Hoverflies of Southampton

Southampton Natural History Society

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Southampton Natural History Society

Founded 1907

The Southampton Natural History Society Hoverfly Project

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Nationally Scarce

National Status: Local but not declining.
Local Status: Rare with three recent records: Singles at Andrew's (East) Park, Southampton (05/09/2012), Hum Hole, Bitterne (24/06/2013) and Mount Pleasant (01/08/2015).

Food Sources: Recorded at Bramble and cultivated roses and pictured on Teasel *(Dipsacus fullonum)*

Plain Golden Hoverfly
Callicera aurata

An Introduction to the Southampton Natural History Society Hoverfly Project

The Southampton Natural History Society (SNHS) Hoverfly Project is the first recording project conducted by the society resulting in the production of a booklet since the shield-bug survey of 2007 (Southampton Natural History Society, 2007). The survey was launched at an Indoor Meeting held at Edmund Kell Hall, Southampton on 4 March 2013 and was then conducted over the summer/autumn seasons of 2013 and 2014, plus the intervening winter 2013/14. To these records we added local (Southampton area) records of hoverflies (Diptera: family *Syrphidae*) from the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) database as of the end of 2014 and also additional records on the SNHS database up to 30 November 2015. The HBIC database was accessed with the permission of the Hampshire County Council by Philip Budd, Chairman and Recording Officer of SNHS and Hoverfly Recorder for Hampshire.

The rationale for this survey was similar to that of the previous SNHS shield-bug and ladybird surveys (Southampton Natural History Society, 2005 & 2007) in that we were looking to further our knowledge of under-recorded insect groups in the Southampton area and find a subject that might encourage a greater recording effort within the society. Furthermore, it was considered that, as for the ladybirds and the shield-bugs, a reasonable number of species of hoverfly are relatively easy to observe and identify by the non-specialist.

We designed a Recording Form especially for hoverflies and encouraged members to record these insects in their own gardens and to make a note of the date of the records, any nectar sources used, the size of their gardens and proximity to woodland habitat. On the survey form there was opportunity

to record early-season (March to June) records separately from late-season (July to October) records. These recording forms were available from the launch of the survey in March 2013. In addition, some members were able to find the time and enthusiasm to record hoverflies in other locations around the Southampton area. This latter point is important because, unlike in the previous ladybird and shield-bug surveys, it was not possible for sufficient numbers of recorders to find the time to systematically record all of the open spaces in and around Southampton.

In the future there is a possibility that we might set up new recording projects for different insect or invertebrate groups, repeat past surveys, or even work towards a guide summarizing the many SNHS records obtained over the years.

Phil Budd, Southampton Natural History Society, January 2016.

What is a Hoverfly?

A hoverfly is an insect belonging to the order Diptera (the two-winged flies). The presence of three body segments (head, thorax and abdomen) and three pairs of jointed limbs are characteristics of adult insects, the limbs being attached to the thorax region as in all other insects. The Diptera order is one of several insect orders showing complete metamorphosis with regard to their development. That is, they undergo a four-stage life cycle (egg, larva, pupa and adult). In this current survey there was no study of the egg or pupal stages of hoverflies and almost no observation of the larvae.

The Diptera are distinguished from other orders by the two pairs of visible membranous wings in the adult stage. These correspond to the forewings in those insects with two pairs of wings. In the case of the hoverfly the hind wings are reduced

to a pair of balancing organs called *halteres*. Another feature of Diptera is the relatively large compound eyes which cover a significant proportion of the head. In most male hoverflies these two eyes meet along a central suture whereas in the females their inner borders are distinctly separated.

All hoverflies belong to the family *Syrphidae* and all British Diptera in this family are considered to be hoverflies.

Insects that Could be Mistaken for Hoverflies

The presence of one pair of wings and the relatively large eyes covering much of the head should serve to distinguish hoverflies from insects that are not members of the order Diptera. Hoverflies in no way resemble butterflies, typical moths, dragonflies, beetles or Hemiptera, for example. The only British species of non-Diptera that resemble hoverflies are the wasp-like moths of the family *Sessidae*, especially the Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* and those certain Hymenoptera that hoverflies mimic. Examples of the latter include *Apidae* (bees), especially *Bombus* (bumble, carder and cuckoo bees); *Vespidae* (true wasps) and *Sphecidae* (digger wasps). Examples in all these groups superficially resemble the yellow and black or orange and brown species of hoverfly, but all these latter examples have two pairs of wings and a different body plan.

Regarding the differences between hoverflies and other Diptera one almost invariable feature is the characteristic 'false vein' or *vena spuria*. The pnly exception in Hampshire is the small, black hoverfly *Psilota anthracina*, sometimes found at Hawthorn blossom in the New Forest.

Also there are no hoverflies with bright metallic copper, blue, or green colouration. This feature is common in many other Diptera families, such as the soldier flies *Stratiomyidae*.

However, many hoverfly species show this sheen on an otherwise black or very dark background.

Sometimes hoverflies are hairy and covered in fine hairs and/or show coarse bristles on the thorax. However, they never show numerous coarse bristles on the head and abdomen as well, as in the case of blow-flies *Calliphoridae* and parasitic flies *Tachinidae*.

Perhaps the most likely Diptera to be confused with hoverflies are the thick-headed flies *Conopidae*, which are generally yellow and black in colour. However, members of the *Conopidae* do not possess the *vena spuria* and most have longer antennae than the majority of hoverflies and all have abdomens narrowing toward the anterior, unlike most hoverflies.

Identification of Hoverflies

It was decided there should be a departure from the practices of the previous ladybird and shield-bug booklets at this point. Since there are now outstanding hoverfly identification guides available on the market, it would be best to save space and refer the reader of this report to these guides for more information.

The most recently published and most useful is perhaps *Britain's Hoverflies: An Introduction to the Hoverflies of Britain* (Ball & Morris, 2013). In addition, there are other identification guides available, a particularly useful one being *British Hoverflies* (Stubbs & Falk, 2002).

Both of these guides are fully illustrated with very useful keys. Ball & Morris (2013) is particularly well-illustrated and the photographs annotated with useful identification pointers, along with distribution maps and flight time tables.

Marmalade fly
Episyrphus balteatus

Other older hoverfly guides and useful general insect identification guides are also available. The recently published *A Comprehensive Guide to Insects of Britain and Ireland* (Brock, 2014) illustrates about 160 hoverfly species, including most of those that occur in Hampshire.

The SNHS also produced a poster showing the commonest and/or most recognisable hoverfly species, together with brief notes on the reverse.

The Life of the Hoverfly

There is now plenty of further information about hoverflies in the guides named above (see Identification of Hoverflies) and it is always worthwhile searching the Internet. No information about the egg, larval and pupal stages of hoverflies has arisen from this survey.

A Summary of the Findings of the SNHS Hoverfly Project

The SNHS Hoverfly Survey collected 3,037 records of 148 species (58% of the Hampshire total list of 254 species) up to the end of 2014. The records on the Hampshire database extended as far back as 1917.

In terms of coverage, the entire area of Southampton City and Eastleigh Borough were included in the survey, as well as the Test Valley Council area from Hythe to Romsey. In the east the survey area extended to Swanwick Nature Reserve and parts of Fareham Borough, including Holly Hill Park, Warsash area and Warsash Common (see the alphabetical list of sites below).

A number of sites further afield where there are many records, or records of scarcer species, are also mentioned in this booklet, including the New Forest, Botley Wood and Gosport area.

Some useful summaries of the findings of the Southampton hoverfly survey up to the end of 2013 can be obtained from the article by Phil Budd entitled 'Hoverfly Survey Interim Report 2013' on pages 10–12 of the Southampton Natural History Society Annual Report 2013.

References

Ball, S.G. & Morris, R.K.A. (2013), *Britain's Hoverflies — An Introduction to the Hoverflies of Britain*, Princeton University Press, Oxfordshire.

Brock, P.D. (2014), *A Comprehensive Guide to Insects of Britain and Ireland,* Pisces Publications, Newbury.

Falk, S.J. & Stubbs, A.E. (2002), *British Hoverflies — An Illustrated Identification Guide*, The British Entomological and Natural History Society.

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Southampton Natural History Society (2007), *Shieldbugs of Southampton*.

Individual Species Accounts

Key to Symbols

❀ Species particularly likely to be recorded in gardens

☾ Species recorded at light traps

National Status information is adapted from Ball & Morris (2013). All other data is based on observations recorded in the Mapmate records database. The data includes all records up to 30 November 2015 that were available by 29 December 2015. The ranking of the commonest hoverfly species is based on data available up to the end of 2014 only.

Anasimyia contracta
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Frequent in damp habitats, recorded at Lower Test, Itchen Valley and Wyvern Pond, Fair Oak. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 5. No records on flowers for any *Anasimyia* species or any other notes of interest.

***Anasimyia interpuncta* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Scarce but stable. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Miller's Pond LNR (29/04/2006).

Anasimyia lineata
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Frequent in damp habitats, recorded at Lower Test, Itchen Valley and Quob Pond, Fair Oak. There is just one garden record at Mount Pleasant, Northam (05/05/2014). **Season:** May to August. **Number of Records:** 11 — commonest *Anasimyia sp*.

Anasimyia transfuga
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Lower Test (May 1993 & May 1994). **Number of Records:** 2.

Club-tailed Hoverfly *Baccha elongata* ❀
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common in many habitats, especially woodland. **Season:** April to September. **Number of Records:** 24. **Food Sources:** Recorded on Wild Angelica, Bugle and *Euphorbia sp.* (spurge).

Drone-fly
Eristalis tenax

***Brachyopa bicolor* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Scarce but stable. **Local Status:** The only local record is at Hamble Common (04/06/2001). **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on sap on an oak tree.

Brachypalpoides lentus
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Occasionally recorded in woodland areas north and east of Southampton, including Baddesley Common/Emer Bog, Hut Wood and Hoe Moor Woods, Bursledon. There is just one garden record, at Bitterne (06/06/2013). **Season:** May and June. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** A member of the *Xylotini* family and not seen on flowers.

***Callicera aurata* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local but not declining. **Local Status:** Rare with three recent records: Singles at Andrew's (East) Park, Southampton (05/09/2012), Hum Hole, Bitterne (24/06/2013) & Mount Pleasant (01/08/2015). **Food Sources:** Recorded on Bramble, Teasel and cultivated roses.

Chalcosyrphus nemorum
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Occurs frequently in woodland and heathland areas, including Lower Test, Baddesley Common/Emer Bog, Bishops Waltham, Hamble Common and West Wood, Netley. **Season:** June and July. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** A member of the family *Xylotini* and not seen on flowers.

Cheilosia albipila
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Occurs commonly in damp habitats, including Lower Test, Baddesley Common and Hackett's Marsh at Bursledon. There is just one garden record, at Mount Pleasant, Northam (06/05/2013). **Season:** March to May (very much a spring species). **Number of Records:** 8. Food **Sources:** Recorded on *Camelia*.

Cheilosia albitarsis sens. lat.
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common in woodland and grassland habitats. **Season:** April to June. **Number of Records:** 17. **Food Sources:** Commonly seen on buttercups, especially *Ranunculus acris*, *R. repens* and *R. flammula*.

Cheilosia antiqua
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Frequent and recorded in woodland and damp areas, including Hythe, Lower Test, Hackett's Marsh, Bursledon and Holly Hill. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** Seen on flowers of Hemlock Water-dropwort and St John's-wort *Hypericum sp*.

Cheilosia bergenstammi
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common; very common in the larger urban green spaces. **Season:** May to September, but most abundant in August and September. **Number of Records:** 24. **Food Sources:** Recorded on a great variety of flowers especially ragwort, goldenrod, Sea Aster, Common Fleabane and umbellifers such as Wild Angelica, Hogweed and carrot. It has also been seen on Bramble, buttercup species and Dandelion.

Cheilosia fraterna
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Lower Test (July 1992 & April 1993). **Food Sources:** No additional data.

Cheilosia grossa
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Only identified at Hackett's Marsh, Bursledon (1987), but likely to be overlooked. **Food Sources:** No additional data.

Cheilosia illustrata ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and generally common, even in urban areas. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 21 — one of the easiest *Cheilosia* species to identify. **Food Sources:** This species is often recorded on Hogweed and Bramble.

Cheilosia impressa
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Clearly overlooked as there are only two records — West Wood, Netley (01/07/1987) & Marsh Court Lane, near Nursling (29/07/1989).

Cheilosia latifrons
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Occurs in marshy areas in both the Lower Test & Lower Itchen valleys. **Season:** April to July (to September elsewhere). **Number of Records:** 4.

Cheilosia pagana
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common, but not usually seen in urban areas. **Season:** April to September. **Number of Records:** 8.

Cheilosia proxima
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Only a few records, including Marsh Court Lane, Nursling (29/07/1989) and Lower Test Reserve (30/04/1993).

1	*Sphaerophoria scripta* Long Hoverfly
2	*Myathropa florea* Dead Head Fly
3	*Sphaerophoria rueppellii*
4	*Syrphus ribesii* Common Banded Hoverfly
5	*Helophilus hybridus*
6	*Episyrphus balteatus* Marmalade Fly

7	*Eristalis pertinax* Tapered Drone Fly
8	*Episyrphus balteatus* Marmalade Fly
9	*Baccha elongata* Club-tailed Hoverfly
10	*Helophilus pendulus* The Sunfly
11	*Eupeodes latifasciatus*
12	*Platycheirus scutatus*

Dasysyrphus albostriatus ֍
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent. **Season:** April to October. **Number of Records:** 12. **Food Sources:** No records. Often seen sitting on leaves in the sun.

Dasysyrphus pinastri
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Associated with conifer plantations, but under-recorded as the only record is at Hut Wood (12/06/2001). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Dasysyrphus tricinctus
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Uncommon or overlooked, but recorded in wooded areas, including North Baddesley, Hut Wood, Southampton Old Cemetery and Westfield Common at Hamble. **Season:** August and September (surprisingly there are no spring records). **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** Recorded on late summer flowers, such as Common Fleabane and Hawkweed Ox-tongue.

Dasysyrphus venustus ֍
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent. **Season:** March to June, but most common in May. **Number of Records:** 8. **Food Sources:** None recorded**. Other Observations:** A female was observed egg laying on Spear Mint *Mentha spicata* at Bitterne (27/03/2012). No records on flowers.

Didea fasciata
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Scarce and only ever seen singly, but there are three records in urban areas as follows: Lord's Hill Council Estate (22/09/2012), Hollybrook Cemetery (12/05/2013) and Six Dials, Northam (06/10/2014). **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Canadian Goldenrod and Ivy.

Epistrophe diaphana
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Apparently uncommon, but recorded at three locations, namely Itchen Valley Country Park, Frog's Copse Meadow and Hamble Common. **Season:** June and July (an early summer species). **Number of Records:** 4. **Food Sources:** Recorded on umbellifers, such as Hemlock Water-dropwort and Hogweed.

Epistrophe eligans ֍
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Number of Records:** 47. **Season:** April to September, but most abundant in spring (April/May). **Food Sources:** More often seen sitting on leaves in the spring sunshine but recorded on Bulbous Buttercup and Wood Spurge. Later in the year it has been seen on Hemp Agrimony.

Cheilosia scutellata
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Hamble Common (2001), so probably overlooked. **Season:** June and July. **Number of Records:** 4. **Food Sources:** Recorded on Wild Carrot.

Cheilosia variabilis
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Recorded in a wide variety of habitats, but not in urban areas, including at Lower Test, Emer Bog, Stoke Park Wood, Lower Itchen and Hamble Common. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 5 — likely to be overlooked.

Cheilosia vernalis
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Common in damp areas, including salt marshes and urban greenways. Found at Lower Test, Daisy Dip (Bassett), Bitterne Manor Open Space, Lower Itchen and Hatch Grange (West End). **Season:** April to September. **Number of Records:** 8. **Food sources:** Collected on Meadow Buttercup and Sea Aster.

Cheilosia vulpina
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Only one record but difficult to identify. Found at Marsh Court Lane, near Nursling (29/07/1989). **Food Sources:** No additional data.

Chrysogaster cemiteriorum
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 9. **Food sources:** Recorded on buttercup, Hogweed and Wild Carrot.

Chrysogaster solstitialis
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** June to August (later than *C.cemiteriorum*). **Number of Records:** 10. **Food Sources:** Only recorded on umbellifers (Hogweed, Parsley *Petroselinum* and Wild Angelica).

Chrysotoxum bicinctum ❀
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and common - the commonest *Chrysotoxum sp*. **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 21. **Food Sources:** Recorded on a wide variety of flowers, including buttercup species, Common Fleabane, Common Knapweed, heather species, Ox-eye (Moon) Daisy, thistle species, Hogweed and Wild Carrot.

Chrysotoxum cautum
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Recorded in habitats where there is tall grass, including Lower Test, Lord's Wood, Cromarty Pond

area (Lord's Hill), Southampton Old Cemetery and Curbridge Reserve. It has also recorded just outside the area at Dundridge Farm. **Season:** April to June (spring). **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

***Chrysotoxum elegans* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local but stable. **Local Status:** Recorded Cromarty Pond area (Lord's Hill) (09/06/2013), but specimen not caught or examined very closely. Has been recorded elsewhere in south Hampshire in the New Forest, Botley Wood, Portsdown Hill and at Vineyard Hole, East Meon.

Chrysotoxum festivum
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent; the second commonest *Chrysotoxum* species locally. **Season:** May to September. **Number of Records:** 14. **Food Sources:** Recorded on Bramble and Japanese Anemone.

Chrysotoxum verralli
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Seems to be scarcer than *C. festivum* locally, but has been recorded at Lower Test (1992), Hamble Common (2001) and Valley Park, Chandler's Ford (2009). **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** Recorded on Bramble blossom.

Criorhina asilica
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Emer Bog and Baddesley Common (both 17/06/1987), so no doubt very much overlooked.

Criorhina berberina
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent. **Season:** May and June. **Number of Records:** 9 — apparently the commonest *Criorhina* species locally. **Food Sources:** Has been recorded twice on the blossom of Holly.

Criorhina floccosa
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Hoe Moor Woods, Bursledon (27/05/1978), so no doubt very much overlooked and still likely to be present locally.

Criorhina ranunculi
National Status: Frequent and increasing. **Local Status:** No local records for nearly a century. The only record on database is at Chandler's Ford (01/05/1917). Assumed to be very seriously under-recorded!

Club-tailed Hoverfly
Baccha elongata

Epistrophe grossulariae ❁
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common, especially in urban green areas. **Season:** May to September, but probably most common in August. **Number of Records:** 22. **Food Sources:** Usually seen on flowers, including Bramble, Common Fleabane, Hawkweed Ox-tongue, Hemp-agrimony, Hogweed, Hemlock Water-dropwort and Sea Aster. Also one is recorded seen on the blossom of Myrtle *Myrtus communis*.

Epistrophe nitidicollis ❁
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Probably frequent, but very similar to *E .diaphana* and *E. grossulariae* and probably overlooked. The records are as follows: North Baddesley (11/05/1925), Hut Wood (12/06/2001), Shirley (04/05/2014) and Curbridge Reserve (10/05/1987). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Marmalade Fly *Episyrphus balteatus* ❁ ☾ the commonest hoverfly in survey
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and abundant everywhere. **Season:** Recorded every month of the year, but most abundant in July and August when numbers seem to be boosted by migrants. **Number of Records:** 273. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on just about any flower that produces nectar and/or pollen (too many to list). This species was recorded at TAB pheromone (for clearwing moths) at Bitterne (12/07/2011). **Other Observations:** *E .balteatus* was seen swarming over leaves of Cherry Laurel at Holly Hill (21/05/2008) and there is one record at a Malaise Trap and two records at light traps. This hoverfly often shows darker and duller colouration in the winter months.

Eristalinus aeneus
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** This species is probably more common than the number of records suggest. It has been recorded in marshy and coastal areas, including Lower Test, Hackett's Marsh and Hamble Common. **Season:** April to June (a spring species unlike *E. sepulchralis*). **Number of Records:** 6. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Blackthorn blossom.

Eristalinus sepulchralis
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Frequent in similar habitats to *E. aeneus* and recorded in exactly the same locations. **Season:** July and August. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** Recorded on Sea Lavender and likely to be seen on Sea Aster.

Eristalis abusivus ❁
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent. **Season:** May to September, but most common in August and September. **Number of Records:** 14. **Food Sources:** Recorded on *Buddleia*, Hemp-agrimony, ragwort species *Senecio sp.*, Sea Aster, *Sedum spectabile* and Wild Carrot.

Eristalis arbustorum ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** June to September, but most abundant in August and September. **Number of Records:** 44. **Food Sources:** Recorded on a wide range of flowers, including Bramble, *Buddleia*, Canadian Goldenrod, Hogweed, ragwort species, Sallow, Sea Aster, Shasta Daisy, Wild Angelica, Wild Carrot and Yarrow.

Eristalis horticola ❁
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 23. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Bramble, *Buddleia*, Common Ragwort, Hemp-agrimony, Marjoram, Michaelmas Daisy, Sea Aster, Shasta Daisy and Spear Thistle.

Eristalis intricarius
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent; less common in gardens and generally less common than other *Eristalis* species in the Southampton area. **Season:** April to September, but most common in August and September. **Number of Records:** 15. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Bramble, *Buddleia*, Creeping Thistle, ragwort species, Sallow and *Sedum spectabile*.

Eristalis nemorum ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** May to October. **Number of Records:** 35. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Bramble, *Buddleia*, Canadian Goldenrod, Common Ragwort, heather species, Hemp-agrimony, Hogweed, Ivy, Sea Aster, *Senecio* (foreign species) and Wild Carrot.

Eristalis pertinax ❁ **5th commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and abundant, but possibly under-recorded due to confusion with *E. tenax*. **Season:** Recorded in every month of the year. **Number of Records:** 131. **Food Sources:** Recorded on a great variety of flowers in the summer;

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in winter on *Mahonia japonica*; in spring on Bay Laurel, Blackthorn, buttercup species, Cherry Laurel, Lilac and *Pulmonaria* species; in autumn on Japanese Knotweed (note that it is illegal to grow this plant) and Ivy.

Eristalis tenax ❀ **2nd commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status**: Widespread and abundant, but probably not much more common than *E. pertinax*. **Season:** Recorded in every month of the year. **Number of Records:** 185. **Food Sources:** Recorded on the same vast range of flowers as *E. pertinax*, but also on Common Gorse, *Mahonia japonica* and winter flowering heathers in the winter months. **Other Observations:** One was attracted to a large, yellow plastic box being used for laundry in a Bitterne garden (16/02/2014), recorded swarming in large numbers at a bed of Bracken at Catland Copse, Botley (17/04/2013) and two seen feeding on honeydew at Mount Pleasant (08/02/2015).

Eumerus funeralis ❀
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent but under-recorded. **Season:** April to July. **Number of Records:** 6. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Bramble blossom.

Eumerus ornatus
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** The only records are for Lower Test Reserve (1992). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Eumerus strigatus
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Recorded at Marsh Court Lane, Nursling (29/07/1989), Lower Test Reserve (1992) and at Westfield Common, Hamble (29/06/2006). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Eupeodes corollae ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** March to October. **Number of Records:** 40. **Food Sources:** Recorded on several species of flower, including Hogweed and Sea Lavender plus a number of garden species of Campanula, *Euphorbia, Lobularia* and *Pieris*. This species was also recorded at VES pheromone (for clearwing moths) at Bitterne (12/07/2011). **Other Observations:** There are records of this species at both Malaise and light traps.

Eupeodes latifasciatus ❀
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent, seems to be relatively more frequent in gardens compared to elsewhere. **Season:** March to October, but distinctly more abundant in August and September. **Number of Records:** 17. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on several late summer and autumn flowers, including

Devil's-bit Scabious, Ivy and Russian Vine. Earlier in summer it has also been recorded on *Abelia* and fennel. **Other Observations:** Another species that has been recorded in numbers at Malaise Traps.

Eupeodes luniger ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** Recorded every month of the year except for January. **Number of Records:** 63. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on a wide variety of garden and wild flowers; in the autumn and winter, respectively, it favours Ivy (including foreign species) and *Mahonia japonica*. Other species on which this hoverfly have been recorded include *Cistus* species, Common Sorrel, *Hebe*, Lesser Hawkbit, *Potentilla* and Rosemary. **Other Observations:** One was seen flying around a nest of Ivy Bee *Colletes hederae* at Bitterne Bypass (05/11/2012). **Larval Record:** One larval record for this species at Bishopstoke (27/05/2012).

Ferdinandea cuprea ❀
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent, but usually only seen as single individuals. **Season:** May to October. **Number of Records:** 12. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Dandelion and Devil's-bit Scabious. There is also a record of this species feeding on oozing oak sap at Hamble Common (13/06/2001).

Helophilus hybridus
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent; most frequent in damp habitats and not common in gardens. **Season:** May to September. **Number of Records:** 24. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on a wide variety of flowers, but later in the summer it favours Hemp-agrimony, Sea Aster and Water Mint. Also recorded on *Buddleia*, *Calamintha* species, Common Ragwort, Field Bindweed, Field Scabious and Water Avens. **Other Observations:** One was seen attracted to puddles of water at Lord's Hill Recreation Ground (08/06/2013).

Helophilus pendulus ❀ **3rd commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** April to October. **Number of Records:** 181. **Food Sources:** Recorded on a vast range of flowers and does favour Ivy in the autumn months. Some of the more unusual food sources this species has been observed on include aquatic plants such as Bog Bean, Purple Loosestrife and even Water Hyacinth. This species was also seen on Rowan blossom in 2015. **Other Observations:** One was seen attracted to puddles of water at Lord's Hill Recreation Ground (08/06/2013) as for *H. hybridus*.

Helophilus trivittatus ֍
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and common, especially near the coast. The records suggest this species is increasing in numbers. **Season:** May to September but most common in August and September. **Number of Records:** 27. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on a wide variety of flowers but later in the summer it favours Canadian Goldenrod, Marjoram, Sea Aster and *Sedum spectabile*. It has also been recorded on *Buddleia*, Common Ragwort, Hemlock Water-dropwort, Knapweed and Ox-eye Daisy.

Heringia vitripennis
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** The only record is for Lower Test Reserve (1993) and so likely to be under-recorded. This species is associated with Bramble scrub (Ball & Morris, 2013).

Lejogaster metallina
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** A hoverfly of damp places and recorded at Lower Test, Lower Itchen, Moorgreen Meadows, Wildern Nature Park (Hedge End) and at Hackett's Marsh. **Season:** April to June, but mostly seen in May (*L. tarsata* (below) flies later, in June and July). **Number of Records:** 10. **Food Sources:** Only recorded on *Ranunculus* species, including Creeping Buttercup, Lesser Spearwort and Meadow Buttercup.

Lejogaster tarsata
National Status: Local and stable. **Local Status:** Another marshland species; our only record is at Hackett's Marsh, Bursledon (18/06/1987).

Leucozona glaucia
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** This is the rarest *Leucozona* species in our area and curiously only recorded in western locations, including Lower Test Reserve, Baddesley Common and once in a North Baddesley garden. **Season:** Mostly recorded in August, but possible any time from May to September. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Leucozona laternaria
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in wooded areas, but generally in small numbers. **Season:** June to August. **Number of Records:** 10. **Food Sources:** This species particularly favours the blooms of Hogweed, but has also been seen on Bramble flowers.

Vagrant Hoverfly
Eupeodes corollae

Leucozona lucorum
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common in and near woodland. **Season:** April to August, but most frequent in May. **Number of Records:** 20. **Food Sources:** This species is often seen away from flowers, but has been recorded on Hemlock Water-dropwort.

Melangyna cincta
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Our only record is at Lower Test Reserve (1992) and probably genuinely scarce in our area.

Melangyna labiatarum
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Scarce in our area and only one record at Mansbridge Marsh (10/08/2012). **Food Sources:** Has been recorded on the blooms of Wild Carrot.

Melangyna lasiophthalma
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Despite being fairly common elsewhere (New Forest, Flexford Reserve, Botley Wood etc.), in our area it has only been recorded in a garden at Thornhill Park (20/02/2014). **Season:** Late February to June. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Melangyna umbellatarum
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Surprisingly only a few records in our area, including Lower Test Reserve (1992) and Holly Hill (27/05/2008 & 24/04/2012). **Season:** April to September. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Hemlock Water-dropwort.

Melanogaster hirtella
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** This species is associated with damp habitats and has been recorded at Lower Test, Emer Bog, Lower Itchen, Hackett's Marsh and Hamble Common. **Season:** May and June. **Number of Records:** 12. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Hemlock Water-dropwort and White Campion.

Melanostoma mellinum ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** March to September, but most frequent in April and May. **Number of Records:** 34. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on a number of spring flowers, including buttercup species, Dandelion, forget-me-not species and even at Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*. Later in the year it has been seen on Ivy and Sweetbriar Rose. **Other Observations:** Recorded regularly at both light traps and Malaise Traps. Often killed by the parasitic fungus *Entomophaga muscae* (Ball & Morris, 2013), but there are no Southampton records of this.

Melanostoma scalare ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** March to October. **Number of Records:** 57. **Food Sources:** Recorded on the same range of flower species as *M. mellinum* but also on many additional species, including Chamomile, Coriander and Sanicle *Sanicula*. **Other Observations:** Recorded at light traps and often seen flying among nettles. Frequently killed by the parasitic fungus *Entomophaga muscae* (Ball & Morris, 2013) and when this happens the corpses are often seen stuck to the flower heads of grasses, for example on *Festuca gigantea* at Holly Hill Park (01/08/2012).

Meligramma trianguliferum ❀
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Four garden records, including at Valley Park (09/05/2008) and at Hythe (03/05/2013). **Season:** April to July, but most common in May. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Meliscaeva auricollis ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent, with most of the records in gardens. **Season:** Recorded from February to October but possible in any month of the year. **Number of Records:** 10. **Food Sources:** Recorded on *Mahonia* species early in the year and also at *Hypericum sp.* **Other Observations:** Attracted to 125 Watt moth light over a white sheet at Bitterne (03/08/2012) and also two on aphid honeydew at Mount Pleasant (08/02/2015).

Meliscaeva cinctella ❀
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent. **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 9. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on Canadian Goldenrod, *Myrtus communis* and Wild Angelica.

Great Bulb Fly (= Narcissus Fly) *Merodon equestris* ❀ **9th commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** April to July, but most abundant in May and June. **Number of Records:** 66. **Food Sources:** More often seen flying low over the ground near bulbous flowering plants, but it has been recorded feeding on early *Buddleia*, *Cistus*, Dandelion and Spear Thistle.

Myathropa florea ❀ **4th commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** One of the latest of the very common hoverflies to appear — May to October**. Number of Records:** 149. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on a great range of wild and garden flowers and sometimes called

Tapered Drone-fly
Eristalis pertinax

National Status: Widespread and increasing

Local Status: Widespread and abundant, but possibly under-recorded due to confusion with *E. tenax*. Season: Recorded in every month of the year. Number of Records: 123.

Food Sources: Recorded on a great variety of flowers in the summer; in winter on *Mahonia japonica*; in spring on Bay Laurel, Blackthorn, buttercup species, Lilac and *Pulmonaria* species; in autumn on Japanese Knotweed and Ivy.

The Sunfly
Helophilus pendulus

the 'Flower Fly' (this is the US name for hoverflies generally). Some of the more unusual recorded food sources for this species include *Cistus*, *Kolkwitzia* and the shrub *Symphoricarpus*. Also often seen on Ivy in the autumn and recorded feeding on aphid honeydew at Bitterne Allotments (17/06/2014).

***Myolepta dubia* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local and stable. **Local Status:** A woodland hoverfly; our only record is at Holly Hill Woodland Park (27/05/2008). **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Hemlock Water-dropwort.

Neoascia geniculata
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** An overlooked species; our only record is at Lower Test (1991). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Neoascia meticulosa
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Recorded in damp habitats, including Lower Test, Emer Bog, Lower Itchen, Hackett's Marsh and Hamble Common. **Season:** April to June. **Number of Records:** 14. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Neoascia obliqua
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Only three local records, all at Lower Test Reserve (1992, including 21/05/1992). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Neoascia podagrica ❀
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent, including some garden records. **Season:** April to September. **Number of Records:** 16. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on buttercup flowers.

Neoascia tenur
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common in damp or wet habitats. **Season:** April to August, but most common in May. **Number of Records:** 19. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on flowers, but there are no further details.

Orthonevra brevicornis
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** In our area only recorded at Lower Test Reserve (20/07/1992 & 12/05/1994). **Food Sources:** Not recorded locally for any *Orthonevra* species.

28 Dasysyrphus venustus
29 Chrysotoxum verralli
30 Dasysyrphus tricinctus
31 Criorhina asilica
32 Chrysotoxum cautum
33 Epistrophe grossulariae

34 Cheloisia illustrata

35 Chrysogaster solstitialis

36 Scaeva selenitica

37 Volucella inflata

Orthonevra geniculata
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** Only recorded at Baddesley Common (20/04/1987) and Emer Bog (20/04/1987 & 17/04/1999).

Orthonevra nobilis
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Recorded at Hackett's Marsh (1987), Lower Test Reserve (1992) and recently at Valley Gardens, Southampton University (14/06/2014).

Paragus haemorrhous
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Recorded in four locations, Lower Test Reserve, Hut Wood, Westfield Common (Hamble) and Hamble Common. **Season:** May to September. **Number of Records:** 6. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Parasyrphus annulatus
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** There is only one record for this species, at Hut Wood, Chilworth (12/06/2001).

Parasyrphus punctulatus ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** There are two garden records for this species at Bitterne (05/05/2013) and at Shirley (16/03/2014). It has also been recorded at Lower Test Reserve and at Hackett's Marsh, Bursledon. **Season:** April to July. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Parhelophilus frutetorum
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in damp areas. **Season**: All our records are in May and June. **Number of Records:** 10. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Parhelophilus versicolor
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in damp areas. **Season:** May to August. **Number of Records:** 9. **Food Sources:** This is species has been recorded as feeding on umbellifers.

Pipiza austriaca
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** *Pipiza* species are easily overlooked and not particularly easy to identify, so records of them are generally few and far between. Our only record for this species is at West Wood, Netley (01/07/1987).

Pipiza fenestrata
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** The only confirmed record for this species was in a garden in Bitterne (27/06/2013).

***Pipiza lugubris* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** This scarce species was recorded at Lower Test (1992).

Pipiza luteitarsis
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** This species was found at Lower Test (1992) and as for *P. lugubris* this is the only local record.

Pipiza noctiluca
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** This is the commonest (or at least most easily recognised) *Pipiza* species locally and is widespread and frequent in damp areas. **Season:** April to July. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** Female individuals have been recorded feeding on *Cornus* and Dandelion.

Pipizella viduata ❀
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent, including in gardens. **Season:** April to August. **Number of Records:** 9. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Pipizella virens
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** Local records for this species include Lower Test Reserve (05/071992), Hythe Spartina Marsh (15/06/1996), and Hatch Grange Meadow at West End (08/06/2009). **Season:** April to August but most common in June. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus albimanus ❀ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common, this is the commonest *Platycheiris* species locally. **Season:** March to November, but most abundant in April and May. **Number of Records:** 56. **Food Sources:** Recorded feeding on several species of flower, including Ivy late in the year and *Camelia* in the winter. Some of the more unusual recorded food sources include Forget-me-not, Hedge Bindweed, Lesser Celandine and Ramsons. **Other Observations:** One of the most frequent hoverfly species at moth light traps.

Platycheirus ambiguus
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Our only local record for this species was Hackett's Marsh (1987).

Platycheirus angustatus
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** This species occurs in damp habitats and was recorded at Lower Test Reserve (1992), near

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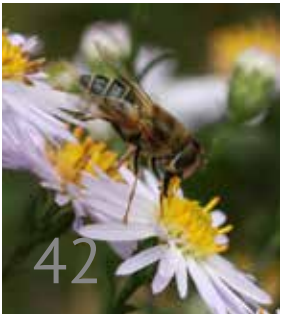
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Mansbridge (12/08/1988), and at Hackett's Marsh (1987). There was one new record of a male at North Pond, Bishops Waltham on 11/08/2015, which was infested with parasitic red mites. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus clypeatus ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common, often seen in gardens. **Season:** May to August, but most common in July. **Number of Records:** 21. **Food Sources:** There are two feeding records, on Dandelion and on the garden evergreen shrub *Escallonia*.

Platycheirus fulviventris
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** Frequent in damp areas in the river valleys, including Lower Test, Lower Itchen and the Hamble valley below the M27 Bridge. **Season:** April to August. **Number of Records:** 11. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus granditarsus
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in damp areas. This is an easy species to recognise. **Season:** May to September. **Number of Records:** 16. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on various wild plants that grow in marshy places and meadows, including various species of buttercup and also Spear Mint and Tormentil.

Platycheirus immarginatus **Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** This scarce species now occurs in at least two localities, Hackett's Marsh (18/06/1987) and Lower Test Reserve (1992). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus manicatus
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** This species has been recorded in the same locations as *P. immarginatus*, namely Hackett's Marsh (18/06/1987) and Lower Test Reserve (1992). **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus occultus
National Status: Frequent (trend unknown). **Local Status:** There is only one local record for this species, at Itchen Valley Country Park (13/07/1990).

Platycheirus peltatus
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in damp areas. **Season:** May to August. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on buttercups.

Platycheirus rosarum
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and frequent in damp areas. This is an easy species to recognise. **Season:** May to September, but mainly June to August**. Number of Records:** 16. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Platycheirus scutatus sensu lat. ❁
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common. **Season:** April to September, but most common in May. **Number of Records:** 17. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on various garden plants, including Honesty, Moss Campion and Spear Mint.

Platycheirus splendidus
National Status: Local (trend unknown). **Local Status:** This species has only been recorded at Baddesley Common and Emer Bog (both 17/06/1987).

Portevinia maculata
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** There are only two known localities for this species, the woodland area of Itchen Valley Country Park (15/05/1989), and Marlhill Copse near Mansbridge (26/05/2013) where it occurs in quantity. This species was searched for without success at Home Covert, Nursling in 2014, despite the abundance of Ramsons here. **Season:** Spring. **Food Sources:** This species is a specialist of Ramsons (Broad-leaved Garlic) *Allium ursinum,* the adults have been observed feeding in large numbers (10 seen in one area) at Marlhill Copse and the larvae feed on the bulbs.

Cowpat Hoverfly *Rhingia campestris* ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** April to October, but most frequent in late April and May. **Number of Records:** 37. **Food Sources:** There are records of this species feeding on Bluebell, Coralroot Bittercress *Cardamine bulbifera* and Herb Robert in the spring and at Ivy and Spear Mint later in the year.

Rhingia rostrata
National Status: Frequent and increasing. **Local Status:** Possibly overlooked and easy to confuse with *R. campestris* but thought to be more common in woodland areas than records suggest. There are several records from Holly Hill (2012) and also from a garden at Hythe (16/06/2013). It has been suggested that the larvae feed on Badger faeces (Falk & Stubbs, 2002), although it is possible that dog faeces may also be a larval food source! **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** There are records of this species feeding on Bramble, burdock *Arctium sp* and Japanese Privet.

Riponnensia splendens ❀
National Status: Widespread but decreasing. **Local Status:** A species associated with damp areas in river valleys, including Valley Park, Itchen Valley Country Park, Hackett's Marsh, Hamble Common and Holly Hill. There are garden records at Mount Pleasant, Northam (29/06/2014 & 17/08/2014). **Season:** June to August. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on *Cornus* and Hemlock Water-dropwort.

Swarming Hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastri* ❀
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. Some individuals are migrants. **Season:** Recorded every month except for December, but most frequently in July and August. **Number of Records:** 42. **Food Sources:** Surprisingly unusually seen on flowers but recorded on Common Ragwort, Hogweed and Ivy. This species has also been seen on garden plants such as *Hyssop* and certain species of poppy.

Scaeva selenitica ❀ ☾
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** This species is a migrant and could turn up virtually anywhere. There are garden records at Hythe (29/07/2013) and Shirley (18/08/2013 & 06/10/2013). Also recorded at Redbridge Rugby Club (13/08/2013), Lord's Wood (11/04/2010 & 26/06/2012) and near Mansbridge (22/08/2013). **Season:** April to October. **Number of Records:** 9. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded on a few species of flower, including *Agapanthus*, Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, Common Ragwort and Ivy. **Other Observations:** One was seen at a light trap for moths at the Tadburn Stream valley in Romsey (07/08/2009).

Sericomyia silentis
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and common, but not very often seen in gardens. **Season:** June to October, but most abundant in August and September. **Number of Records:** 48. **Food Sources:** This species finds Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* utterly irresistible and can often be seen on this plant in double-figure numbers. It can also be seen on other late-season flowers, such as Bell Heather, Common Heather (Ling), Ivy, Knapweed and Ragwort. Earlier in the season it has also been recorded feeding on Creeping Thistle, *Escallonia*, Field Bindweed, Hemlock Water-dropwort and *Hypericum* species.

Compost Hoverfly
Syritta pipiens

Sphaerophoria batava
National Status: Local and stable. **Local Status:** *Sphaerophoria* species are often difficult to identify, so records of most species are few and far between. *S .batava* is a case in point, with just the one record of this overlooked species at Donkey Common, Bitterne (22/05/2013).

Sphaerophoria interrupta ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Another overlooked species. There are five records at Itchen Valley Country Park (14/09/1992), Hackett's Marsh (1987), Cricklemede Meadow at Bishops Waltham (12/08/2015) and in gardens at Mount Pleasant, Northam (26/08/2013) and at Thornhill Park (13/06/2013). **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Fennel and *Lobularia maritima*.

Sphaerophoria rueppellii ❁
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** This species seems to be one of the commoner *Sphaerophoria* species. It has been recorded at Lower Test, Shirley (in a garden), Mount Pleasant, Northam (in a garden) and at Hamble Common. **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 15. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on *Aster*, Fennel and *Hebe*.

Sphaerophoria scripta ❁ ☾
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. Certainly the most common *Sphaerophoria* species locally. It is worth noting that for most *Sphaerophoria* species the records are of males as the females are virtually impossible to identify. **Season:** April to October. **Number of Records:** 54. **Food Sources:** Another species that feeds on a great variety of flowers through the season, including Blackthorn and buttercup species in the spring and particularly composite flowers, such as ragworts and thistles, plus various umbellifers in the summer. **Other Observations:** One of the most frequent hoverflies at light traps and also recorded at Malaise Traps. There was an observation of predation of this species by a 'crab spider' (most likely the species *Misumena vatia*) at Chandler's Ford (13/07/2008).

Sphaerophoria taeniata
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** This species appears to be associated with damp habitats and occurs at Lower Test, Emer Bog, Baddesley Common and Lower Itchen. **Season:** June to August. **Number of Records:** 8. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Sphegina clunipes
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** This woodland species has been recorded in two areas, Lower Test Reserve (1991 & 1992) and at West Wood, Netley (01/07/1987). **Season:** Late April to early July. **Number of Records:** 4. **Food Sources:** Not recorded.

Sphegina elegans
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** As for *S. clunipes* this species is likely to be overlooked, but it has been recorded at Baddesley Common, Emer Bog, and West Wood at Netley. It has also been seen at Holly Hill and just outside our area at Curbridge Reserve. **Season:** May to July. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** This species favours the blooms of the late spring woodland flower Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*.

Compost Hoverfly *Syritta pipiens* ❁ 8th commonest hoverfly in survey
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common, especially around garden compost bins. **Season:** May to October. **Number of Records:** 66. **Food Sources:** This is another species of hoverfly that seems to feed on just about any flower that is a useful nectar source. Bramble, Common Fleabane, composite flowers (daisy family), Hemp-agrimony, Marjoram, mint species, Meadowsweet and various umbellifers, including Wild Parsnip, are favoured. *Euphorbia* (spurge) species and *Myrtus communis* have also been recorded as nectar sources. **Other Observations:** Two males were observed in confrontation at Mount Pleasant, Northam (29/06/2014).

***Syrphus ribesii* ❁ 10th commonest hoverfly in survey**
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common, but easily confused with *S. vitripennis.* **Season:** April to December. **Number of Records:** 65. **Food Sources:** This species takes advantage of whatever seasonal food sources are available from buttercup species and Common Gorse in the spring to Bramble, Fennel, Hemlock Water-dropwort and *Hypericum* in the summer and then, later in the year, Devil's-bit Scabious, Fleabane, Hawkweed Ox-tongue, Ivy and Sea Aster.

***Syrphus torvus* ❁**
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** This species is not particularly easy to identify, as the crucial feature of the hairy eyes requires close examination. However, there are a few records. These include Emer Bog and Baddesley Common (both 17/06/1987), Lord's Wood (08/04/2010 and 16/06/2015), Southampton Common (10/04/2015), West End (20/04/2013)

57	*Xylota sylvarum*
58	*Sphaerophoria sp*
59	*Chrysotoxum bicinctum*
60	*Eristalis abusivus*
61	*Eristalinus sepulchralis*
62	*Eristalis nemorum*
63	*Eristalis horticola*

64 *Tropidia scita*
65 *Volucella bombylans*
66 *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*
67 *Xylota segnis*
68 *Melangyna lasiophthalma*

and in a garden at Mount Pleasant, Northam (06/05/2013). **Season:** April to June. **Number of Records:** 5. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on flowers of the shrub *Berberis* and Cherry Laurel.

Syrphus vitripennis ❁ ☾
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common, but easily confused with *S. ribesii*. **Season:** April to November. **Number of Records:** 46. **Food Sources:** This species has been seen feeding on a similar range of flowers to *S. ribesii*, but also it has been seen at *Anemone japonica* and *Senecio* species in gardens. In spring it has been recorded feeding on Ground-elder and at plants with tubular flowers such as Forget-me-not, Green Alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* and *Symphytum sp.* (Comfrey).

Trichopsomyia flavitarsis
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** There are three records for this species at Lower Test Reserve (1992), but and just one at Mount Pleasant (2015) since then.

Triglyphus primus **Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local and stable. **Local Status:** This scarce species has only been recorded at Marsh Court Lane, Nursling (29/07/1989).

Tropidia scita
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** We have one garden record of this species at Hythe (06/06/2013). It has also been recorded at Lower Test Reserve, Lower Itchen, Hackett's Marsh and at Holly Hill. **Number of Records:** 7. **Food Sources:** This species has been recorded feeding on Rosemary flowers.

Volucella bombylans ❁ ☾
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** April to July, but most abundant in May and June. **Number of Records:** 49. **Food Sources:** This species has only been recorded on a limited range of flowers, which include Bramble, *Buddleia*, Creeping Thistle, Red Campion, Spear Thistle, Thrift and Wild Parsnip. **Other Observations:** Although *Volucella* species tend to be diurnal, one specimen of *V. bombylans* was recorded at a Mercury Vapour moth light in the Lower Itchen Valley (08/06/2009).

Volucella inanis ❁
National Status: Frequent and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** July to September, but most abundant in August. **Number of Records:** 60. **Food Sources:** This species particularly favours Bramble, *Buddleia*, Hemp-agrimony, mint species and thistle species as food

sources. It has also been recorded on *Allium* (garden varieties), *Choisya*, *Escallonia* and *Hebe* in gardens, plus other wild plants, such as Common Fleabane, Marjoram and Yarrow.

Volucella inflata
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** A woodland species and much the rarest *Volucella* locally. Our records are Lord's Wood (17/07/2010, 06/09/2010 & 06/08/2011), Southampton Common near the university (14/06/2014), Milkmead Copse in the Itchen Valley (09/06/2014) and Hamble Common (22/06/2001). **Number of Records:** 6. **Food Sources:** There are no records of this species feeding on flowers, but one was seen flying around oak sap and obviously attracted to it at Hamble Common.

Pellucid Hoverfly *Volucella pellucens* ❁ 6th commonest hoverfly in survey
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** May to October. **Number of Records:** 116. **Food Sources:** This species feeds on a great variety of flowers, but like other *Volucella* species it favours Bramble, *Buddleia*, Hemp-agrimony, Marjoram, mint species and thistle species as food sources. *V. pellucens* also particularly likes Hemlock Water-dropwort and Hogweed blossom among other umbellifers. Some of the more unusual nectar sources recorded include dandelion, *Escallonia*, Japanese Knotweed, *Pyracantha*, Sweet Chestnut and *Symphoricarpus albus* (Snowberry).

Hornet Hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* ❁ 7th commonest hoverfly in survey
National Status: Frequent and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common, especially in urban areas. **Season:** June to October, but most abundant in July and August. **Number of Records:** 91. **Food Sources:** This striking hoverfly is most often seen feeding on *Buddleia*, especially *B. davidii*. Among other common food sources are Bramble, goldenrod species, heather species, Hemp-agrimony, Hogweed, Ivy, Marjoram and *Symphoricarpos* species. More unusual nectar sources for this hoverfly include *Escallonia, Fuchsia*, *Hebe*, Japanese Knotweed and privet *Ligustrum sp.*

Xanthogramma citrofasciatum
National Status: Frequent and stable. **Local Status:** This seems to be a scarce hoverfly in our area, as it should be easy to recognise. Our only records are at Hackett's Marsh (1987) and at Hamble Common (31/05/2001).

Xanthogramma pedissequum ❁
National Status: Widespread and increasing. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** May to September, but most common in July. **Number of Records:** 53. **Food Sources:** There are no records of this species

Some hoverflies just don't reveal enough for easy identification.
Visit sotonnhs.org to make your suggestion what this hoverfly might be.

on flowers. **Other Observations:** This species can often be seen flying low among nettles and has been recorded as particularly liking to sit on Lilac leaves.

***Xylota abiens* Nationally Scarce**
National Status: Local but declining. **Local Status:** The only local records for this scarce species are at Emer Bog and Baddesley Common (both 17/06/1987) and at West Wood, Netley (01/07/1987).

Xylota florum
National Status: Frequent but declining. **Local Status:** A scarce species and our only local record is at West Wood, Netley (01/07/1987). There are no records since 1987 for either *X. abiens* or *X. florum*.

Xylota segnis ❁
National Status: Widespread and stable. **Local Status:** Widespread and very common. **Season:** April to October. **Number of Records:** 54. **Food Sources:** This species is most often seen sitting on leaves in the sunshine, but it has been seen feeding on aphid honeydew on a lime *Tilia sp* leaf at Hum Hole, Bitterne (23/06/2014). This species can also be seen very occasionally feeding on flowers, including on *Cornus sp* at Hedge End (04/06/2001). Elsewhere in Hampshire it has been recorded on Common Fleabane, Hawthorn and Hemlock Water-dropwort. **Other Observations:** This species was observed emerging from a compost bin at Bishops Waltham on 28/07/2015.

Xylota sylvarum ❁
National Status: Widespread but declining. **Local Status:** Widespread and common in wooded areas, but rare in gardens. **Season:** June to September. **Number of Records:** 17. **Food Sources:** Generally seen sitting on leaves where it is likely to be feeding on aphid honeydew.

Some Other Hoverfly Species that Might Occur in the Southampton Area

Arctophila superbiens: Currently there are no records for this species on the Hampshire database, but it is possible that it has been seen in the New Forest. This brown bumble-bee mimic is associated with moorland, heath and open woodland in northern and western parts of the UK. It flies mainly in August to October and is most likely to be found feeding on the Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

Brachyopa scutellaris: Recorded at a light trap (for moths) at Sky's Wood, Valley Park (03/06/2010) and widespread in Hampshire, so likely to occur in the Southampton area.

Cheilosia lasiopa: One of several additional species of *Cheilosia* recognised in well-surveyed areas, such as the Botley Wood complex. This particular species was found at Trodd's Copse, Ampfield (1988) and Swanwick NR (2003). However, like many *Cheilosia* species, this species requires microscopic identification.

Cheilosia ranunculi: This species is extremely similar to *C .albitarsus* and is included in the records for *C.albitarsus sensu lat.* There is a specific *C. ranunculi* database record for Swanwick NR (2001).

Cheilosia soror: This common *Cheilosia* species is very frequent in the chalky areas of central Hampshire. The closest local record is again at Swanwick NR (2003).

Chrysogaster viridis: A frequent and widespread species in the New Forest and in the Botley Wood area. It is likely to be overlooked in the wooded areas around Southampton.

Epistrophe melanostoma: This species is extremely similar to *E. grossulariae* and is likely to have been overlooked. It was recorded at Botley Wood (2009) by a very reliable recorder.

Eriozona syrphoides: There are currently three Hampshire records for this elusive species on the Hampshire database, but none within 20 km of Southampton. It is most likely to occur somewhere in the coniferous plantations north of the city, perhaps at Lord's Wood, Rownhams Wood or Hut Wood.

Eupeodes nitens: A species of hoverfly that is a little tricky, but not difficult, to identify. It has been seen regularly in Botley Wood and parts of the New Forest and is associated with coniferous plantations.

Ferdinandea ruficornis: Another species that was found just outside of Southampton, again at Swanwick NR (2003).

Microdon analis & M.myrmicae: The larvae of these two species of hoverfly are associated with ant nests, black ants *Lasius sp* and red ants *Myrmica sp*, respectively. They are both associated with heathland or similar habitats and could occur at places like Baddesley Common, Netley Common or Hamble Common.

Parasyrphus malinellus: This species is very likely to occur in the Southampton area, as there are records for the New Forest and also at Warsash Common (2013).

Platycheirus tarsalis: A fairly common species of *Platycheiris*, but very similar to *P. mailinellus* so likely to be overlooked. The nearest site is Swanwick NR (2002).

Sericomyia lappona: A very easy species to recognise and often seen on flowers, but it seems to avoid built-up areas. This species is common in the New Forest and surely likely to occur in the Emer Bog or Baddesley Common area.

Xanthandrus comtus: This species is probably a migrant and is most often seen in late summer or autumn. This is certainly a species to look out for on Ivy blossom. The closest records are at Fletchwood Meadows, Ashurst (1989) and at Swanwick NR (2002). It has also recorded in urban Gosport, at Anns Hill Cemetery (2006).

Glossary of Terms

Abdomen: One of the three body segments of a hoverfly. It is the largest part and furthest towards the rear. Most of the internal organs lie within it.

Greenways: Strips or patches of more or less semi-natural habitat within urban areas that usually contain woodland, scrub, marshland, water bodies or grassland. In Southampton many greenways follow the stream valleys such as Tanner's Brook or Monk's Brook.

Honeydew: This is the sugar-rich excretory deposit of certain insects especially those of the order Homoptera, such as aphids/greenfly.

Larva: This is the feeding stage of the hoverfly that emerges from the egg and then goes on to develop into the pupa from which the adult emerges.

Light Trap: This is a type of harmless trap where a light, usually one emitting ordinary light and soft ultra-violet, attracts insects especially used for moth observation. However, many insects that fly at night, including some hoverfly species, can be attracted as well.

Malaise Trap: A large, sophisticated trap that is generally used to attract flies Diptera, including hoverflies. These traps are generally fatal for the captured insect, but these can then be preserved as voucher specimens for later identification.

Moth Light: This is the same thing as defined under 'Light Trap'. Lights to attract moths often attract hoverflies in warm conditions in the summer. There are several types of moth light, including Actinic and Mercury-vapour.

Pheromone: These are chemicals that are emitted by female insects to attracted the males. They can be extracted or

manufactured, then used in lures to observe certain species more easily. Pheromones are often species-specific and frequently used to observe clearwing moths of the family *Sessidae*. However, they are known to attract certain hoverflies.

Pupa: The third life-cycle stage in the hoverfly between the larva and the adult insect.

Species: The word used to describe all individual of a living organism that have constant anatomical and genetic features and which can interbreed. Sometimes species are difficult to define and in this instance the terms *sensu lat* and *sensu stricto*., can be defined as a group of very closely related species and the typical species within such a grouping, respectively. The word *Taxon* is sometimes used to define different types that may or may not be separate species.

Thorax: The middle major segment of the body of a hoverfly. The thorax lies between the head and the abdomen and to it are attached the wings and the legs.

Umbellifer: A member of the plant family *Apiaceae* with flowers in the form of a structure called an umbel. Examples of plants in this family include Cow Parsley, Hemlock Water-dropwort, Hogweed, Wild Angelica and Wild Carrot.

An Alphabetical List of Sites Mentioned in this Guide

Site	OS Grid Reference
Andrew's (= East) Park, Southampton	SU421122
Baddesley Common	SU3921
Bitterne Bypass	SU451131
Bitterne Manor Open Space	SU433133
Catland Copse, Botley	SU4910
Cromarty Pond area, Lord's Hill	SU380163
Curbridge Reserve	SU5111/SU5211
Daisy Dip, Bassett	SU4215/SU4315
Donkey Common, Bitterne	SU461124
Emer Bog	SU3921
Fletchwood Meadows	SU3310
Frog's Copse Meadow	SU447147
Hackett's Marsh, Bursledon	SU489091
Hamble Common	SU4706/SU4806
Hatch Grange, West End	SU4614
Hatch Grange Meadow, West End	SU465148
Hoe Moor Woods, Bursledon	SU4910
Holly Hill (Woodland Park)	SU4907/SU4908/ SU5008
Hollybrook Cemetery	SU4014/SU4015
Home Covert, Nursling	SU3716
Hum Hole, Bitterne	SU449131
Hut Wood, Eastleigh	SU4218
Hythe Spartina Marsh	SU433073
Itchen Valley (Country Park)	SU4515/SU4516/ SU4617
Lord's Hill Estate, Southampton	SU382159
Lord's Hill Recreation Ground	SU3715/SU3815
Lord's Wood	SU3916/SU4016/ SU4017
Lower Itchen (valley)	SU4515/SU4516/ SU4617
Lower Test/Lower Test Reserve	SU3613/SU3614/ SU3615

Mansbridge Marsh	SU442154
Marlhill Copse, near Mansbridge	SU450154
Marsh Court Lane, near Nursling	SU356339
Milkmead Copse, Itchen	SU470165
Miller's Pond LNR, Sholing Valley	SU45010
Moorgreen Meadows	SU485147
Mount Pleasant	SU4213
Near Mansbridge	SU447156
Netley Common	SU4711
Quob Pond, Fair Oak	SU490180
Redbridge Rugby Club	SU372145
Rownhams Wood	SU3918
Six Dials, Southampton	SU424122
Sky's Wood, Valley Park	SU415211
Southampton Common	SU4113/SU4114/ SU4115
Southampton Old Cemetery	SU413137
Stoke Park Wood, Bishopstoke	SU4719/SU4819
Swanwick Nature Reserve	SU5010
Tadburn Stream (valley), Romsey	SU367214
Thornhill Park	SU469130
Valley Gardens, Southampton University	SU424150
Valley Park, Chandler's Ford	SU4120/SU4219/ SU4220
Warsash Common	SU5005
West Wood, Netley	SU4509
Westfield Common, Hamble	SU469069
Wildern Nature Park, Hedge End	SU489133
Wyvern Pond, Fair Oak	SU491178

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You can contribute to future studies of hoverflies and other wildlife by recording your sightings on the Southampton Natural History Society web-site.

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