

Organise a BioBlitz event

A BioBlitz is a race against the clock to discover as many species as you can! Identify as many plants, animals and fungi as possible, within a set location, over a defined time period.

Why run a BioBlitz?

BioBlitz events are a fun way to record wildlife on your site. Use a BioBlitz to kick-start your recording wildlife journey in step one of the Nature Park five-step cycle (Getting to know your space) or to measure and celebrate your achievements in step five (Recording change).

Gathering observations and photographs of the wildlife on your site will help you **measure your impact** as you enhance your site for nature year after year. Why not run the [Pollinator Count or Grassland Plant Survey](#) within your BioBlitz event?

BioBlitzes collect a lot of wildlife observations in a short period of time. By running one annually you can create a record of the species living on your site (such as a species list) that you can add to every year, and mark as an action on your Climate Action Plan.

Before the day

- Create your setting's [iNaturalist account in advance](#).
- Ensure you have [mapped the habitats](#) on your site and use your habitat map to decide which specific habitat areas to focus on. Alternatively, you could incorporate habitat mapping into your event.
- Gather equipment that helps in finding and examining wildlife (optional, depending on what equipment you have): bug pots, pond dipping equipment, microscopes or identification guides. Our introductory identification guides are [available here](#), or you might ask if a local wildlife organisation can supply you with some.
- Plan activities for your BioBlitz that help to find wildlife e.g. searching through leaf litter (fallen leaves), a timed insect hunt, tree trail, pond dipping, or carrying out the [Pollinator Count or Grassland Plant Survey](#).
- Think about how you could create a visual representation of the results, such as a screen or interactive whiteboard with your iNaturalist account displayed to show photos and species totals. You could also print out your habitat map in large format and draw or label exciting observations.

Bring in extra help

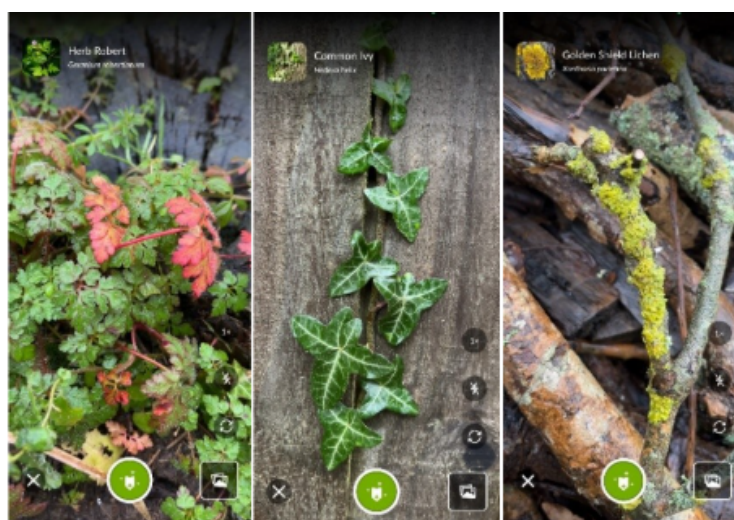
Inviting your local community to join the event can bring in helpful wildlife expertise.

- Invite members of local wildlife conservation, gardening, or eco/green groups to attend.
- They might like to lead a guided survey activity, have a stand/display, or support a 'wildlife identification' station.



On the day

- Prepare your cameras or tablets by switching on the location sharing settings on your devices if possible. Alternatively, zone your site (thinking about the habitats you mapped) so that if you are using multiple tablets and bulk uploading photos to a computer, you know where each photo came from – you could mark out areas with colourful bunting.
- Share these top tips on taking great wildlife photos with young people and those who will be making wildlife observations to ensure they can be used for real nature recovery research.
- Set a time limit - this can be anywhere from one hour for one mass activity, to a few hours incorporating different activities and areas.



Observations using the iNaturalist app camera

Adding your photos to the Nature Park Map

- The two main ways to upload photos to iNaturalist are either directly uploading through the app or bulk uploading using a computer. See the bulk upload video in the [how-to guide](#).
- Allocate a responsible adult to check the photos and information uploaded, to ensure quality and safeguarding:
- This person should be logged into your school iNaturalist account and should:
 - delete blurry images
 - delete images with people in them
 - check the locations of the images are correct
 - ensure only one living thing is the focus of each iNaturalist observation
- For photos to be automatically added to the [Nature Park Map](#), make sure, your iNaturalist account is set up with the right license (see our [how-to guide](#)) and the locations are accurate. The Map is updated overnight, so you will be able to see all your observations the next day!



National Education Nature Park



For more quality-assured learning resources visit www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

Led by



With



Working with



Commissioned by



Partners



THE ROYAL SOCIETY

