

RESOURCE GUIDE

Biodiversity



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." John Muir

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It is all around us. Not just in wild places and nature reserves but also in our cities, the places we live and work, our farmland and our countryside. We're all part of this truly amazing diversity of life and we need it!

Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet and serves us in many ways, providing:

- Food, medicines and other materials
- A clean and healthy environment
- Colour and beauty in our surroundings
- Spiritual uplift and restorative therapy
- An important part of our arts, cultures and traditions

Useful Websites

This is by no means an exhaustive list – just a starting point.

National History Museum www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/what-is-biodiversity.html - A great starting point to exploring Biodiversity, and why we need it.

National Biodiversity Network nbn.org.uk - Submit a sighting through [irecord](#) to your local record centre.

Field Studies Council www.field-studies-council.org/resources/ - Wildlife resources and ID guides

The Wildlife Trust www.wildlifetrusts.org (UK) scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk (Scotland) - Practical guides and information on wildlife gardening, species & habitats, and '[Wildlife watch](#)' for children under 16.

NatureScot www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity - Find out about Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, get involved in campaigns and browse resources.

Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk - Information on all aspects of the environment including wildlife.

Wales Biodiversity Partnership www.biodiversitywales.org.uk - Find out about the work of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and how you can help.

RSPB rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/rspb-news-stories/what-is-biodiversity/ - Information about why biodiversity matters, [wildlife gardening actions](#) that can help nature flourish and research into the relationship between [biodiversity and health](#).

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust www.bumblebeeconservation.org - Information on how to help bees and their habitats.

Biodiversity Begins with a B www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_otglfQw4 - A darkly comic look at the importance of bees to our natural environment.

Bat Conservation Trust bats.org.uk **Butterfly Conservation** butterfly-conservation.org - General information on bats and butterflies, how to protect them and how to attract them to your garden.

Freshwater Habitats Trust freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/habitats/pond/ - Aims to protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy.