

Flounder

Platichthys flesus

Fish · Here all year · runs well up the Nith



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A flatfish with both eyes usually on the right side, a dull olive-brown upper surface with vague blotches, a white underside, and rough, prickly tubercles along the base of the fins and behind the eyes. Flounder are the flatfish of the Solway's mudflats and estuary, and they are unusual in tolerating fresh water — they run well upstream into the Nith.

BEHAVIOUR

Flounder lie half-buried in mud and sand, changing colour to match the bottom, and feed on worms, crustaceans and small molluscs. Like all flatfish they start life as a normal symmetrical larva swimming upright; one eye then migrates across the head as the fish settles onto its side. Adults move out to deeper, saltier water to spawn in late winter and spring.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Righteye flounders (Pleuronectidae)
SIZE	Commonly 20-35 cm
UK STATUS	Native; the flatfish most tolerant of fresh water

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