

Flora and fauna calendar Q2

Detailing the different species you may encounter whilst working outside in the UK.

	Black Bryony  	Blackthorn  	Bracken  	Bramble  	Deadly Nightshade  	Giant Hogweed  	Ground Fungi  	Common Hawthorn  
ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A climbing plant in hedgerows and woodlands. Lacks the tendrils of White Bryony. Its leaves are heart-shaped, glossy and their veins form a net pattern. Yellow-green, six-petalled flowers in summer and red shiny berries in autumn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense shrub of hedgerows and woodlands. Small, oval leaves that are finely toothed, and five-petalled. White flowers in spring. Thorns are on the end of branches or on elongated side shoots. Fruiting sloe berries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK's most common fern. Large branched triangular fronds, divided into three, that can reach over 1.5m in height. In autumn the fronds turn reddish-brown and die back to ground level. New fronds unfurl from the base in spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A thorny, fruiting shrub of the rose family. Common along roadside verges. Jagged-edged leaves with five to seven oval leaflets. Long trailing, thick arching, thorny stems. White or pinkish flowers in summer. Blackberry fruit July to October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shrubby-looking herb found on chalky, disturbed ground often on verges. Oval pointed leaves that are pale green and strongly ribbed. The flowers vary in colour from light purple to brown. Berries are green at first, turning to shiny black, and look a little like cherries. Other species of nightshade are also poisonous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tall umbellifer, full height (3m). Large, white clusters of flowers (up to 80cm). Hollow ridge stem, purple-spotted, and leaves are large and divided. Can be confused with native hogweed when not fully grown. Over winter the stems die back and leave old stalks and flower tops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are at least 13 main species of potentially fatal fungi including: death cap, destroying angel, funeral bell, webcap, fools funnel and dapperling. There are thousands of different fungi species. They take many forms and grow in a wide variety of habitats. If unsure, please consult a specialist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A hedgerow and woodland shrub. Shiny leaves, divided into three to seven pairs of lobes, and five-petalled. Sweet-smelling, creamy-white flowers. Red berries 'haws' during autumn and winter. Spines are shorter than on blackthorn and are along the stems and branches rather than on the end.
Impacts & Prevention	<p>Deadly if ingested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Spines have toxins which can cause infection, swelling and joint pain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves ✓ Wear protective clothing 	<p>Can be carcinogenic if ingested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Thorn scratches may become infected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves ✓ Wear protective clothing 	<p>All parts of the plant are deadly if ingested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Sap may cause severe rash and blisters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not touch ✓ Report presence to landowner as it is an invasive species 	<p>May be deadly if ingested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Don't touch even if following a guidebook ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Thorn scratches may become infected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wear thorn-protecting gloves ✓ Wear protective clothing
April	Adult growth	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Growth harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
May	Adult growth flowering	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Growth harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present
June	Adult growth flowering	Thorns present	Young growth	Thorns present	Adult growth	Flowers harmful	Fruiting body may be present	Thorns present

	Hemlock Water Dropwort  	Japanese Knotweed  	Stinging Nettle  	Common Ragwort  	Rose  	Wild Parsnip  	Yew  
ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows in damp, wet habitat, common along roadsides. Tall upright plant, purple spotted stems. Its leaves are somewhat celery-like in form, finely divided and large with distinctive mousy smell. Flowers are small and white umbrella-like clusters in summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common on waste grounds, riverbanks and roadside verges. A tall plant with large triangular leaves. Leaves are initially purple/red then changing to green. Hollow zig-zag purple/red stems growing in tight clusters. White, tufty flowers in spring and autumn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very common on roadside verges on disturbed ground. Hairy stem, drooping catkin flowers, oval toothed leaves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found on wasteland and derelict areas. Mass of daisy-like yellow flowers between 30cm-1.5m tall. Deeply lobed leaves lying flat on the ground to start with then rising to about 30cm tall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose species are common on roadside verges. Thorns on the stems and colourful flowers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often found along roadside verges. Large umbel clusters of yellow flowers on a thick stem. Flowers from June to September. A mature plant can grow 90-120cm. Leaves are oval, alternate, branched and have saw-toothed edges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A slow growing tree often found in churchyards and on roadside verges as part of a planting scheme. Evergreen with dense, glossy, dark green needles arranged in two distinct rows along the branches. Often made up of more than one stem. Fruit is red, fleshy in texture, with a single dark seed.
Impacts & Prevention	<p>Only a tiny amount can be deadly if ingested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not touch ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Extremely invasive, can damage structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inform landowner of presence as it is a fast-growing invasive ✓ Prevent spread by using bio cleaning method 	<p>Leaves and stem have an irritant chemical causing hives/rash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ Wear gloves and clothing to cover skin 	<p>Poisonous to animals. A mild poison to humans through ingestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth ✓ Wash hands 	<p>Thorn scratches may become infected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wear thorn-resistant gloves ✓ Wear protective clothing 	<p>Sap from the leaves causes blisters and burns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid skin contact by covering skin and wearing gloves 	<p>All parts of the tree are poisonous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid touching ✓ If touched, avoid touching mouth and wash hands
April	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present
May	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present
June	Adult growth	Young growth	Young growth	Rosette stage	Thorns present	Young growth	Foliage present

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	Adder  	Asian Hornet  	Bee / Wasp / Hornet  	Bird Dropping  	Brown Tail Moth  	False Black Widow  	Horsefly  	Leech  
ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK's only venomous snake. Often found in woodland glades and on heathlands. Small, stocky snake, 60-80cm long. Greyish, with a dark zigzag pattern on the back. Females are brown-patterned, males are black-patterned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2016, few confirmed sightings. Smaller than native hornets. Orange head (from front), abdomen almost entirely dark, with fine yellow stripes and a yellow or orange band near the base. Black or brown thorax. Legs with yellow tips. All Asian hornet sightings should be reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of species of Hymenoptera occur within the UK. They are normally flying insects with yellow and black markings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds will often utilise road structures to roost in. Bridges and underpasses are especially susceptible areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The caterpillars are about 25mm long with 2 red dots on the back. Moths have white wings with brown bodies and tail. Caterpillars only seen in the winter inside the silk woven white tents in hedges and trees. Caterpillars feed on hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn and fruit trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In buildings, on tree trunks, in cracks on the ground, under stones. Webs are criss-cross and dense in the centre. Bulbous abdomen. Varying colourations but usually dark brown with lighter brown marbling colours. 6 species in the UK. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonly found around horse stables and cattle and are frequently found in long damp grass. Large robust fly with prominent mouth parts and large eyes. Female flies require a blood meal before they are able to reproduce effectively and to aid in their egg development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 species of leech in the UK. Commonly found in ponds and ditches. Medicinal leeches are the largest leech in the UK growing to 20cm. Dark brown / black, with thin green, yellow and red stripes down the side.
Impacts & Prevention	<p>Venomous bite can be painful and cause inflammation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If seen, keep your distance ✓ Do not touch ✓ Wear suitable footwear ✓ Stick to established paths 	<p>Stings contain neurotoxin that can kill if allergic reaction occurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If seen, keep your distance ✓ Report sightings as it is an invasive species 	<p>Sting using different chemicals. Allergic reactions may occur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep your distance ✓ Avoid disturbance to hives ✓ Listen for buzzing noise 	<p>Ingestion causes over 60 different diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wash hands and clean any exposed skin ✓ Avoid putting hands in mouth 	<p>Hairs are toxic, irritate human skin and cause breathing difficulties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Don't touch, cover skin with gloves and clothing ✓ Keep your distance ✓ Be aware in summer 	<p>Mildly venomous bite causes localised pain. Similar to a wasp sting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Only bite when threatened, keep your distance 	<p>Bite causes redness, itching and swelling. May cause an allergic reaction or transfer disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid walking in long grass ✓ Cover your skin ✓ Don't wear perfume 	<p>Incorrect removal or stress to the leech may cause bacterial infection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid having bare skin ✓ Medicinal leech is a protected species under UK law
April	Active	Active	Active	Present	Tents visible/caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding
May	Active	Active	Active	Present	Caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding
June	Active	Active	Active	Present	Caterpillars harmful	Present	Active	Actively feeding

	Midge  	Non-Native Reptile  	Oak Processionary Moth  	Rat (Weil's Disease)  	Tick (Lyme disease)  
ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general term for very small (about 3mm) flies. 40 midge species in the UK but very few which bite humans. The most common of biting midges is the highland midge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species present within the UK are introduced and often unwanted pets. Commonly lizards, snakes and terrapins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caterpillars have long, white hairs which contrast markedly with the much shorter, almost undetectable, irritating hairs. Grey body and dark head. Older larvae have a central dark stripe with paler lines down each side. Tents are white, silken webbing, accompanied by white, silken trails on the trunks and branches of trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leptospirosis is a waterborne bacterial infection. Weil's disease is the development of leptospirosis. Bacteria harboured in the kidneys of a variety of animals – cattle, deer, pigs, sheep, horses, dogs and rodents. Urine from animals, carried into water, could carry the bacteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small arachnids, found within dense vegetation - often woodland and moorland. Flat, round bodies which vary from black, brown to red. Normally recognised when crawling on host. Feed on blood. A small proportion carry <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> which causes Lyme disease.
Impacts & Prevention	<p>Painful itchy bites which may swell. May cause an allergic reaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid grasslands on damp days in summer ✓ Insect repellent ✓ Avoid bare skin 	<p>Reptiles may be venomous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen for hissing, rattling or spitting ✓ Keep your distance do not touch ✓ Report any sightings 	<p>Toxic irritant hairs can cause rashes, sore throat and eyes, and pulmonary effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not go near tents, caterpillars or known infestations ✓ Keep your distance – hairs can travel long distances in the wind 	<p>Fever, severe joint pain headache and chills, much like flu. Less common are nausea and vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be aware of animals near water ✓ Avoid water edge activities ✓ Carry and follow a leptospirosis card ✓ Cover open cuts and grazes ✓ Do not touch mouth and eyes ✓ Wash hands or shower 	<p>Circular 'bullseye' rash, flu like symptoms, if untreated can develop to Lyme Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid bare skin, wear clothing and gloves in grassy or wooded areas ✓ Regularly check clothes and skin ✓ Use tick removal tool ✓ Clean the bite area
April	Active	Active		Leptospirosis present	Active
May	Active	Active	Caterpillar stage, toxic hairs	Leptospirosis present	Active
June	Active	Active	Caterpillar stage, toxic hairs	Leptospirosis present	Active