

GARDEN BioBlitz 1st & 2nd JUNE 2013

BBC
Summer of
Wildlife

What is it?

The aim of a bioblitz is to find as many animal and plant species as possible within a set location over a defined time period - usually 24 hours.

Garden BioBlitz 2013 aims to get people across the UK bioblitzing their own garden over one weekend. Domestic gardens cover a vast area of the UK and they are possibly the largest un-recorded habitat in the country. Scientists and conservationists want to know what's living in our gardens and the only way to do this is through citizen science - that's you recording what's in your garden and logging the results.

This year Garden BioBlitz takes place on 1-2 June and is going nationwide for the first time following a successful trial run in 2012.

It's a great opportunity for you and your family to discover what's wild in your garden and also make a scientific contribution.

gardenbioblitz.org

What do I have to do?

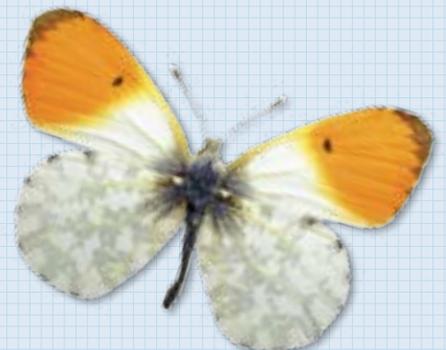
It's really easy. You don't need any special skills just a bit of dedication.

- Decide on your 24 hour period (e.g. 1 June 8 am to 2 June 8 am). You don't have to blitz for 24 hours non-stop, just pop out at different times of the day and night.
- Download the recording form before you get started. [Click here.](#)
- Make a list of all the wild plants & animals you can find in your garden. For the purposes of bioblitzing, wild means anything that has arrived in your garden of its own accord.
- Take photos of anything you find – this will help verify your records.
- Identify what you find.
- Register on the website and upload your results. [Click here.](#)

brc.ac.uk/iRecord/register-garden-bioblitz

What should I do if I don't have a garden?

If you don't have a garden but want to take part then we'd still like to hear from you. You could bioblitz your local park or any big plant pots or window boxes you have outside.



What do I do if I can't identify something?

Try to identify as many species as you can. Garden BioBlitz has provided a list of the 20 species you are most likely to see. [Click here.](#)

If there's a species that you are unable to identify then there's expert advice available online from websites like iSpot and Twitter – that's another reason for taking plenty of photos!

- Add your photograph to [iSpot](#) (it's easy to use – just sign up and you're ready to go.) Add the tag [#gbb13](#) (please make sure you only add this tag and nothing else) into the 'descriptive tags' box of your record and then wait for an ID from the wildlife experts on hand.

NB By adding the [#gbb13](#) tag you will also be able to keep track of all the records being added to iSpot by other Garden BioBlitzers around the country.

- Tweet your photo to [@GardenBioBlitz](#) adding the hashtag [#gbb13](#)

There are also lots of websites that can help you identify what you've found in your garden. Click on the links below.

- [Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society](#)
- [RSPB UK Bird Guide](#)
- [UK Moths](#)
- [UK Butterflies](#)
- [UK Ladybirds](#)
- [Nature Spot](#)
- [Reptiles and Amphibians of the UK](#)
- [Amphibian & Reptile Groups of the UK - ID Guides](#)
- [British Dragonfly Society](#)
- [Natural History Museum Identification Guides](#)

Where do I upload my records?

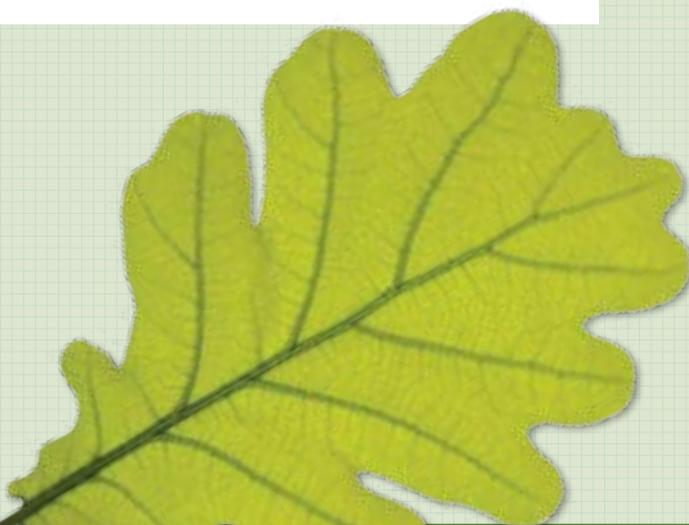
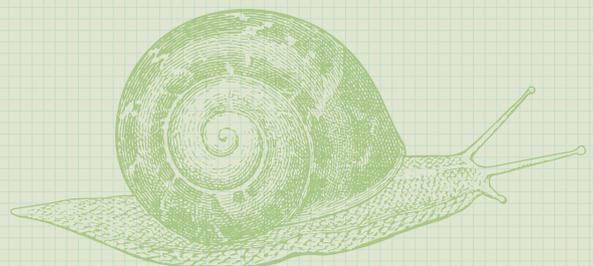
Once you have registered on [iRecord](#) add what you have recorded to the online recording form. Try to include a photograph of each species that you have seen (if you have one) as this will help experts verify your records.

What happens to the results?

Every record really does count; all your records will be stored securely at the Biological Records Centre and made available to experts for verification. Once verified, records will be made publicly available via the [National Biodiversity Network Gateway](#) in a dataset administered by the Biological Records Centre and/or the relevant national recording scheme.

This year's records will be added to a huge store of biological information that helps local records centres, conservation organisations, natural history societies, landowners, researchers and local government to make decisions about conservation projects, land management and planning permission.

Take a look at the map showing all the records that have been submitted so far: [iRecord UK Map](#)





More bioblitzing

If you've enjoyed your own Garden BioBlitz and are interested in taking part in other bioblitzes or even running one in your local community there's more information on the National Bioblitz website.

bioblitzuk.org.uk

More wildlife

Now you know what's wild in your garden why not try to encourage a few more species? Take a look at the Summer of Wildlife Challenges which feature a range of activities aiming to get you closer to your extraordinary wild neighbours.

bbc.co.uk/summerofwildlife

