

See the giant bugs in intu Milton Keynes between 31/07/18 - 28/08/18

Big Bugs on Tour at intu Milton Keynes: Factsheet

Ladybird



Did you know?

- Our most common ladybird is the seven-spot ladybird
- The number of spots a ladybird has is not related to how old it is
- They eat aphids, which suck the sap out of plants, so are popular with gardeners and farmers.

You can see ladybirds all over Milton Keynes – in grasses, nettles and gardens.

Swallowtail Butterfly



Did you know?

- This a very rare species of butterfly
- It is only found in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk
- They eat milk parsley

Visit Howe Park Wood to see rare butterflies including the black hairstreak.

Hornet

Did you know?

- Hornets appear very similar to common wasps, but are larger and coloured chestnut-brown (rather than black) and yellow
- The hornet is a very clever insect – it can make nests out of paper, using its mouth
- Hornets have a powerful sting but they are less aggressive than other bees and wasps
- They nest in hollow trees and wall cavities

You can see hornets between May and November in the garden, and in parks and woods. We do not recommend chasing them!

Black Ant



Did you know?

- The black ant can carry up to 100 times its own body weight
- They all work together and follow a route by scent
- Black ants can fly – but when they do, they all do it at the same time

You can see black ants everywhere, and they are fascinating to watch! They like to nest in soil that is relatively dry and sandy.

Azure Damselfly

Did you know?



- Damselflies look like dragonflies, but they are much skinnier
- Of this species, the males have the striking blue and black bodies, while the females are darker, generally without any blue tones
- They spend a lot of their life cycle in water, and favour still water like ponds and lakes

You can see damselflies at any of the water bodies in Milton Keynes. Why not visit Linford Lakes Nature Reserve on one of its monthly Open Sundays and see how many you can spot?

Stag Beetle

Did you know?

- We don't have the stag beetle in Milton Keynes, but you can find the lesser stag beetle in the city
- These beetles (termed saproxylic beetles) live in and are dependent on deadwood
- We deliberately leave deadwood in some of our sites to support these creatures

You can find saproxylic beetles like the lesser stag beetle at Kingsmead Wood.



Rose Chafer Beetle

Did you know?

- The rose chafer beetle stands out because of its iridescent, metallic green coloration

- Beetles like the rose chafer feed on pollen, nectar and flowers
- This is why we don't cut down all wildflowers in Milton Keynes – they are a valuable food source and habitat for insects

You can find lots of iridescent beetles in Milton Keynes, particularly in the wildflower meadows – but don't pick the flowers!



Water Boatman

Did you know?

- There are two types of water boatman – lesser and greater. One swims on its front, and the other on its back
- They can fly between different water bodies
- They have an air bubble around their bottom and this is how they breathe

You can find the water boatman in water bodies across Milton Keynes. Why not join The Parks Trust on one of its pond dipping sessions to see what you can spot?

Nut Weevil

Did you know?

- The nut weevil's nose is nearly as long as its body
- The female gnaws into a hazelnut and lays its eggs inside



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- There are five types of weevil in the UK; acorn, nut, pine, pea and vine weevil

You can find the nut weevil between May and August all over Milton Keynes – wherever there are hazel trees.

Honey Bee

Did you know?

- The honey bee has a very long tongue
- Female honey bees are workers, and male honey bees are drones
- They are smaller than the bumble bee, and as their name implies – they make honey!

You can see honey bees from early spring to late autumn, across Milton Keynes.



Meadow Grasshopper

Did you know?

- You can tell the difference between a cricket and a grasshopper by looking at their antennae; grasshoppers have short, stumpy antennae while a cricket has thin antennae that are as long as their body
- The grasshopper's song sounds like a sewing machine, in two to three second bursts

- Meadow grasshoppers are vegetarian

You can find the meadow grasshopper in grasslands and downy areas. The Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve is a good place to go grasshopper hunting.

Swallowtail Caterpillar

Did you know?

- The swallowtail caterpillar is quite chunky and up to 40mm in length
- When newly hatched, it is black and white, before changing to green and then orange as it moults
- They have an orange horn they can use to defend themselves if they need to

The swallowtail caterpillar can't be found in Milton Keynes – however there are lots of other caterpillars and butterflies in Howe Park Wood.



Keen to find out more about the wildlife that can be found across Milton Keynes?

We regularly run events for people of all ages; visit www.theparkstrust.com/whats-on for more details

