



# Hoverflies of Carphin

S.T. Buckland

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This shows those species of hoverfly on Carphin Farm that I have been able to identify and photograph. I'm grateful to Stuart Paul, Briony Marcus, Ross Stuart and Billy Walker for welcoming me to Carphin, and giving me free access.

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Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis* /

Bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia ranunculi*

These two species cannot be separated reliably from photos. *Cheilosia albitarsis* is common, and this female is likely to belong to that species.





## Ragwort blacklet

### *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

Common in late spring and again in late summer.





## Greater spring blacklet

### *Cheilosia grossa*

An early spring species that is patchily-distributed in Fife. Females on the right and below, males above and below right.





## Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

Common in summer, usually on hogweed flowers.





## Parsley blacklet *Cheilosia pagana*

Common from spring until autumn. Often seen in spring on yellow flowers such as celandine and dandelion. Male above, female below.





## Dull-bellied blacklet *Cheilosia proxima*

A common species in summer. These are probably of this species, but they cannot be identified with certainty from photos.





## Figwort blacklet *Cheilosia variabilis*

This species is quite scarce in Fife. This male was at Carphin in early May 2025.





## Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

A small, red-eyed hoverfly. Occurs widely, but seldom numerous. Male above, female below.





## Little meadow fly *Chrysotoxum arcuatum*

A species that can occur in quite large numbers in suitable habitat such as around Black Craig, but which is absent from most of Fife. These are males.





## Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

A sparsely-distributed species of woodlands. These are males.





## Yellow-girdled brusheye *Dasysyrphus tricinctus*

A scarce species of woodlands, sometimes recorded in gardens. This female was at Carphin in mid-August 2025.





## Spring smoothtail *Epistrophe eligans*

A spring species that is not common in Fife. Female above, male below.





## Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A widespread species that is seldom numerous. Female above and below right, male below left.





## Marmalade hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

This species occurs through most of the year, and is often abundant in late spring and summer, enhanced by large migrations from southern Europe. This is a familiar hoverfly with gardeners.





## Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A common species of open habitats, occurring mostly in summer. Males above and below left, female below right.





## Stripe-winged drone fly *Eristalis horticola*

A common species, mostly in or near wet habitats.





## Furry drone fly *Eristalis intricaria*

Fairly common in wet habitats. Male above and below left, female below right.





## Stripe-faced drone fly *Eristalis nemorum*

A widespread species. Males will hover above a female, as above, sometimes with four or five males stacked vertically.





## Tapered drone fly *Eristalis pertinax*

A common hoverfly across a variety of habitats from March to November. Males above and below right, female below left.





## Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A common species especially in late summer and autumn. Female above, male below.





## Migrant aphideater *Eupeodes corollae*

A common species that can be very numerous in summer, with populations enhanced by large numbers of migrants.





## Lunuled aphideater *Eupeodes luniger*

A common species across a range of habitats.





## Eurasian copperback *Ferdinandea cuprea*

A scarce species in Scotland, occurring in habitats with mature trees. These females were at Carphin in mid-August 2025.





## Woolly-tailed marsh fly *Helophilus hybridus*

A relatively uncommon species of wet habitats.





## Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

A very common species of wet habitats. These are males.





## Pale-saddled hoary *Leucozona glaucia*

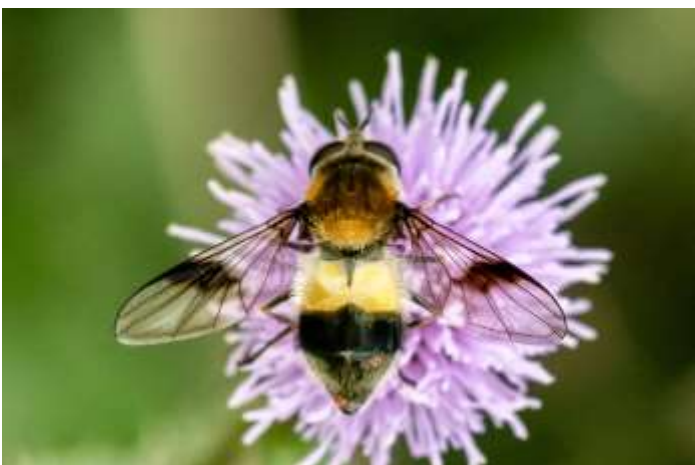
A fairly widespread summer species that is declining rapidly.





## Blotch-winged whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

A widespread species of late spring and summer, but never numerous.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

A sparsely-distributed woodland species.





## Common wrinklehead *Melanogaster hirtella*

A species that can be overlooked amongst large numbers of *Cheilosia*. The above female is definitely of this species. The one below is probably of the same species, but could be *Melanogaster aerosa*.





## Variable duskyface *Melanostoma mellinum*

Widespread in open grassy habitats, but not as numerous as *Melanostoma scalare*. This is a male.





## Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

Common and often abundant from April to September. Female above, males below.





## Spotted thintail *Meliscaeva auricollis*

A widespread species, but it is seldom numerous. Males above and below left, female below right.





## Banded thintail *Meliscaeva cinctella*

A widespread species, but not often encountered in or around the Howe of Fife. Female above, male below.





## Narcissus bulb fly *Merodon equestris*

A non-native species that arrived with imported bulbs. Common in parks and gardens, but not often encountered in areas as remote as Carphin. These were not far from the farmhouse.





## Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A common species, especially in or near broad-leaved woodland.





## Black-kneed fen fly *Neoascia tenur*

A widespread species that can be abundant in wet habitats.



## Common spotted bristleside *Parasyrphus punctulatus*

A common and often abundant small hoverfly, occurring from March to November. Male above and below left, female below right.





## Grey-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

A common and often abundant small hoverfly, occurring from March to November. Males above and right, females below.





## Common sedgesitter *Platycheirus clypeatus*

Common in wet habitats. This female was by the wildlife pond down the track from the farmhouse.



## Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

Widespread in open habitats, often seen on flowers. Its protruding mouth is distinctive. These are females.





## White-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus peltatus*

Occurs in marshy habitats. This male was by one of the wildlife ponds on 9 October 2025, a late date for this species.





## Many-tufted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus scutatus*

This female is one of the *scutatus* group of species, and is probably *P. scutatus*, which is the most common member of the group.



## Fourspot sedge-sitter *Pyrophaena rosarum*

A relatively scarce species of damp habitats. This male was by the wildlife pond next to the path to Norman's Law, where it splits from the track to the farmhouse.





## Common snout fly *Rhingia campestris*

A common species, mostly in late spring and again in late summer.





## Stripe-backed glimmer *Riponnensia splendens*

An attractive but locally-distributed species. This male was at Carphin in late June 2021.





## Yellow-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva selenitica*

A large species that is scarce in Fife. These were alongside the track that runs from the farmhouse to the duck pond in June 2025. Male above, female below.





## Interrupted globetail *Sphaerophoria interrupta*

This male is probably of this species, but cannot be positively separated from similar rarer species from photos.





## Common globetail *Sphaerophoria scripta*

This species is becoming more common in Fife. The males above and below right are definitely *S scripta*. Females cannot be identified from photos, but the one below left is probably of this species, as it was laying eggs a few inches from a male.





## Common compost fly *Syrirta pipiens*

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





## Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

There are three common species of this genus that are difficult or impossible to separate from photos. Female common flower flies can be identified from the all-yellow femur of the hind leg, as can be seen in the above photo.





## Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus torvus*

As its common name suggests, this species can be identified if tiny hairs are visible on the eyes, as is the case for these two females.





## Black-thighed flower fly *Syrphus vitripennis*

The black thigh (femur) of the hind leg is clearly visible in these photos, and there is no indication of hairs on the eyes of either. *Syrphus torvus* usually has less black on the hind femur, and has small hairs on the eyes, while *Syrphus ribesii* females have all-yellow hind femurs, which these females do not have. While not certain, these characteristics suggest that these are *Syrphus vitripennis*.





## Bumblebee plumehorn *Volucella bombylans*

A bumblebee mimic. The female lays its eggs in a bumblebee nest, where the larvae feed on nest detritus. This male was on the path south of Berry Brae.





## Pied plumehorn *Volucella pellucens*

A large hoverfly that is common in summer. Its larvae feed on detritus in wasp nests.





## Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

A common species usually seen perched or moving fast on leaves. It occurs mostly in or near woodland.

