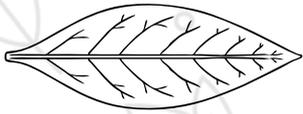


RECORDING THE

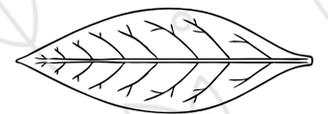


NATURAL WORLD





INTRODUCTION



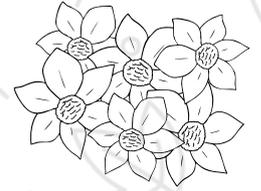
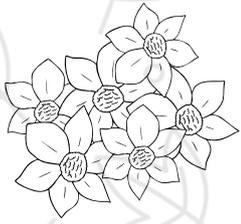
Recording the wildlife, plants, and habitats that you come across in your garden or out and about is a great way to help protect the natural world whilst also looking out for your own health and well-being.

This resource is designed to help you start your recording journey by pulling together surveys and organisations looking for support.

The surveys are grouped by types of plants or animals to help you find which activities you would like to take part in. Some of the surveys you can do individually, with friends or family, or with a wider group of volunteers. Surveys range from ones which can be completed in a few minutes to longer surveys over a few sessions.

There are mobile apps and resources listed which you can download to help you easily identify and record species. There is also a section detailing what you might find in each season with links to further resources to help you get started.





THIS RESOURCE INCLUDES SURVEYS FOR:

General and Ecosystem Surveys

Plants, Trees and Woodland Habitats

Amphibians, Reptiles and Other Pondlife

Birds

Mammals

Marine Life

Insects and Other Invertebrates

GENERAL AND ECOSYSTEM SURVEYS

BioBlitz

A collaborative wildlife recording event to discover as many species of plants, animals and fungi as possible, within a set location, over a 24 hour time period.



Biological Records Centre

- iRecord App

The goal of iRecord is to make it easier for wildlife sightings to be collated, checked by experts and made available to support research and decision-making at local and national levels. Download the iRecord app to share your sightings with the recording community.



Local Environmental Record Centres Wales

One of the easiest ways to get started in recording is by contacting your Local Environmental Record Centre. Wales has four Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) and their centralised database, **Aderyn**, holds approximately 12 million records.

- You can submit your records on the go with the **LERC Wales app**.
- North Wales: **Cofnod**
- Mid Wales: **Biodiversity Information Service for Powys & Brecon Beacons National Park**
- South West Wales: **West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre**
- South East Wales: **South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre**

OPAL Surveys

The surveys explore the health of our soils and trees, the quality of our air and water, the distribution of native and invasive invertebrates, and the importance of habitats for wildlife. They provide easy-to-follow survey instructions, straightforward ID guides and support from community scientists across the UK.

GENERAL AND ECOSYSTEM SURVEYS

Pembrokeshire Marine Code App

Learn about the plants, wildlife, and geological features which can be spotted along the Pembrokeshire coastline with the Marine Code App. The app includes maps and codes of conduct to follow to protect sensitive species. You can also use the app to help preserve this important ecosystem by submitting your sightings.



Wales Biodiversity Partnership

WBP have collated resources on wildlife recording and have details of identification training courses available in Wales. Their website is also full of advice on how you can help protect and restore biodiversity in Wales.



Woodland Trust - Nature's Calendar

If you enjoy taking note of the passing seasons then you can submit your sightings online to help track the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife near you.

Zooniverse

Help scientists protect wildlife using your computer. Your image annotations will help monitor breeding and migration patterns, ecosystem shifts, and train computers to decode images for future analysis of a variety of species and habitats. Current projects include bats, penguins, seabirds, seals, and more.



PLANTS, TREES AND WOODLAND HABITATS

Forestry Commission - Tree Alert

Tree Alert has been set up to gather information about the health of the nation's trees, woodlands and forests. Submit a report of a specific tree pest or disease or a general tree health report.



Long Forest - Hedgerow App

As part of the Long Forest project, this app allows you to survey the hedgerows across Wales and help gain vital information about the condition and species makeup of the hedgerows.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme

The aim of this survey is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity.



People's Trust for Endangered Species - Orchard Survey

Help PTES identify where orchards are located in Wales and what age and condition they are in by submitting surveys to the website.

Plantlife - Great British Wildflower Hunt

Taking part in this survey is a great way to enjoy flowers, whether you're familiar with them or not. By letting Plantlife know what you've found, you'll be helping their work to make sure that there are more flowers for people to enjoy in the future.

Woodland Trust - Tree ID App

Download the Tree ID app to start identifying trees by their bark, twigs, buds, leaves, flowers or fruit.

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND OTHER POND LIFE

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation - National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme

Help monitor the status and distribution of the UK's amphibians and reptiles by submitting your sightings via the web-portal. There are specific databases for adders, non-native species, and rare amphibians and reptiles.

Freshwater Habitats Trust - PondNet Spawn Survey

From late Winter until late Spring you can submit your sightings of frog and toad spawn to the PondNet Spawn Survey.



Froglife - Dragonfinder App

Identify adult reptiles and amphibians as well as their eggs, larvae and calls. You can also submit your records quickly and easily via the Dragonfinder app.

Record Pool

Add your amphibian and reptile sightings to this online national database.



BIRDS

British Trust for Ornithology **- Bird Surveys**

There are many different surveys on offer from the BTO which range from one off surveys to longer-term commitments. Many of the surveys can be completed with little knowledge or training but others are for those more experienced in monitoring bird life.



eBird

Submit your bird sightings to this international database for monitoring bird distribution, abundance, habitat use, and trends.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Big Garden **Birdwatch and Swift Survey**

Every January you can help the RSPB by spending an hour in your garden looking out for the 10 most common garden birds. There are resources to help you get your garden ready for the birds and if you spot other wildlife during the survey you can submit those results too. During the summer it's time to look and listen out for swifts - submit records of where swifts are nesting to help monitor population levels and distribution.

MAMMALS

Bat Conservation Trust – National Bat Monitoring Programme

These surveys are carefully designed so that anybody can take part in monitoring these fascinating but easily overlooked mammals. They usually involve visiting a roost or potential foraging site on two evenings in the summer.

Cardiff University – Project Splatter

This project aims to find out the impact roads have on wildlife. Report your sightings of where, when and what species you have seen as roadkill.



Mammal Society – Mammal Tracker App

Mammals are some of the most under-recorded species in Britain. If you see a mammal or signs of one, please record your sighting using the Mammal Tracker App.



People's Trust for Endangered Species – Mammal Surveys

Help conserve some of our most vulnerable mammals in the UK by taking part in these surveys. Look out for hedgehogs, water voles, dormice and more.

MARINE LIFE

Buglife – Seashell Survey

The UK coastline consists of thousands of miles of rocky shores, sandy beaches and pebble-covered bays and hosts an amazing range of species. The next time you visit the beach, take along a copy of the Seashell Survey sheet for your area and record the sea shells and living creatures you find.

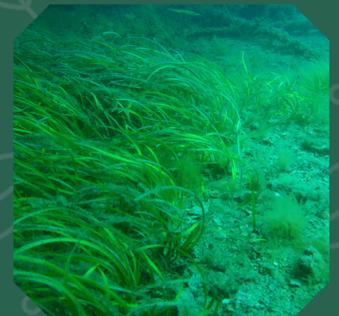


Marine Conservation Society – Marine Surveys

MCS want to hear about the wildlife you spot at the coast and at sea, especially basking sharks, marine turtles and jellyfish in UK and Irish waters. Your sightings provide vital information for solutions to protect our precious sealife.

Seagrass Spotter App

Project Seagrass have developed a conservation and education tool that could lead to new discoveries about one of the ocean's most under-appreciated habitats – seagrass. Use the Seagrass Spotter app to contribute to marine conservation with just a few clicks.



Project Seahorse - iSeahorse App

Understanding seahorses from anywhere in the world is crucial to their protection and conservation. Add your images and information to the iSeahorse App.

Shark Trust – The Great Eggcase Hunt

By taking part in the Great Eggcase Hunt you can help the Shark Trust to identify areas of the coast where eggcases regularly wash up. Eggcases (also known as a mermaid's purse, a tough leathery case that protects the embryo of a shark, skate or ray) can be found on the beach all year round.

INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Butterfly Conservation – Big Butterfly Count and iRecord Butterflies App

Help take nature's pulse by counting butterflies in this summer survey. To submit your sightings and view previous year's results, visit the Big Butterfly Count website. The iRecord Butterflies app guides you through the identification of any butterfly that you see in the UK and allows you to add your sighting to millions of other valuable records that inform the work of Butterfly Conservation.

Cardiff University – Spot a Bee

Next time you're out and about in Cardiff, look out for bees and submit your images, videos, or audio recordings via the Spot a Bee website.



Friends of the Earth – Great British Bee Count App

Do your part to help bumblebees and solitary bees by joining in this summer survey. The app will help you identify and record different species. You'll also get a handy bee-friendly plant guide, and tips for creating pollinator habitats.



National History Museum – Earthworm Watch

Contribute to research into soil health and carbon storage by measuring soil properties and recording earthworms in your garden or local green space.

INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

OPAL – Bugs Count

Join the nationwide bug hunt from May to November to help scientists learn more about the distribution of invertebrates across the country and how the urban environment may be affecting them.



People's Trust for Endangered Species – Great Stag Hunt

Help protect the magnificent stag beetle by taking part in this survey. Your records will form part of a national picture of species distribution for future conservation work.

Pollinator Monitoring and Research Partnership – Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

The PMRP has developed two surveys to improve understanding of pollinator population trends. Visit the website for more information and to take part in the 'Flower-Insect Timed Count' and the '1km square surveys'.

Polli:Nation – Pollinator Survey

Take part from March to September by surveying your local park, garden or school grounds for pollinators. This survey has been designed for people of all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience.



UK Ladybird Survey

Help protect UK ladybirds from threats by recording your ladybird sightings and monitoring how they are responding to non-native species.



WHAT TO SEARCH FOR IN THE DIFFERENT SEASONS



Summer is prime wildlife watching season; look out for numerous types of butterflies, marine life, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

Spring is a great time to search for new growing wildflowers. Listen to birds singing early in the mornings and watch out for returning migrants like swifts.



Autumn is perfect for woodland walks with leaves displaying a beautiful range of colours and mushrooms popping up. Watch out for bats active at dusk.



Winter is a great time to follow mammal tracks, like foxes and badgers, and spot birds through the bare trees.



Check out these guides for more ideas...

- [Invest in Nature Cymru - Invest in Nature Resources](#)
- [Open University - Nature of Britain Calendar](#)
- [Wildlife Trusts - Where to See Wildlife](#)
- [Wildlife Watch - Explore Seasons](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION



If you would like any more information about environmental volunteering, making your spaces more nature friendly, how to apply for funding for environmental activities, or any other queries, please get in touch:



www.wcva.org.uk/invest-in-nature-cymru



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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and in English.



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