Lovat
HOLIDAY PARKS

The Big 5

...WITH MEGAN MCCUBBIN AND LOVAT PARKS

"It's the ultimate guide to **where**, **when** and **how** to meet the UK's wildest animals in their natural habitats this summer. So remember, you don't need to travel thousands of miles - your wildest dreams are on your doorstep."

Cornwall

PUFFIN

WHEN:
April - August
(June/July peak)

HOW:
Puffins have burrows underground so walking off the paths may cause disruptions and damage to them and other nesting seabirds. Don't get closer than 10m (unless they approach you) - best to sit down and see what happens.

Norfolk

GREY SEAL

WHEN:
Any time of the year, but from September is when they start pupping.

HOW:
Use binoculars or cameras to get a good look at seals. They are very sensitive to disturbance which causes them to get back into the water, can cause thermoregulatory problems and even cause them to abandon pups. Keep dogs on a lead (or leave them at home!) and never try to feed them.

Cornwall

BLUE SHARK

WHEN:
May - October
(peak is August)

HOW:
There are lots of ethical wildlife boats that can take you out to see them. Always follow the skipper's guidance and if getting into the water then stay calm and be prepared that they will be curious!

Kent

OTTER

WHEN:
All year around, but often active during dusk and dawn. If coastal, then go when the tide is going out as there's more movement of fish and therefore more otter activity.

HOW:
They can be very sly and secretive, so look for evidence on the banks. Can you spot any footprints and tail drag marks? If you do see one, sit still and stay quiet to get the best experience.

The New Forest

ELEPHANT HAWK MOTH

WHEN:
The best time is May to early August but peak would be around July. You can see them as caterpillars, July to September and they're great because they look like a elephants' trunk.. hence the name!

HOW:
They are widespread all over the UK, and like all moths they are attracted to light. To see them in the garden you could make a make-shift moth trap (using a white bed sheet and torch).