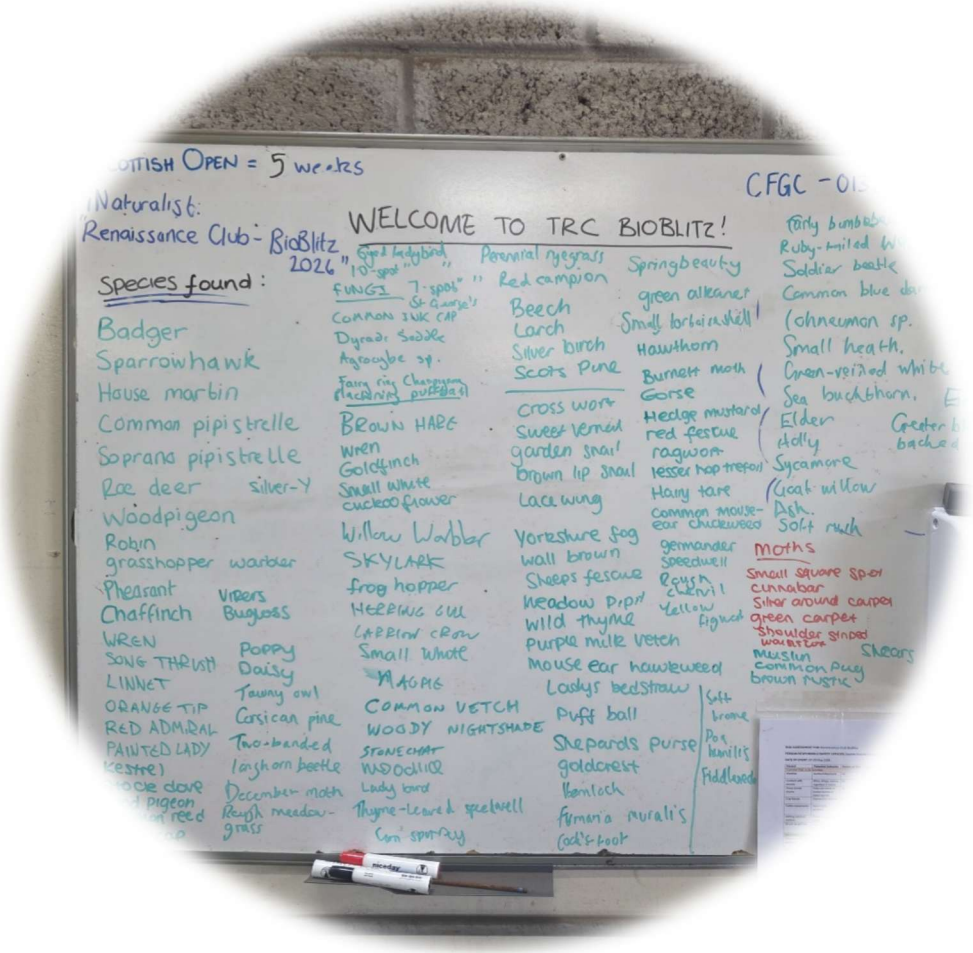
THE FULL SPECIES LIST

Records were collected using a combination of paper recording forms, a communal whiteboard at the BioBlitz HQ and via iNaturalist where a project was set up specifically for the BioBlitz.

A total of **143 species** were recorded and uploaded to iNaturalist / sent to The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC).

Of the species recorded, **26 are notable species of conservation concern**.

A list of all species recorded during the BioBlitz are provided below along with the conservation status of each species.



INVERTEBRATES

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Invertebrate - Bee	Early Bumblebee	*Bombus pratorum*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	10-spot Ladybird	*Adalia decempunctata*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	7-spot Ladybird	*Coccinella septempunctata*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	A Weevil	*Unknown sp.*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	Common Soldier Beetle	*Rhagonycha fulva*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	Eyed Ladybird	*Anatis ocellata*	
Invertebrate - Beetle	Two-banded Longhorn Beetle	*Rhagium bifasciatum*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Green-veined White	*Pieris napi*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Orange-tip	*Anthocharis cardamines*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Painted Lady	*Vanessa cardui*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Red Admiral	*Vanessa atalanta*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*	SBL
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Small Tortoiseshell	*Aglais urticae*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Small White	*Pieris rapae*	
Invertebrate - Butterfly	Wall Brown	*Lasiommata megera*	SBL
Invertebrate - Isopod	Common Woodlouse	*Oniscus asellus*	
Invertebrate - Lacewing	A Lacewing	*Unknown sp.*	
Invertebrate - Moth	A burnet moth	*Zygaena sp.*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Brown Rustic	*Rusina ferruginea*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaea*	SBL

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Invertebrate - Moth	Common Pug	*Eupithecia vulgata*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Common Swift	*Korscheltellus lupulina*	
Invertebrate - Moth	December Moth	*Poecilocampa populi*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Green Carpet	*Colostygia pectinataria*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Muslin	*Diaphora mendica*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Shears	*Hada plebeja*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Shoulder-Striped Wainscot	*Leucania comma*	SBL
Invertebrate - Moth	Silver Ground Carpet	*Xanthorhoe montanata*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Silver-Y	*Autographa gamma*	
Invertebrate - Moth	Small Square Spot	*Diarsia rubi*	SBL
Invertebrate - Spider	Oblong Running Spider	*Tibellus oblongus*	
Invertebrate - Tick	A tick	*Ixodes sp.*	
Invertebrate - True Bug	Froghopper	*Philaenus sp.*	
Invertebrates - Mollusc	Brown-lipped Snail	*Cepaea nemoralis*	
Invertebrates - Mollusc	Garden Snail	*Cornu aspersum*	
Invertebrate - Wasp	A Ruby-tailed Wasp	*Chrysis sp.*	
Invertebrate - Wasp	Ichneumon wasp	*Ichneumon sp.*	



BIRDS

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Bird	Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*	
Bird	Carrion Crow	*Corvus corone*	
Bird	Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	
Bird	Eider	*Somateria mollissima*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	
Bird	Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	
Bird	Grasshopper Warbler	*Locustella naevia*	Red BoCC; SBL
Bird	Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	Red BoCC
Bird	Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	Red BoCC; SBL
Bird	House martin	*Delichon urbica*	Red BoCC
Bird	Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	Amber BoCC; SBL
Bird	Linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*	Red BoCC; SBL
Bird	Magpie	*Pica pica*	
Bird	Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	
Bird	Pheasant	*Phasanius colchicus*	
Bird	Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	
Bird	Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	Red BoCC; SBL
Bird	Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Amber BoCC; SBL
Bird	Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Stock Dove	*Columba oenas*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	
Bird	Tawny Owl	*Strix aluco*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Amber BoCC
Bird	Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Amber BoCC

MAMMALS

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Terrestrial Mammal	Badger	*Meles meles*	Protected under the WANE Act 2011
Terrestrial Mammal	Brown Hare	*Lepus europeaus*	SBL
Terrestrial Mammal	Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	SBL
Terrestrial Mammal	Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	
Terrestrial Mammal	Roe Deer	*Capreolus capreolus*	
Terrestrial Mammal	Soprano pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	SBL

FUNGI

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Fungus	A puffball	Unknown sp.	
Fungus	Blackening Puffball	*Lycoperdon nigrescens*	
Fungus	Common Ink Cap	*Coprinopsis atramentaria*	
Fungus	Dryad's Saddle	*Cerioporus squamosus*	
Fungus	Fairy Ring Champignon	*Marasmius oreades*	
Fungus	Hygrocybe sp.	*Hygrocybe sp.*	
Fungus	St George's Mushroom	*Calocybe gambosa*	

"What an amazing job you all did on putting together a very informative day."

James Harley

Environmental Officer at Dumbarnie Links

PLANTS

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Vascular Plant	Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	
Vascular Plant	Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	
Vascular Plant	Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*	
Vascular Plant	Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	
Vascular Plant	Colt's-foot	*Tussilago farfara*	
Vascular Plant	Common Fiddleneck	*Amsinckia micrantha*	
Vascular Plant	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed	*Cerastium fontanum*	
Vascular Plant	Common Ramping-fumitory	*Fumaria muralis*	
Vascular Plant	Common Reed	*Phragmites australis*	
Vascular Plant	Common Stork's-bill	*Erodium cicutarium*	
Vascular Plant	Common Vetch	*Vicia sativa*	
Vascular Plant	Corn Spurrey	*Spergula arvensis*	
Vascular Plant	Corsican Pine	*Pinus nigra*	
Vascular Plant	Cow Parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	
Vascular Plant	Crosswort	*Cruciata laevipes*	
Vascular Plant	Cuckooflower	*Cardamine pratensis*	
Vascular Plant	Daisy	*Bellis perennis*	
Vascular Plant	Early Hair Grass	*Koeleria macrantha*	
Vascular Plant	Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	
Vascular Plant	False Oat-grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Vascular Plant	False-brome	*Brachypodium sylvaticum*	
Vascular Plant	Field Poppy	*Papaver rhoeas*	
Vascular Plant	Field Wood-rush	*Luzula campestris*	
Vascular Plant	Garlic Mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*	
Vascular Plant	Germander Speedwell	*Veronica chamaedrys*	
Vascular Plant	Goat Willow	*Salix caprea*	
Vascular Plant	Gorse	*Ulex europeaus*	
Vascular Plant	Greater burdock	*Arctium lappa*	
Vascular Plant	Green Alkanet	*Pentaglottis sempervirens*	
Vascular Plant	Hairy Sedge	*Carex hirta*	
Vascular Plant	Hairy Tare	*Vicia hirsuta*	
Vascular Plant	Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	
Vascular Plant	Hedge Mustard	*Sisymbrium officinale*	
Vascular Plant	Hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	
Vascular Plant	Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	
Vascular Plant	Hop Trefoil	*Trifolium campestre*	
Vascular Plant	Lady's Bedstraw	*Geum verum*	
Vascular Plant	Larch	*Larix decidua*	
Vascular Plant	Lesser Trefoil	*Trifolium dubium*	
Vascular Plant	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	*Pilosella officinarum*	
Vascular Plant	Perennial Ryegrass	*Lolium perenne*	
Vascular Plant	Pineappleweed	*Matricaria discoidea*	

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Vascular Plant	Purple Milk Vetch	*Astralagus danicus*	Endangered; SBL
Vascular Plant	Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	
Vascular Plant	Red Campion	*Silene dioica*	
Vascular Plant	Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*	
Vascular Plant	Rough Chervil	*Chaerophyllum temulum*	
Vascular Plant	Rough Meadow-grass	*Poa trivialis*	
Vascular Plant	Sand Sedge	*Carex arenaria*	
Vascular Plant	Scot's Pine	*Pinus sylvestris*	
Vascular Plant	Sea Buckthorn	*Hippophae rhamnoides*	
Vascular Plant	Sheep's Fescue	*Festuca ovina*	
Vascular Plant	Shepherd's Purse	*Capsella bursa-pastoris*	
Vascular Plant	Silver Birch	*Betula pendula*	
Vascular Plant	Soft Brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	
Vascular Plant	Soft Rush	*Juncus effusus*	
Vascular Plant	Spreading Meadow-grass	*Poa humilis*	
Vascular Plant	Springbeauty	*Calytonia perfoliata*	
Vascular Plant	Sweet Vernal Grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	
Vascular Plant	Sycamore	*Acer pseuoplatanus*	
Vascular Plant	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	*Veronica serpyllifolia*	
Vascular Plant	Viper's Bugloss	*Echium vulgare*	
Vascular Plant	Weld	*Reseda luteola*	
Vascular Plant	Wild Strawberry	*Fragaria vesca*	

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Vascular Plant	Wild Thyme	*Thymus polytrichus*	
Vascular Plant	Woody Nightshade	*Solanum dulcamara*	
Vascular Plant	Yellow Figwort	*Scrophularia vernalis*	
Vascular Plant	Yorkshire Fog	*Holcus lanatus*	



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A massive thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and expertise to help with the BioBlitz:

Bob Taylor, Ecologist at BT Ecology.

Kristian Purchase and **Robbie MacEwan**, Rangers at East Lothian Council.

Marion Moir, BSBI County Recorder (botanist).

Richard Riddell, Biodiversity Champion at Muirfield.

"I had such a great time, and it was very well organised, very informative and just all-round good fun! It was great to attend an event with like-minded people, who recognise the symbiotic nature of ecology & golf courses."

Rory Straker

Greenkeeper

Alnmouth Golf Club



SEE YOU IN 2027!

Rare, indeed.