

## Using iNaturalist for regular wildlife monitoring

### Why monitor wildlife on a regular basis?

Regularly contributing observations helps us understand how the changing climate affects different organisms, track changes in where species are found and learn more about the arrival of new species.

Gathering and sharing observations of wildlife will help you measure your impact as you enhance your site for nature year after year.

With regular monitoring you can:

- create a record of the species living on your site
- select a management approach that suits the conditions of your space and the wildlife present
- monitor changes over time, so you can celebrate successes and gain traction in your school community to continue improving your site for nature
- mark it as an action on your setting's Climate Action Plan
- Build confidence and curiosity in wildlife identification and green digital skills

### Tips and tricks

- Ensure you have mapped the original habitats on your site before enhancing any spaces – then use the map to identify which specific areas to focus the regular wildlife monitoring in.
- Explore the Nature Park Map – click “Add layer” and select “Nature Park iNaturalist Observations”.
- Are there gaps in your map where you could focus your efforts?
- You can carry out regular wildlife monitoring within lesson time, or with eco or after school clubs.
- Spread your regular monitoring in different habitats, areas of the site, different animal or plant species, or seasons (e.g. lichens in winter, pollinators in summer).
- Incorporate activities to find wildlife that you can take photos of with iNaturalist e.g. searching through leaf litter (fallen leaves), running a timed insect count, tree trail, pond dipping, or carrying out the Pollinator Count or Grassland Plant Survey.



National Education Nature Park



For more quality-assured learning resources visit [www.educationnaturepark.org.uk](http://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk)

Led by



With



Working with



Commissioned by



Partners

