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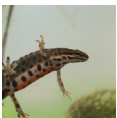
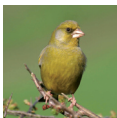
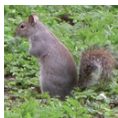
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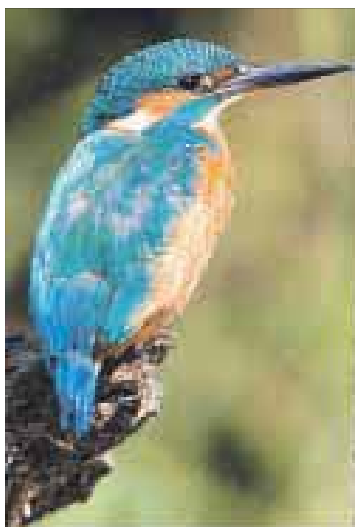
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Survey appeal as kingfishers hard hit by harsh winter

THE harsh winter may have significantly reduced numbers of kingfishers on the UK's rivers and canals British Waterways said today, as it began its annual wildlife survey.

The organisation, which looks after 2,200 miles of the nation's waterways, is calling on people to head to their local canals, rivers, reservoirs or docks to spot birds, animals and insects.

This year's British Waterways is



WORRIES: Kingfishers may have suffered greatly in the big freeze.

focusing its survey on kingfishers, amid fears the frozen waters and icy temperatures experienced for weeks on end this winter could have hit the bird hard.

Mark Robinson, British Waterways' national ecology manager, said that although nature was "pretty resilient" to events such as the hard winter, many species would have suffered.

"The good news is that our water-

ways act as green corridors connecting towns, cities and farmland and providing vital shelter and a winter larder for wildlife struggling to survive."

But he said some species would have been particularly hard hit.

According to British Waterways, the harsh winter of 1962/1963 killed off between 80 and 90 per cent of kingfishers.

"Frozen water and plummeting temperatures may have significantly reduced kingfisher populations, with the possibility that many lost the battle against the cold.

"It is therefore particularly important for us to monitor what species will need our support over the coming year and we're asking the public to help us do that," Dr Robinson said.

He added: "Now that the weather has warmed up, kingfishers are starting to nest and so now is a great time to see them."

British Waterways is raising money to improve habitats for birds found on the waterways, including providing nesting tunnels for kingfishers and preserving their perches.

The measures also include providing reedbed habitat alongside canals and in reservoirs for rare bitterns and reed buntings and putting up nest boxes for grey wagtails nesting near lock gates and for barn owls.

Last year, the survey recorded more than 42,500 sightings including almost 300 different species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and mammals.

Reporting findings is easy using a simple form on the www.water-scape.com/wildlifesurvey website. It also includes a map showing which species have already been spotted and where.





Join Us and help conserve Britain's mammals.

The Mammal Society is the only organisation dedicated to the study and conservation of all mammals of the British Isles.

The Mammal Society:

- **Surveys** mammals and their habitats to identify the threats they face, monitor population changes and halt declines **before it's too late**
- **Advocates** conservation plans based on **sound science**
- **Educates** people of all ages about British mammals, their ecology and conservation through our **training workshops** and at our **annual events**
- **Provides** current reliable information on mammals through our **publications**, available on our **website**
- **Supports** an extensive **local group network** so you can get involved in mammal conservation **on your doorstep**

To become a member and get involved in mammal conservation today, visit

www.mammal.org.uk

or fill out the form overleaf.



If this membership is for you:

Your Name: _____

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Telephone: _____

To reduce the amount of paper we use, please provide a current email address below.

Email: _____

If this membership is a gift for someone else:

Their Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

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Email: _____

I would like to contribute to the conservation of British mammals with a monthly/annual membership of:

ADULT £25* ☐ £2.10 ☐ STUDENT £12.50* ☐ £1 ☐ CONCESSION £12.50* ☐ £1 ☐
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*Suggested minimum. If you would like to support our work further by paying a higher subscription, we would be very grateful.

☐ **Please add Mammal Review** (our quarterly scientific journal) to my membership:

Electronic (*including all back issues*) at £22+VAT ☐ Paper at £22 ☐ Student £12.50 ☐

☐ I would like to make an **additional one-off donation of £**_____ to further help The Mammal Society.

☐ **Please Gift Aid my membership** – increase the value of your subscription 28% **at no extra cost to you.**

The Mammal Society can claim 28p for every pound you give, providing us with much needed funding.
(The Income/Capital Gains tax you pay must at least equal to the amount we will reclaim on your donations in a year).

I would like to pay by: ☐ **Standing Order**

☐ **Debit/ Credit Card**

☐ **Cheque** (please make cheques payable to The Mammal Society)

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Please pay the Standing Order to: The Mammal Society (Co-operative Bank; account: 65834075; sort code: 08-92-99).

Please pay £_____ immediately, and thereafter annually / monthly until further notice (delete as appropriate).

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Please send to: **Membership, The Mammal Society, 3 The Carronades, New Road, Southampton SO14 0AA**

We will not pass your details on to other organisations, but we would like to send you information about our activities.
If you do not wish to receive this, please tick here. ☐

activity programme

inspiring people, improving places



BTCV Vale of York Group

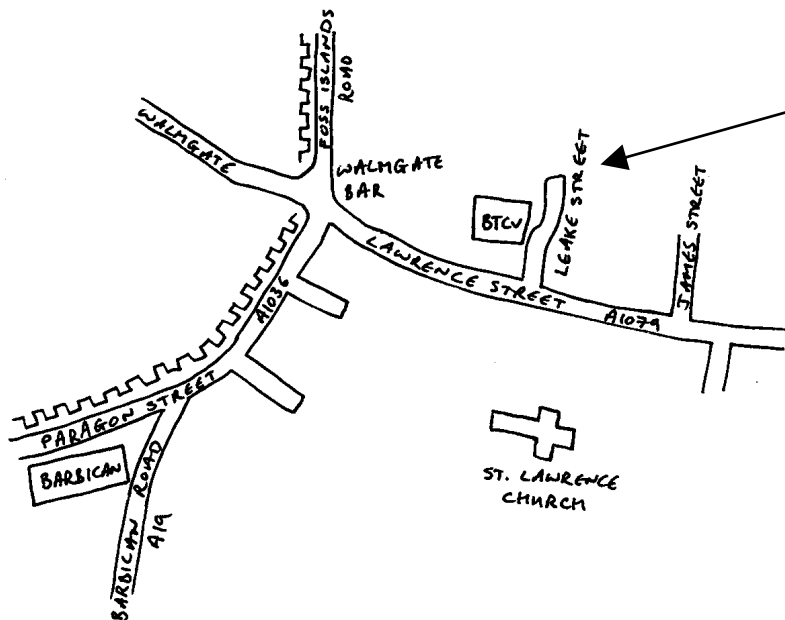
October and November 2010

Volunteer Calendar October 2010

Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday
5th Ray Wood		6th Ray Wood	7th Ray Wood
This 40-acre area of woodland was clear-felled in the 1940s but was first surveyed in the 16 th century and much of the present ground flora is characteristic of secondary ancient woodland. Today the wood has a collection of 500 species of rhododendron and many other rare shrubs and trees set around a network of paths from an earlier woodland garden. Ray Wood is managed by Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, a joint charitable trust formed between Castle Howard and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Over the first two weeks of October we will be working to replace the fencing and repair gates around this important collection.			
12th Ray Wood		13th Ray Wood	14th Ray Wood
Fencing is valuable in conservation work, helping to protect sensitive habitats from interference. This week Paul Appleton will be on site to provide training in fence building. There will be an opportunity to learn about different types of fencing, how to select the most appropriate type of barrier and choose the correct materials. We will be constructing a particular type of post and wire fence aimed at keeping rabbits out of the wood. Find out how to install strainer posts, struts and intermediates as well as learning how to tension wire using Monkey Strainers. Booking is essential if you would like to take part in the training – please contact the office on 01904 644300 to reserve a place.			
19th York Citizens Advice Bureau		20th York Citizens Advice Bureau	21st York Citizens Advice Bureau
The Citizens Advice Bureau in York occupies the site of a former school in the shadow of the city walls. There is a secluded, walled garden behind the office that used to be the school playground. Over the years this area has fallen into disuse and become overgrown with brambles, nettles and self-seeded sycamore. The project this week is to begin the clearance work that marks the first stage in the regeneration of the playground into a garden for users of the CAB and local wildlife.			
26th St Nicholas Fields LNR		27th St Nicholas Fields LNR	28th Hackfall Wood
This year's annual V Community Challenge will take place at St Nicholas Fields Local Nature Reserve. Teams of young volunteers and members of the business community will be working on a number of projects to landscape the play area and improve the Melrosegate entrance. As part of the event we will be building some new steps and extending the woodchip footpaths. We are also helping to install some new benches made from timber felled on the reserve.			A Grade 1 listed landscape and Site of Special Scientific Interest, Hackfall has been described as one of the most beautiful woodlands in England. We will be repairing steps and improving paths using materials from the wood.
<p>Congratulations to Anne Heathcote and Leroy Horrobin who successfully passed their NPTC Chainsaw assessment following four days of intensive training under the expert eye of Peter Robinson of Travellogger. Anne and Leroy battled rain and high winds to complete the training which was part of the Vale of York Environment Group's Environmental Training Programme – The Forgotten Years project, funded by Awards for All. The aim of the project is to provide opportunities for those over the age of 25 to undertake training in a variety of practical conservation skills. For further details of the project and to register an interest in future training opportunities - including ID skills, first aid, MiDAS, risk assessment and practical conservation - please contact the BTCV office.</p>			

Volunteer Calendar November 2010

Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday
2nd Rawcliffe Meadows		3rd Burneston School	4th Burneston School
The pond at Rawcliffe Meadows is an important stronghold for York's tansy beetles. We will be clearing vegetation at the pond to help ensure a good supply of tansy for next year's beetles.		Come along and help to create a new wildlife area for this lovely school in the Yorkshire Dales. On Wednesday we will be erecting a post and wire fence around the perimeter to ensure it is safe after the digger has been in to excavate the new pond. Thursday's task will be to finish any fencing and build the dipping platform for the pond.	
9th Burneston School		10th Hackfall Wood	11th Burneston School
Now that we have the area secure, it's time to install the footpath around the wildlife area. It will be a stone footpath to allow for wheelchair use. Come along and find out what a stob twister is used for!		Turner came to Hackfall to paint and Wordsworth is reputed to have loved the wood. Today we will be cutting back vegetation to help restore the views that might have inspired them.	It's a long winding footpath so we will still be installing it today but with the help of a wacker plate, essential for a nice smooth surface.
16th Burneston School		17th Burneston School	18th Burneston School
The school is eagerly awaiting its wildlife area and at this point the area should really be taking shape. Over the next three days we will be doing a variety of tasks which include; post and rail fencing around the pond area, gate hanging, raised bed building, sleeper bench construction and building bird tables. There will be lots of fun things to try your hand at and have an opportunity to practice your small carpentry skills.			
23rd Hambleton Hough		24th Hambleton Hough	25th Hambleton Hough
Hambleton Hough, formed from debris left behind when the glaciers retreated after the Ice Age, is one of the few hills in an otherwise flat landscape. Some of you will remember the beautiful woodland at this site from our visits in the Spring and it will be interesting to compare the flora and fauna this Autumn with that which we found earlier in the year. The work this week will be to continue management of the vegetation in the wood and, in particular, to clear new growth arising since our last visit.			
30th Barlby Woodland Walk		The Green Pennant Award	
We will be working with Barlby and Osgodby Parish Council to carry out some improvements to the Woodland Walk. We will be clearing fallen timber and tidying paths through the woods. The Parish Council is hoping that the Woodland Walk will follow in the footsteps of another of its sites – the Old Railway Walk – and achieve the Green Pennant Award.		The Green Pennant Award is a national award scheme that recognises high quality green spaces in England and Wales that are managed by voluntary and community groups. The Award has an impressive and established background – it is part of the Green Flag Award scheme, the national standard for quality parks and green spaces. Winning a Green Pennant Award brings excellent publicity. Both the media and the public are becoming increasingly aware that a site holding a Pennant is a valued and high quality green space.	
		If you are part of a community group that manages a local green space and would like to find out more about the award, please contact the BTCV office on 01904 644300.	



We meet in the mornings at:
3, 5 & 7 Leake Street YO10 3BR (see map)
 at 9:00-9:15

Phone: 01904 644300 email: York@btcv.org.uk

http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/btcv_york

There is no car parking at the office but there are streets nearby with some parking and secure storage for bikes.

Note: Tasks may be subject to change – if you're making your own way to site, please call to confirm a meeting point.

BTCV INFORMATION

Who are BTCV?

We are a national conservation charity enabling individuals to become involved in improving their local environment on a practical level. The Vale of York Group offers one of the ways of experiencing practical conservation work. People of all ages and backgrounds volunteer. Whether you can spare three days a week or one day a year, please support BTCV in York.

Do I need experience?

No. Full instruction is given on every project by trained leaders. BTCV has 50 years of conservation experience behind it.

What do I need?

You will need a packed lunch, old work clothes, waterproofs and strong boots or wellies. Work or gardening gloves are recommended though some gloves, wellies and waterproofs are available at the office.

What training can I get?

A range of practical training such as weekend practical courses in hedgelaying to informal wildlife identification skills. We also run courses in first aid and machinery use – please call for details

What do I do next?

We operate a booking system whereby volunteers wishing to ensure a place on the minibus to a particular task can put their name down for that day.

Structure of the Day

- Meet at the office to load the minibus at 9.00am)
- Minibus leaves the BTCV office at 9.15am
- Details about the task are given on arrival
- A safety talk is conducted, showing you how to use the tools and any site hazards
- Lunch is around mid-day
- Continue with the task in the afternoon
- Tidy the site and load the tools into the minibus
- Leave the site and aim to be back in York between 4.30 and 4.45pm
- On arrival at the office, tools are unloaded, cleaned and put away



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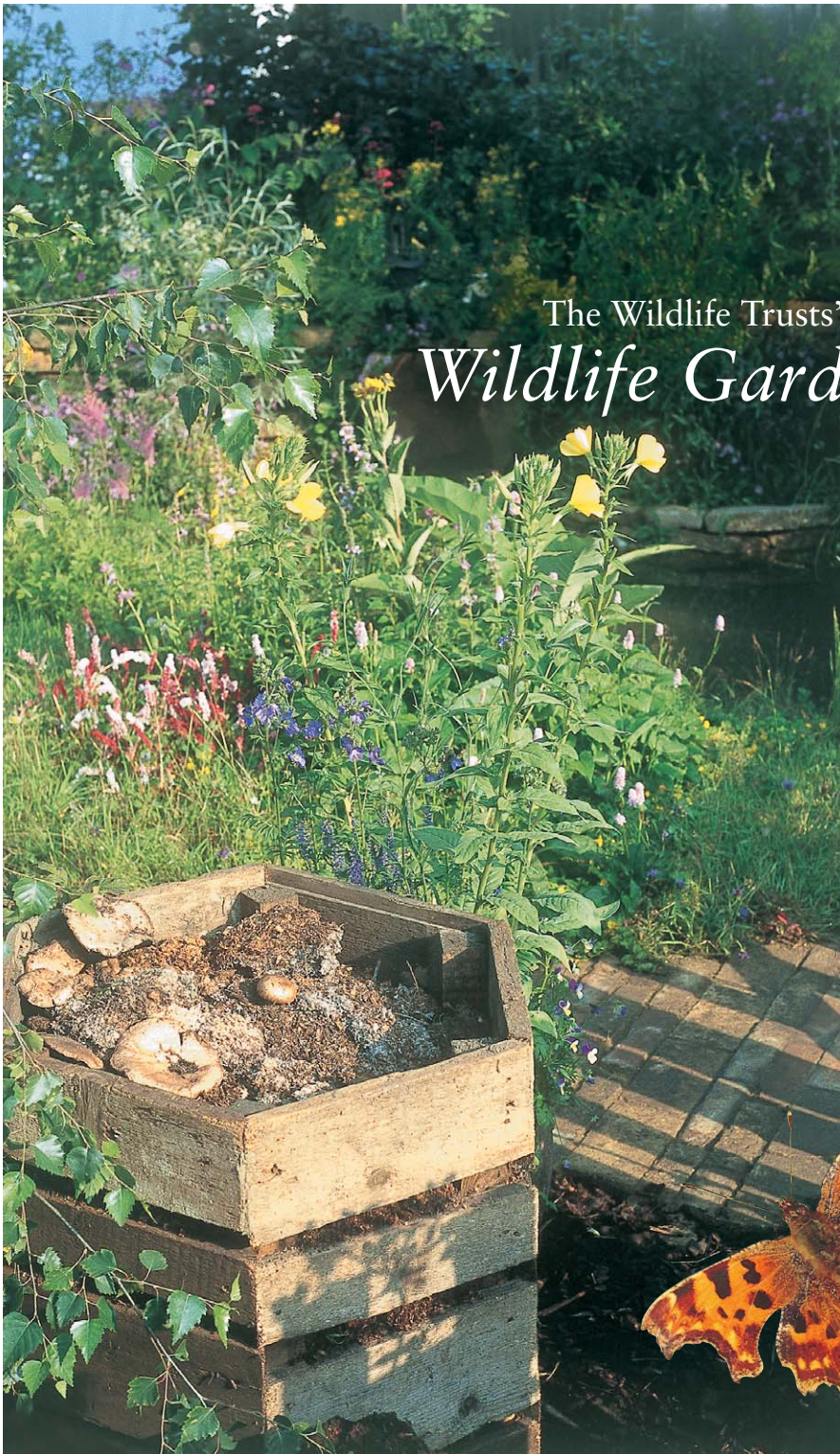
Web Address: www.btcv.org.uk Registered Company: 976410

BTCV is a charity registered in England (261009) and in Scotland (SC039302)

Connecting People with Place...Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities...Increasing Peoples Life Skills



The Wildlife Trusts' Guide to
Wildlife Gardening



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

Making room for wildlife

Across the UK, we look after more than two million acres of garden – an area five times the size of Greater London. With our countryside increasingly under threat, every garden, however big or small, is a potential nature reserve.

In the past 50 years, the countryside has changed dramatically with the destruction of much of our ancient woodlands, meadows and wetlands.

We can't replace these losses but we can help wildlife in our gardens and enjoy watching it at the same time.



Individual gardens may be small but together they form a patchwork, linking urban green spaces with nature reserves and the wider countryside.

Making our 15 million gardens wildlife-friendly will help the plants and animals that make the UK special, and ensure that they are there for future generations to enjoy.

Wildlife gardening is about creating places for animals and plants to thrive

alongside people. You can practise it on a large or small scale, with formal designs and tidy edges, or more informally.

Wildlife gardening brings life to your garden. Small ponds and meadows are easy to create and quickly become focal points. Being wildlife-friendly also means using fewer chemicals, saving you money and helping the environment.



Mayfly



Dragonfly



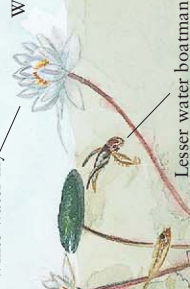
Yellow flag iris

Rosebay willowherb

Marsh marigold or kingcup

Brooklime

White water-lily



Lesser water boatman

Tadpoles

Frog-spawn

To calculate the size of liner, use this formula:

Length of finished pool x twice depth x twice width of pond.

For example, a pond 3m long by 1m deep and 1.5m wide needs 18m² of liner.

Fill with water, then introduce native plants a week later. Please don't take frog-spawn from the wild.

Build a pond for wildlife

Create a pond in spring and enjoy wetland wildlife on your doorstep. Choose a sunny site away from over-hanging trees.

Dig your pond at least 77cm deep, with shallow edges for plants and for easy access for animals.

Remove any stones then line the hole with sand and old carpet, before laying a butyl rubber lining. Turn liner under at the edges and cover with turf.

Common water plants suitable for small garden ponds

Deeper water

Hornwort, water-crowfoot, common water-starwort, spiked water-milfoil, curled pondweed, willow moss. Avoid Canadian pondweed, New Zealand stonecrop and azolla which soon take over.

Floating leaved plants

Fringed water-lily, water soldier, potamogeton.

Shallows/ledge plants

Water forget-me-not, water mint, yellow flag iris, water plantain, branched bur-reed, arrowhead.

Marsh/edge plants

Meadowsweet, purple loosestrife, lady's smock, gipsywort, ragged-robin, marsh marigold, brooklime, rushes and sedge.

Top tips for greening your garden

- Choose local seeds and plants that are suitable for your soil. Your local Wildlife Trust can advise you.
- Wild flowers belong in the wild – before buying, check plants, seeds and bulbs are labelled as being from cultivated stock.
- Ask your garden centre for peat-free products and use reclaimed stone or stone substitutes. Don't buy water-worn limestone as it may have come from limestone pavement, a threatened natural habitat.
- Save water. Install water butts under downpipes outside your house.

Amphibious bistort

Pond skater

Great diving beetle

Whirligig beetle

Common frog

Aquatic snail

Yellow water-lily

Safety first: If small children use or visit your garden you should include a barrier over or around the water such as a fence or rigid mesh (allowing 75mm squares for small animals and plants).

Gardening for wildlife

getting you started

Wildlife needs four things: food, water, shelter and places to breed.

You can provide some if not all of these things and bring your garden to life. Here are some ideas to get you started and help you to make a difference for wildlife, whatever the size of your garden.



Climbing plants

Climbing plants on fences and walls make nesting and roosting sites for birds, and a haven for insects and small animals. Choose plants like quince and honeysuckle which have nectar-rich flowers followed by fruit. Make sure you have some evergreens too, ivy is especially valuable.

Go organic

You can have an attractive and productive garden without using chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

You can make and use your own compost, encourage insect and slug-eating creatures and adapt natural processes to maintain your soil.

Gardeners' friends include frogs and toads, birds and small mammals like bats and hedgehogs – all of which eat insects or slugs. Ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies feast on aphids.

Butterfly gardens

Butterflies bring beauty to any garden. Attract them to yours with nectar-rich flowers like buddleia, scarious and ice-plant. Plant in a sheltered sunny spot and don't forget to provide food plants for caterpillars too.

(See the box below)

Meadow magic

To bring vibrant colour into your garden, meadow flowers can be sown or planted to produce spring or summer displays. A meadow makes a wonderful alternative to plain grass on your lawn. Your soil type and how and when you mow will dictate which species you should plant, but generally cowslip, ox-eye daisy, meadow cranesbill, yellow rattle, self-heal and meadow buttercup will do well.



Compost bins

Make your own natural fertiliser. Compost garden waste and vegetable kitchen scraps in a home-made box or bought compost bin. If you have limited space, you can still make compost in a small 'worm bin' in your house or back yard.



Cracks and crevices

Many plants grow on walls, including ivy-leaved toadflax, various ferns, red valerian and, of course, wallflower. Spiders and solitary bees like nooks and crannies, and rockeries will shelter many small creatures. Hollow stems left over the winter provide homes for insect larvae and pupae.

Peat-free gardening

Peat bogs are very special places for wildlife but, partly due to gardeners' demand for peat, nearly all have been destroyed in the UK. Help save our remaining bogs by using peat-free composts and mulches, such as chipped bark, leaf mould or coir. Contact The Wildlife Trusts for details of where to buy peat-free products.

Food plants for caterpillars

Butterfly

Meadow brown, hedge brown, wall brown, marbled white and large skipper
Large and small white
Green-veined white
Orange tip
Brimstone
Common blue
Painted lady



Nectar-giving plants

Plant

Grasses including meadow grass, false brome, cock'sfoot and Yorkshire fog
Wild/cultivated cabbages
Lady's smock, hedge garlic and hedge mustard
Alder buckthorn and purging buckthorn
Bird's foot trefoil
Thistles

Bird boxes

Tits and nuthatches need boxes with a 28mm entrance hole, house sparrows around 32mm. Open-fronted boxes attract robins and flycatchers. Large open-fronted boxes high in trees may attract owls or kestrels.

Do not put boxes in full sun and site them away from places that predators might attack from, such as overhanging branches.

Native trees

Favour native trees, but remember other species are good for wildlife too.

Trees: alder, ash, aspen, beech, birch, bird cherry and wild cherry, crab apple, field maple, hazel, holly, juniper, oak, Scot's pine, rowan, yew, whitebeam, willow, wych elm.

Shrubs: alder buckthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, broom, dog-rose, dogwood, elder, guelder-rose, hawthorn, spindle.

Nettle feeders

Nettles are the food plant of the caterpillars of some beautiful butterflies: red admiral, peacock, small tortoiseshell and comma. Butterflies prefer not to lay their eggs in the shade, so choose a sunny spot to grow your nettles.

Pile of logs

A pile of logs in a shady corner will feed beetle larvae and shelter many other animals, including frogs, toads and slow worms. The rare slug beetle needs dead wood to breed in. Hedgehogs often hibernate in wood piles, so if you're having a bonfire, check for sleeping hedgehogs first.



Handy hints for the wildlife gardener

- **Avoid using slug pellets.** They don't just poison slugs, they also affect the birds, frogs and hedgehogs that eat the slugs. Control slugs with a barrier of grit or sand around plants, or use pitfall traps – a cup or jar with a little beer in the bottom, sunk into the ground, is ideal.
- **Newly planted trees can be watered more easily via a drainpipe** sunk into the ground alongside their roots.
- **Epsom salts sprinkled around plants will prevent rabbit damage.**
- **Dilute household detergent is effective against greenfly and blackfly, and is thought not to harm other insects.**
- **You can treat seed-eating birds to a free meal by planting globe thistles and teasels.**
- **Enjoy your garden – wildlife-friendly gardening is about making your back yard into a haven for people and wildlife.**

Help and advice

This leaflet is intended as a simple guide to get you started on wildlife gardening. Once you have begun, you might get hooked, so below are some suggested sources of additional information, supplies and further reading.

Wild About Gardens is a joint project between The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society.

To find out more and share your wildlife gardening tips, visit www.wildaboutgardens.org

Organic gardening: advice, gardens to visit, fact sheets, seeds and product catalogues available from:

Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA)
Ryton Organic Gardens
Coventry
CV8 3LG

Tel: 02476 303517

Where to buy peat-free products leaflet and advice on peat alternatives – download from www.wildlifetrusts.org or free with an A5 SAE:

The Wildlife Trusts
The Kiln, Waterside
Mather Road
Newark
NG24 1WT

Further reading

Wildlife Gardening by Fran Hill, from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Tel: 01773 881188 – £7.95 inc p+p
£4.50 if ordering 10 or more copies
(cheques made payable to Derbyshire Wildlife Resources).

Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden by John Burton/David Tipling, New Holland, price £16.99

Join The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts is the UK's leading organisation working on all aspects of nature conservation. Managing more than 2,500 nature reserves, we campaign tirelessly on behalf of wildlife and run thousands of projects and events, nationally and locally. The Trusts' work is dependent on support from people like you.

Membership of The Wildlife Trusts gives you:

- **A full colour magazine, *Natural World*, three times a year.**
- **A newsletter from your local Wildlife Trust, keeping you up to date with local wildlife news and events.**
- **The opportunity to get involved in many activities and events, and access to spectacular nature reserves around the UK.**
- **The knowledge that your support is crucial in helping to keep the UK's wildlife safe for the future.**

To find out more about joining The Wildlife Trusts, or if you'd like to make a donation to support our vital work, please visit our website www.wildlifetrusts.org or write to:



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NG24 4BR

Telephone: 0870 036 7711

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Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future