

Eycott Hill's natural history

Use this recording sheet alongside the guided walk to record your findings at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. You may wish to bring a tape measure or a ruler, but these are not essential.



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

Droppings

Photo credits: Owl pellet, Cow dung, Oscar Adams; Deer droppings, Darren Tansley.



Owl pellet



Cow dung



Deer droppings

Notes:

Invertebrates

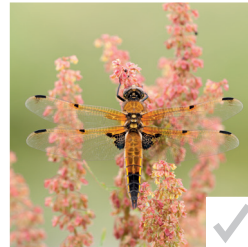
Photo credits: Small pearl-bordered fritillary, Chris Lawrence; Four-spotted chaser, Ross Hoddinot/2020VISION; Large red damselfly, Richard Burkmar.

Notes:



Small pearl-bordered fritillary

An orange butterfly with black marks on the upperside of its wings. It has black-and-silver markings on its underside, along with a row of white 'pearls' on the outer edge of the wing. Found May to August.



Four-spotted chaser

Two dark spots at the front edge of each wing give this dragonfly its name and an easily recognisable appearance. Found May to September.



Large red damselfly

Male large red damselflies are bright red with a black thorax and black bands towards the end of the body. The amount of red and black on the females' abdomens varies, with some forms appearing almost entirely black. Found April to August.

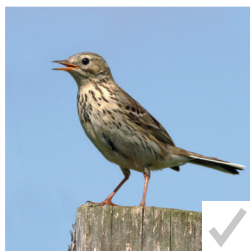
Birds

Photo credits: Skylark, Margaret Holland; Meadow pipit, Gary Cox; Curlew, Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography.



Skylark

A streaky brown bird, with a crest. They hover effortlessly, singing from a great height, before parachuting back down to earth.



Meadow pipit

Smaller than the skylark and with a thinner bill and no crest. It is a streaky, yellow-brown bird with pale, flesh-coloured legs. In the spring, it performs a fluttering 'parachute' display flight.



Curlew

Curlews are mottled brown and grey, with long, bluish legs and a long, downcurved bill that is pink underneath. Its haunting display call ('cur-lee') is unmistakable and can be heard from February through to July.

Notes:

Vegetation survey

How to:

1. Choose a spot at random to perform a vegetation survey.
2. Using a tape measure (or by walking two large strides), make a quadrat that's 2 metres by 2 metres.
3. Referring to the photos, see if you can identify what's inside your quadrat.
4. Estimate the percentage cover of each plant that is present. *Note: the square in the top right-hand corner is exactly 1% of your quadrat* (It doesn't matter if your combined percentages are greater than 100%). Record your findings in the table below!

This is also good time to spot some more birds and flying insects.



Moss (other)



Sphagnum moss



Tormentil



Sedges



Bilberry



Ling heather



Cross-leaved heath



Heath bedstraw



Wild cranberry



Cottongrass



Bogbean



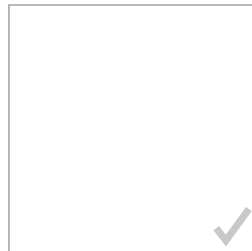
Grass-of-Parnassus



Devil's-bit-scabious



Mountain pansy



Spot anything else?

Species	% Cover
Grass	
Moss (other)	
Sphagnum moss	
Tormentil	
Sedges	
Bilberry	
Ling heather	
Cross leaved heath (heather)	
Heath bedstraw	
Wild cranberry	
Cotton grass	
Bog bean	
Grass-of-Parnassus	
Devil's-bit-scabious	
Mountain pansy	

Cooling columns and feldspar crystals

With your measuring tape or ruler, see if you can find the largest cooling columns and feldspar crystals, record your best measurements.



Lava columns



Feldspar crystals

Notes: