

Biodiversity

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



@Katrina Martin/2020 vision

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is short for biological diversity and it is the variety of all living things on Earth. Living things are found in wild places, nature reserves, farmland, cities and the countryside; all the places where we live, work and visit. We're all part of this truly amazing diversity of life which is essential for our well-being.

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
- Beauty in our surroundings
- Spiritual uplift and restorative therapy
- An important part of our arts, cultures and traditions
- A place for us to visit and have fun

Useful websites

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

[National History Museum](#) - A great starting point to exploring Biodiversity, and why we need it.

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

[Field Studies Council](#) - Wildlife resources and ID guides

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

Environment is a devolved matter in the UK with different organisations responsible in each country. Find out about the different strategies and browse resources. [Scotland \(NatureScot\)](#) - [England \(Natural England\)](#), [Wales \(NRW\)](#), [Northern Ireland \(DAERA\)](#).

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership](#) - Find out about the work of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and how you can help.

[RSPB](#) - [AB1]Information about why biodiversity matters, [wildlife gardening actions](#) that can help nature flourish and research into the relationship between [biodiversity and health](#)[AB2].

[The Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) - Information on how to help bees and their habitats.

[Biodiversity Begins with a B](#) - A darkly comic look at the importance of bees to our natural environment.

[Bat Conservation Trust and Butterfly Conservation](#) - General information on bats and butterflies, how to protect them and how to attract them to your garden.

[Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) - Aims to protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy.