

# Shieldbug Spotter Sheet



Shieldbugs are 'true bugs' and differ from beetles due to their piercing mouthparts. They mostly look like medieval shields and have striking colours and distinctive markings. They can be found on trees and plants in gardens, grasslands, hedgerows and woodlands. Some shieldbugs have a specialist host plant so searches of the foodplant can help find them. Most adult shieldbugs can be seen all year round but some do hibernate over winter.

This spotter sheet includes some of the easier species to identify. There are not many records of shieldbugs, despite them being a fairly recognisable species group. It would be great to have more records and you can submit these through the biological recording app, iRecord. For information on other shieldbug species in Guernsey check out this link <https://www.guernseywildlife.co.uk/studies/shieldbugs-of-guernsey>

## Hawthorn Shieldbug



Large. Red/brown and green with a 'rabbit' shaped marking on the back.  
13-15mm

## Bishop's Mitre Shieldbug



Distinctive. Pointed head. Buff and brown striped.  
8-9mm

## Sloe/Hairy Shieldbug



Large, purplish-brown with green triangle in middle. Black and white patterning.  
10-13mm

## Birch Shieldbug



Similar colouring to Hawthorn Shieldbug. Smaller with duller colouration.  
8-11mm

## Ornate Shieldbug



Usually red and black with black head. Can have other colour forms.  
7-9mm

## Striped/Minstrel Shieldbug



Distinctive. Black and red striped.  
8-11mm

## Common Green Shieldbug



Bright green with black spots, turning dark brown before hibernation.  
12-13 mm

## White Shouldered Shieldbug



Brown but with white patches on the shoulders. White patch in middle.  
7-9mm

## Gorse Shieldbug



Large. Green with yellow edge. Can turn red-brown in summer. Red antennae.  
10-13mm

## Red legged Shieldbug



Brown shieldbug with red legs. Pale spot in middle.  
11-14mm

## Woundwort Shieldbug



Small. Grey and Bronze with copper colouring of the head and front.  
5-7mm

## Pied Shieldbug



Distinctive. Black and white markings and brown wing membrane.  
5-8mm



If you find a species not included on this sheet, take a photo and ask for advice on the Guernsey Wildlife or Insects of the Channel Islands Facebook pages.

Photo credits Andy Marquis