

Citizen Science Projects

We're lucky that in **North East Lincolnshire** there are lots of important wildlife sites and habitats, some of which are rare, or even unique to the county. Despite this, levels of nature recording in our area are very low. Having access to information that shows us what wildlife lives here is important to ensure that nature is thriving in our borough.

Engaging with nature reduces our stress levels, regulates our sleep cycles, and generally improves health and wellbeing. So it's important to encourage our local community to get outside and involved with wildlife projects, taking on the role of volunteer wildlife surveyors! We'd like to know what kind of wildlife is present in our green spaces.

We've drawn together lots of citizen science projects from different nature organisations that will help us build a better picture of the state of wildlife in our area. Most of these require no special equipment or identification skills, and some can be done entirely from your smartphone. There are projects for all ages and levels of experience, from pond dipping, to bee walks, to adopting a hedgerow!



Great white egret *Ardea alba*



Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Note: not all of these activities are suitable for small children. Parents and guardians should take care to thoroughly read all information provided by the organisations running these projects, particularly risk assessments and health and safety guidance, before taking part with their children.

Mammals

Mammal Mapper is a free mobile phone app for reporting sightings of any wild mammals you see, wherever you are. It can even record your walks, and any animals you've seen along the way. The **Mammal Society** also run the National Harvest Mouse Survey.

[Mammal Mapper app — Mammal Society](#)

[National Harvest Mouse Survey — Mammal Society](#)



The **Bat Conservation Trust** has lots of different volunteer survey work you can get involved with, from evening garden surveys for those with no experience, up to surveys that require a bat license to carry out.

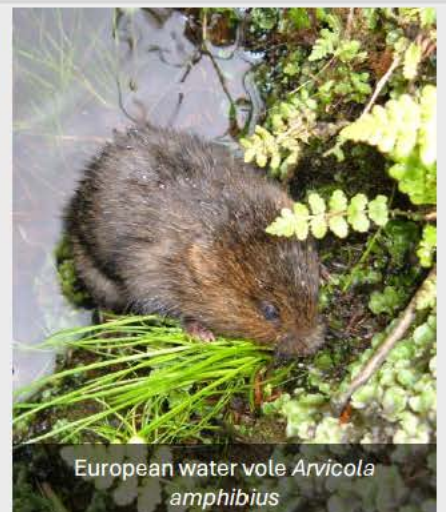
[National Bat Monitoring Programme - Our Work - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](http://bats.org.uk)



The **Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species** has several surveys to help us build a better understanding of local biodiversity. The Living with Mammals survey involves weekly recording of mammals seen in urban areas. There's also the water vole survey – this is important to our area to help map our resident water voles.

[Living with Mammals survey - People's Trust for Endangered Species \(ptes.org\)](http://ptes.org)

[Survey water voles - People's Trust for Endangered Species \(ptes.org\)](http://ptes.org)



Birds

The **British Trust for Ornithology** has opportunities for people with all levels of experience, from mobile phone apps for recording birds you've seen day-to-day, to wintertime garden birdwatch projects, to monitoring of nesting birds. The BTO's **BirdTrack** app allows you to record, report, and keep track of bird sightings, as well as other animals and plants.

[Projects | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

BTO's **Garden Birdwatch** has been running since 1995, providing records of garden bird diversity and trends. A simple list of birds visiting your garden, from a minimum of 20 minutes a week birdwatching, is all that's needed.

[Garden BirdWatch | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

The **Garden Bird Feeding Survey** is part of the Garden Birdwatch, with only existing members of the survey being chosen to monitor birds feeding in their gardens, to reveal how feeding affects birds visiting our gardens.

[Garden Bird Feeding Survey | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

One of the most well known citizen science projects is the **RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch**. Similar to the BTO's Garden Birdwatch but taking place at specific times of year, to gain as much bird data as possible in one go. The RSPB also provide resources for schools with the Big Schools' Birdwatch.

[RSPB | Helping Nature](#)

[Big Schools' Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://rspb.org.uk)



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*



Common kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Marine & Rivers

The **Shark Trust** runs the **Great Eggcase Hunt** to help us learn more about sharks, skates and rays through finding and recording their eggcases.

These eggcases, known as “mermaid’s purses” can be found along the strandline on our shores, particularly after high tides and stormy weather. Recording them helps to build a picture of species presence and diversity.

[Shark Trust Great Eggcase Hunt](#)



The **Marine Conservation Society** and **Natural History Museum** runs the **Big Seaweed Search** in which volunteers identify, photograph and record key seaweed species around the UK coast

[The Big Seaweed Search | Marine Conservation Society](#)



The **Rivers Trust** has a range of regional and national citizen science projects to help us better understand the state of our rivers by collecting data to contribute to scientific knowledge.

Projects include the **Big River Watch** and the **Great UK WaterBlitz**.

[Citizen Science: 10 ways you can get involved | The Rivers Trust](#)



Invertebrates

BeeWalk surveys involve choosing a 1-2km route, which you walk monthly, recording bumblebees that you see along the way.

The website has lots of resources for bumblebee identification, so you don't need to already be skilled at telling them apart!

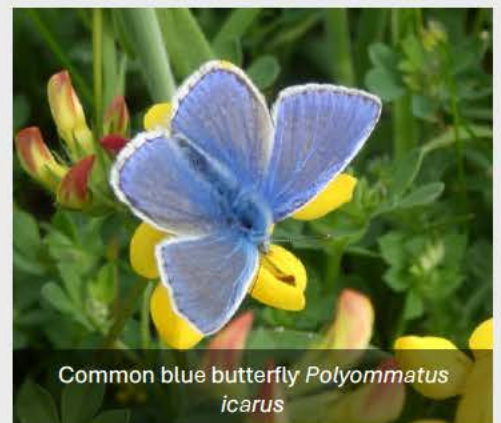
[BeeWalk - Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#)



The **Big Butterfly Count** is a short annual project that runs from July to August. **Butterfly Conservation** provide a handy chart to help you to identify what you see. The project has been running for over a decade, providing vital data for the conservation of butterflies and other pollinators. Butterfly Conservation also run the Garden Butterfly Survey all year round.

[Big Butterfly Count](#)

[Garden Butterfly Survey](#)



This scheme, developed by the **UK Pollinator Monitoring and Research Partnership**, involves taking part in a flower-insect-timed (FIT) count where you survey for insects visiting flowers on certain plants. Surveys are undertaken during good weather, and can be done anywhere, including in your own garden if you have flowering plants.

[Welcome to the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme \(PoMS\)](#)



Botany & Others

These are very detailed surveys on the health of a hedgerow in your area, or a hedgerow you own. It would be helpful to have some tree identification skills to do these surveys, but the **Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species** also provides identification guides for common hedgerow species, as well as delivering online training events.

[Survey Britain's hedgerows \(ptes.org\)](http://ptes.org)



The **National Plant Monitoring Scheme** allocates you a 1km square located close to where you live, wherein you survey for 'indicator species', to understand habitat health in your area. You need to be able to identify the indicator species to take part, but there are lots of resources to help with this.

[National Plant Monitoring Scheme \(npms.org.uk\)](http://npms.org.uk)



OPAL surveys are designed for ages 13 upwards, but are easily adaptable for younger children, making them ideal for school and summer projects. There are loads of projects to choose from, including pond-dipping, air quality surveys, earthworm surveys and tree surveys. The projects are now closed for data entry, but the resources are still available to use to investigate the health of the environment in your area.

[Surveys | Research groups | Imperial College London](#)



Useful Links

iRecord

iRecord is an important and useful resource for reporting wildlife sightings. Uploading your sightings to the website, or through the app, means they will be checked independently by experts and added to a database of species that can then be used by researchers monitoring biodiversity. You can also access an interactive map of all the verified records, to get a better picture of the wildlife in a particular area.

[Home | iRecord](#)

Wildlife Trusts

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust manages several wildlife sites in the Lincolnshire area and provides volunteering and work experience opportunities as well as nature courses and events.

[Home | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust \(lincstrust.org.uk\)](#)

Grimsby/Cleethorpes Wildlife Trust

Our local wildlife trust branch runs a Wildlife Watch club for 5 – 13 year olds with activities for children who are interested in nature. They also run regular birdwatching walks for all ages, as well as talks and events about wildlife and nature for adults.

[Home | Grimsby Wildlife Trust \(grimsbywildlifetrust.org.uk\)](#)

Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union

The naturalists' union covers the whole of Lincolnshire and have been active for over a hundred years. They hold regular workshops as well as indoor and field meetings.

[The Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union – The Natural History Society for Lincolnshire](#)

Useful Links

RSPB Grimsby

For information on birds and wildlife in the local area, with regular trips and events, and monthly indoor meets as well as around eight outdoor meetings every year. There are also opportunities through their “Buddy Birding” scheme to be paired with an experienced birder, to increase your bird identification skills.

[Home - Grimsby Local Group \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://rspb.org.uk)

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project

A brilliant resource for discovering more about Lincolnshire’s unique geology, as well as the biology of our chalk streams and other waterways. They have activities and resources for all ages and are already using citizen science to conduct important research on how to best protect our rivers and streams.

[Home - Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project](#)

Lincolnshire Bird Club

The Lincolnshire Bird Club do an important job of recording bird life across the county. Membership of the club provides many benefits, including the ability to take part in their surveying activities. There is also a regularly updated list of species seen in the county – so you can get an idea of what to expect in your area.

[Lincolnshire Bird Club - Home \(lincsbirdclub.co.uk\)](http://lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

Mammal Society | Mammal Youth Hub

With loads of resources for parents and teachers, the Mammal Youth Hub is well worth a look to get kids involved in nature and the outdoors. The “Tracks and Signs” section has information that can help with the other citizen science projects the Mammal Society has to offer.

[Mammal Youth Hub – The Mammal Society](#)