

## How to increase biodiversity on school grounds – simple features to add and how to survey

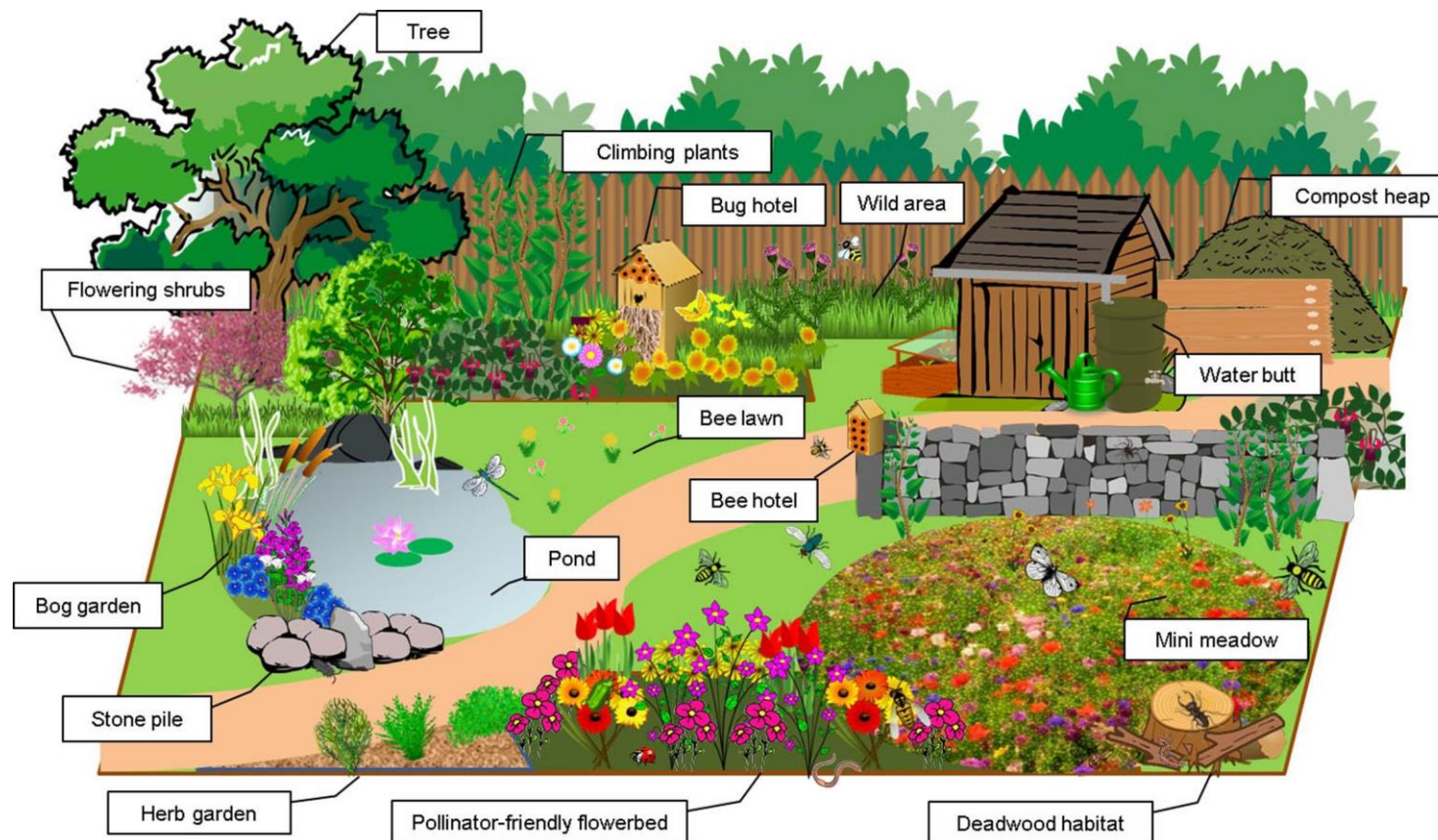


Leicestershire  
& Rutland  
Wildlife Trust

Baseline survey: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-12/Biodiversity%20activities%20pack%20for%20children%20-%20Nature%20on%20your%20doorstep%20-%20Biodiversity%20trail.pdf>

Gardening for wildlife: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/gardening-for-bugs>

Record your findings: [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk) and <https://naturehood.uk/spot-a-species>



Features	How to create - links	How to survey	Survey and ID - links
<b>Invertebrates (minibeasts!)</b>			
Log pile, log discs	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-log-shelter">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-log-shelter</a> <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion</a>	Lift and look	OPAL Bugs Count survey <a href="http://www.opalexplenature.org/bugscount">www.opalexplenature.org/bugscount</a>
Stone pile / rockery, stone slabs	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-mini-stone-wall-0">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-mini-stone-wall-0</a>	Lift and look	BugLife <a href="http://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/identify-a-bug">www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/identify-a-bug</a>
Leaf pile		Pit fall or tumble trap	<a href="http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/TUMBLE-TRAP.jpg">http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/TUMBLE-TRAP.jpg</a>  <a href="http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-pitfall-trap-to-catch-insects.html">www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-pitfall-trap-to-catch-insects.html</a>
Compost heap	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-compost-your-waste">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-compost-your-waste</a>  Wildlife Trust's Go Wild for Worms <a href="https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/18412%20WAG%202017%20Booklet%2016pp%20HIGH%20RES%20DOUBLE.pdf">https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/18412%20WAG%202017%20Booklet%2016pp%20HIGH%20RES%20DOUBLE.pdf</a>	Dig in, turn over, identify worms	OPAL Soil and Earthworm survey <a href="http://www.opalexplenature.org/soilsurvey">www.opalexplenature.org/soilsurvey</a>
Leave the edges wild	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch</a>	Sweep netting	<a href="http://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/resources/get-sweeping">www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/resources/get-sweeping</a>  <a href="http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/images/activity-ladybird-net.pdf">http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/images/activity-ladybird-net.pdf</a>
<b>Solitary bees</b>			

Bee hotel / nest box	<p>Solitary bees are not aggressive like hive bees and can be observed if choose right nesting boxes.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bee-hotel">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bee-hotel</a></p> <p>Bee hotel advice: <a href="http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bee-nest-boxes">www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bee-nest-boxes</a></p> <p><a href="https://bwars.com/sites/www.bwars.com/files/info_sheets/Bee_Hotels_infosheet.pdf">https://bwars.com/sites/www.bwars.com/files/info_sheets/Bee_Hotels_infosheet.pdf</a></p> <p>Buy a bee box: <a href="http://www.greengardener.co.uk/solitary-bee-house.html">www.greengardener.co.uk/solitary-bee-house.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://nurturing-nature.co.uk/product/award-winning-solitary-bee-observation-nest-box/">https://nurturing-nature.co.uk/product/award-winning-solitary-bee-observation-nest-box/</a></p> <p>Wild Bee Action Pack <a href="https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/ecxt.pdf">https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/ecxt.pdf</a></p>	Number of holes filled	Bumblebee Conservation Trust <a href="http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/identify-a-bumblebee">www.bumblebeeconservation.org/identify-a-bumblebee</a>
<b>Pollinators – bees, butterflies and moths</b>			
Wildflower / herb planters for pollinators	<p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-container-garden-wildlife">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-container-garden-wildlife</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-herb-garden-wildlife">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-herb-garden-wildlife</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice">www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice</a></p> <p>Planting for bumblebees</p>	Bee ID	<p>Polli:Nation Project <a href="http://polli-nation.co.uk/activity/identifying-pollinators">http://polli-nation.co.uk/activity/identifying-pollinators</a></p> <p>Woodland Trust <a href="http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/05/types-of-bee-in-the-uk">www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/05/types-of-bee-in-the-uk</a></p>

	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-bumblebees-your-garden">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-bumblebees-your-garden</a>  Planting for butterflies <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-butterflies-your-garden">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-butterflies-your-garden</a>  Planting for moths <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden</a>  <a href="http://www.plantlife.org.uk">www.plantlife.org.uk</a>		
<b>Freshwater habitat (ponds)</b>			
Mini pond	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond</a>  <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Big%20or%20small%20ponds%20for%20all%20Wid%20About%20Gardens.pdf">www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Big%20or%20small%20ponds%20for%20all%20Wid%20About%20Gardens.pdf</a>  <a href="https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic">https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic</a>	Dip with net	OPAL Water survey <a href="http://www.opalexplornature.org/watersurvey">www.opalexplornature.org/watersurvey</a>  Freshwater Habitats Trust <a href="https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic/identifying-creatures-pond">https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic/identifying-creatures-pond</a>
<b>Birds</b>			
Bird feeders	<a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden</a> <a href="http://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/providing-birds/putting-nest-boxes-birds">www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/providing-birds/putting-nest-boxes-birds</a>	Birdwatch	BTO's year round Garden Birdwatch <a href="http://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw">www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw</a>  RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch">www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch</a>

Nest boxes	<a href="http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/NEST-BOX.jpg">http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/NEST-BOX.jpg</a>	Monitor during spring and summer	
<b>Hedgehogs</b>			
Hedgehog home  Hedgehog hole	<a href="http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes">www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes</a>  Simple hedgehog house <a href="http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/SIMPLE-HEDGEHOG-HOUSE.jpg">http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/SIMPLE-HEDGEHOG-HOUSE.jpg</a>  Wildlife Trust's Hedgehogs booklet <a href="http://live-twt-d8-national-wag.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2018-03/Hedgehog-16pp-Booklet-FINAL.pdf">http://live-twt-d8-national-wag.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2018-03/Hedgehog-16pp-Booklet-FINAL.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-hedgehog-hole">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-hedgehog-hole</a>	Footprint traps  Pool!	Ink footprint trap <a href="http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/tracks-and-signs">www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/tracks-and-signs</a>  Sand footprint trap <a href="http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/FOOTPRINT-TRAP.jpg">http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/FOOTPRINT-TRAP.jpg</a>
<b>Bats</b>			
Bat box	Wildlife Trusts Stars of the Night booklet <a href="http://live-twt-d8-national-wag.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2018-03/Stars_of_the_Night_Sky%20%281%29.pdf">http://live-twt-d8-national-wag.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2018-03/Stars_of_the_Night_Sky%20%281%29.pdf</a>		
<b>Trees, hedges and shrubs</b>			
Tree planting	Woodland Trust free trees for schools <a href="http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities">www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities</a>  <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-plant-tree">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-plant-tree</a>	Canopy shake	OPAL Tree Health survey <a href="http://www.opalexplornature.org/treesurvey">www.opalexplornature.org/treesurvey</a>

Hedges	<p>Hedges create wildlife corridors, homes for invertebrates, food for birds etc. They are also useful for safeguarding.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-hedge-wildlife">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-hedge-wildlife</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-provide-bushes-nesting-birds">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-provide-bushes-nesting-birds</a></p>		<p>OPAL What's living in your hedge? Survey <a href="http://www.opalexplornature.org/biodiversitysurvey">www.opalexplornature.org/biodiversitysurvey</a></p>
Shrubs	<p><a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-shrub-garden-wildlife">www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-shrub-garden-wildlife</a></p>		
<b>Other planting</b>			
Green roofs and green walls	<p>Good for schools with limited green space. Green roofs usually planted with either sedum or wildflowers, either is useful for attracting pollinators.</p> <p>Green roofs <a href="https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=289">https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=289</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/gardenstructure_greenroof1.shtml">www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/gardenstructure_greenroof1.shtml</a></p> <p>Green walls <a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=547">www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=547</a></p>		
Spring flowering bulbs	<p><a href="https://uk.bulbs4kids.com">https://uk.bulbs4kids.com</a></p> <p>Bulbs extend the foraging season for pollinators by providing early food sources. Also grow in shady spots where may be hard to grow other plants.</p>		
Ivy	<p>If you have it, keep it! Ivy does the same job as spring flowering bulbs, but at the other end of the year – feeding</p>		

	foraging insects and creates great homes for robins and wrens to nest in.		
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## Other good links

ID guides:

[www.opalexplornature.org/identification](http://www.opalexplornature.org/identification)

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets)

[www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/playing-field-plants-guide](http://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/playing-field-plants-guide)

Activity ideas:

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activity-sheets](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activity-sheets)

Good all round links:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/resources>

Equipment supplier of nets and more:

[www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com)

Local links:

- Hedgehogs- <http://leicestershirehedgehogrescue.co.uk/index.html>
- Birds- <http://www.lros.org.uk>
- Bats- <https://lrbatgroup.btck.co.uk>
- Recording the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland- [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk)
- Swifts- [www.lrwt.org.uk/news/swift-breeding-data-and-survey-volunteers-wanted](http://www.lrwt.org.uk/news/swift-breeding-data-and-survey-volunteers-wanted)