



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

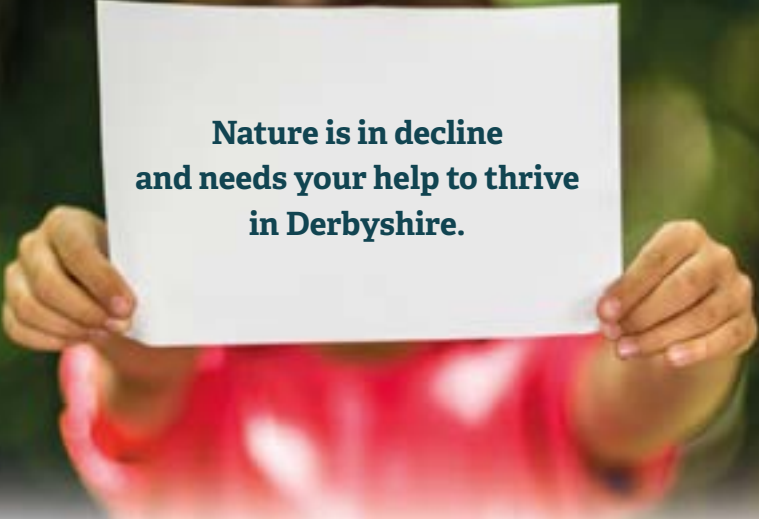
THE BIG BACKYARD NATURE SPOT



www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



THE BACKYARD NATURE HUNT

A person wearing a red shirt is holding a white rectangular sign in front of their chest. The sign has text on it. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

**Nature is in decline
and needs your help to thrive
in Derbyshire.**

WHAT IS A NATURE HUNT?

A backyard nature hunt is another word for a bio-blitz. A bio-blitz is an event that focuses on finding and recording the variety of life in a specific place over a short period of time – often over 24 hours.

The aim is to create a record of the plants, animals and fungi that live in a place.

Often bio-blitz's happen on a site of interest or a nature reserve for example,

to promote and improve local natural spaces through better understanding of what is living there.

A bio-blitz can take place in any outdoor space. Our own gardens, yards and even windowsills can be havens for wildlife too. Small patches of nature, are vital in helping wildlife survive, as they provide links between important habitats. They act as corridors or stepping stones along which wildlife can move from place to place.



WHY ARE BIO-BLITZ' IMPORTANT?

In both urban and rural areas, habitats have become broken up and fragmented making it difficult for wildlife to thrive. Farming, rural development, urbanisation and activities, such as cutting grass verges, can all block the movement of wildlife from one habitat to another.

Working together we can reduce the effects of breaking up habitats fragmentation by making our gardens, yards and windowsills even better for nature, creating more corridors between wildlife sites.

To do this effectively, we need to know what is living there first so get ready to take part in your very own Backyard Bio-blitz!



FUNDRAISE FOR US

Why not get sponsored for taking part in the backyard bio-blitz and help fundraise for us, as we embark on our mission to protect at least 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

Whether you raise £5 or £1000, your money will support Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and help the wildlife on your doorstep.

EVERY PATCH COUNTS

Raising money has never been so fun and easy.

Simply choose your patch, get sponsored, involve your family and friends and start your nature hunt.

HOW CAN YOU RAISE MONEY?

- .01** Can you take on the 24 hour challenge?
- .02** Why not ask people to sponsor you for every hour you complete?
- .03** Get sponsored per covered area of your garden or outdoor space
- .04** Hold a bio-blitz event, as street or in a community area.
Why not sell cakes to raise extra money?

Have you got an idea? Write it here



Download your sponsorship forms here.



ONLINE FUNDRAISING

We have our own Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Just Giving page that you can **find here**.



This means you can link your own page directly to us, and any money raised will go straight to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

You can make a donation on our **website here**.

You can send cheques to:


Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Sandy Hill
Main St
Middleton by Wirksworth
DE4 4LR



WHAT DO I NEED?



SCAN ME

- The spotter sheets included in this pack. Find more here. 
- A pen or pencil to write down what you have seen.
- Used, clean yoghurt pots to hold the creatures you find whilst you work out what they are.

OPTIONAL

- A soft, small paint brush to pick up creatures.
- Old white sheet, shower curtain, pillowcase or tea towel for tree shaking.
- A mobile phone as a means to magnify or record. We recommend the iNaturalist app to help you identify what you see.
- A white washing up bowl, tray or pot to take a closer look at wildlife. Make sure you always put creatures back where you found them.
- Magnifying glass.
- Binoculars are useful but not essential in identifying birds.



TAKING PART

The aim is to create a list of all the wildlife you can find in your garden/yard/windowsill.

Anytime of the day or night, just go out at different times of the day and write down what you find and take photos to help with identification.

You don't have to have a garden or even any green space, there are still plenty of places to look for wildlife.

Read on for tips on how to discover what might be hiding in your backyard and ideas on creating your own DIY bio-blitz kit.



Don't forget to submit your sightings here.

You can [download sheets to record your sighting here.](#)



WHERE TO LOOK



- Windowsills
- Under plant pots
- Bug hotels
- Sky
- Bird feeder
- Under leaf piles, rocks and logs
- Trees
- Grass
- Hedges and shrubs
- Plants
- Ponds



COMMON GARDEN INSECTS YOU MAY FIND

- Slugs (leopard slug)
- Snails (garden, striped)
- Worms
- Flies (hoverfly, crane fly)
- Butterflies & moths (small tortoise shell, orange tip, small white)
- Bees (bumble bees, solitary bees)
- Beetles (ground, maybug)
- Ladybirds (2 spot, harlequin)
- Spiders (garden, cellar)
- Centipedes
- Millipedes
- Woodlouse



MAKE YOUR OWN BIRD FEEDER

Bring the birds closer by leaving food out for them. Bird feeders can be very cheap and easy to make.

COMMON UK GARDEN BIRDS

Top 10 in 2021 Big Garden Birdwatch:

■ HOUSE SPARROW

■ BLUE TIT

■ STARLING

■ BLACKBIRD

■ WOODPIGEON

■ ROBIN

■ GREAT TIT

■ GOLDFINCH

■ MAGPIE

■ LONG-TAILED TIT

Use the spotter sheets to see which you can find.



How to

What you need:

- dry ingredients
 - bird seed
 - cooked rice
 - grated cheese

- hard cooking fat (lard or suet)

- a pine cone, coconut or yoghurt pot



- string



www.wildlifewatch



Make your own bird feeder



- 1 Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl



ried fruit
readcrumbs
opped nuts

- 2 Add the fat and give it a good mix around



Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help

- 3 Choose your feeder



plaster all over a pine cone



put it round the inside of a coconut shell

ut shell

- use an old yoghurt pot for this and always recycle after it's been used



press into a yoghurt pot

You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake



- 4 Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)



SIX STEPS TO A NATURE HUNT

- .01** Use a mobile phone to take a picture of findings. This is helpful in identifying them but also allows you to enlarge images of smaller creatures and get a closer look. Put a coin next to it so you can later get an idea of its size.
- .02** Damp, dark places are the places to look. Put out up-turned containers to attract snails and slugs and other creatures.
- .03** Try not to pick up small creatures but use a small art paintbrush if you have one to gently lift it into a container.
- .04** On bushes and low hanging tree branches, use 'tree-shaking' to find insects. Place a white sheet on the ground and shake the branch or shrub so that insects and spiders fall onto the sheet below. Now they are easier to spot!



.05 You can charm worms to the surface in a number of ways....by jumping up and down in one area of ground, wetting an area and covering it with plastic sheet (or old carrier bags) or by tapping a stick pushed into the ground. Vibrations you make bring the worms to the surface believing it is raining.

.06 Look out for clues left by larger more secretive visitors: droppings, pellets (regurgitated by birds of prey), bird guano, hairs, feathers, bones, footprints...

Discover animal tracks and signs

wildlife
watch



 <p>Look for animal footprints in mud, sand or snow.</p>	 <p>Owls spit out bits (pellets) of their prey they can't digest.</p>	 <p>Look for pine cones that have been stripped by hungry squirrels.</p>	 <p>Molehills are signs that moles are nearby.</p>
 <p>Look under hedges and in banks for rabbit holes.</p>	 <p>Birds shed their feathers when they are damaged.</p>	 <p>If the trail is continuous, it's a slug. If broken, it's a snail.</p>	 <p>Mammals can leave flattened grass in their tracks.</p>
 <p>Animal fur can get caught on barbed wire and fences.</p>	 <p>Look for hedgehog poo with bits of beetles in it.</p>	 <p>Nests are a surefire sign that birds are breeding. Hooray!</p>	 <p>Song thrushes leave behind broken soil shells after meals.</p>

MAKE YOUR OWN FOOTPRINT TRAP

YOU WILL NEED...

- an old baking tray
- shallow dish
- ruler
- meaty cat/dog food
- water
- fine grain sand

How to make an animal footprint trap



You will need:

- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



- water



- low-sided dish



- meaty cat or dog food



- footprint ID guide



- 1 Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.



Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

- 2 Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



(you could also try mealworms or chopped, unsalted peanuts!)

- 3 Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



hedgehog



fox



cat



bird



squirrel

PONDS



If you are lucky enough to have a pond or a stream on your land there is likely to be a wealth of fascinating life in, on and around it.

To find out what is living in your pond, you can simply observe what visits or to discover what is hiding beneath the surface, you could find out by 'pond-dipping'. This involves using a net to catch your pond-dwellers. You could make your own pond net by using just a garden cane, a pair of old tights and a coat hanger.

How to make a pond dipping net



You will need:

• wire coat hanger



• pair of tights



• scissors



• needle and thread



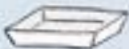
• strong duct tape



• garden cane



• white plastic tray



1 Cut the legs off a pair of tights where the tops of the thighs would be. Tie the loose ends together in a tight knot to form the net.



2 Bend a wire coat hanger into a diamond shape. Place your net in the middle of the diamond and fold the waistband over. Sew the hem.



3 Stretch out the hook of the hanger and secure to the garden cane and secure in place with duct tape.



4 Tip any pond creatures you find into the plastic tray for a closer look.

Remember to return creatures to their homes.



GARDEN BIRDS



Chaffinch



Greenfinch



House sparrow



Blackbird



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Great tit



Collared dove



Starling



Wood pigeon

URBAN BIRDS



Magpie



House



Feral pigeon



Black headed gull



Carrion Crow



Canadian goose



Starling



Pied Wagtail



Peregrine falcon



Mallard

GARDEN INSECTS



Spider



Earth work



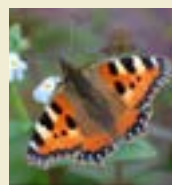
Wasp



Ladybird



Snail



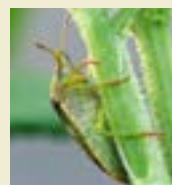
Butterfly



Earwig



Bumblebee



Shieldbug



Hoverfly



GARDEN BUTTERFLIES



Peacock



Brimstone



Comma



Orange-tip



Green-veined
white



Holy blue



Tortoiseshell



Painted lady



Red admiral



Small white



POND LIFE



Whirlygig beetle



Pond skater



Pond snail



Backswimmer



Common darter



Common toad



Smooth newt



Yellow iris



Damselfly



Common frog



Froglet



Common blue damselfly



Common darter dragonfly



Water boatman



Great diving beetle



Mayfly



Smooth newt



Pond skater



Water snail



Toad



Team WILDER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPOT MORE WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD?

Why not take one of our wild actions to encourage more wildlife in to your patch?

GO POTTY FOR WILDLIFE

Simply let the grass grow and help the wildlife in your garden.

POND IN A POT

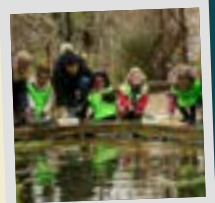
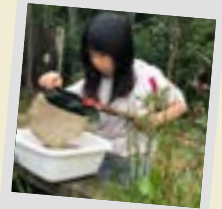
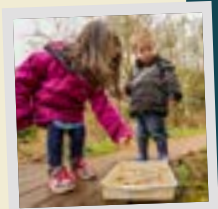
A garden pond, no matter the size, will support a wider range of wildlife than any other garden feature.

BRING BACK BIRDS

Put up a bird box and welcome birds into your backyard.

SHINE THE RIGHT LIGHT

How you use outdoor lighting can have a big impact on insects and wildlife.



DON'T FORGET TO... MAP YOUR ACTION

to help us build a picture of a Wilder Derbyshire:
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/take-action

find out more



SCAN ME




Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The
National Lottery
Heritage Fund

 Environment
Agency

 NATURAL
ENGLAND



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

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