



**A badge for all Guiding sectors**

#### Section one: Survey for wildlife

A fantastic way to become aware of and record the wildlife around you!

#### Section two: Learn about wildlife

Nature is awesome! There's far too much to learn about in one lifetime but it is super fun to try. Get to know it a bit better so you can spread the word yourself.

#### Section three: Experience wildlife

There is nothing better than the buzz of excitement from going out and seeing wildlife first hand. Let's encourage you to get out there and create memorable experiences.

#### Section four: Create something for wildlife

Wildlife needs all the help it can get with the increasing pressure of new developments and reduction of green spaces. We can all do our bit by making space for wildlife to thrive. It's simple and usually involves things you can find lying around. So get making and planting!

#### Section five: Campaign for wildlife

Anyone can be a champion for wildlife and hopefully these two themes, close to our heart, will inspire you to become one!

#### Go Wild Challenge Badge on a walk or in your garden

All Guiding sectors are welcome to take on the challenge. **Rainbows** must complete **five** activities from any of the sections, **Brownies** must complete **one** activity in each of the **five** sections; **Guides** and **Rangers**, **two** activities from each section.

There are lots of videos to help all sections complete this badge on the [Shropshire Wildlife Trust Facebook page](#) and also an opportunity for age 11+ to attend online events on the [Growing in Confidence](#) page!

Activities completed by girls at home for the badge should be shared with the unit leader.

Go Wild Shropshire Challenge badges cost £1 per badge.

Badges can be ordered by leaders from Marion Wynn, Girlguiding Shropshire badge secretary.

## 1. Bug Survey

Have a go at completing the Opal Bugs Count Survey using the [resources available](#).

Take photos or draw some of the bugs you found

You could have a close look at each animal to determine how they breathe, move and eat. Make a note of any special adaptations you find.

Once you've done the survey, you could enter your results online.

**Recommended kit:** Pencil, paper, OPAL Survey booklet, a camera or phone for photos.

## 2. Hedge hunt!

[Explore](#) what lives in a local hedge

Choose a hedge and look closely at the leaves, what shape and colour are they? What else will help you identify this plant? Try these [spotter sheets](#).

Look carefully within the hedge, right from the ground to the very top- what can you find? What creatures might you expect to find? Can you take a guess? Are there any signs of life?

**Recommended kit:** Pencil, OPAL Biodiversity Survey pack downloaded from their website (survey booklet, hedgerow guide, invertebrate ID guide).

## 3. Discover wildflowers

Go for a walk in a local nature reserve, local park, meadow or along a grass verge.

Take a [spotter](#) sheet with you and see what you can [find](#).

Make a list of the different plant species you find on your walk. Try to take a photograph of each flower and use it to help you identify any you do not know.

Observe closely what you can see, notice colours, shapes and scent.

**Recommended kit:** Pencil, Spotter sheets, A camera or phone to take pictures.

# Go Wild Challenge Badge - Section one



## 5. Tree Detectives!

### **Do a tree survey**

Go to a woodland/ area with lots of trees and in two minutes collect as many different leaves as possible, one from each tree. Please take care as trees are living things.

Bring them back and ID them using the [ID guides](#). Voila! You've done a mini tree biodiversity survey.

Estimate the age of at least two trees

Choose a deciduous tree (a tree that drops its leaves in winter) in an open space or woodland.

Use a tape measure to measure the circumference of the tree trunk at a height of around 1 metre, use this guide to work out the age.

**Recommended kit:** Tape measure, Tree ID guides  
Paper and pencil, Calculator.

## 4. Garden Guess Who!

### **Become a mammal or butterfly detective in your garden**

Go for a walk round your garden looking for tracks and signs such as footprints, hair, holes and scat (poo).

If you find something, record it. Note the colour, texture, length, size, where it was found and then guess what mammal it came from.

Small mammals such as wood mice, voles and dormice can be identified by what they eat. Use a magnifying glass to have a closer look for teeth marks if you find nuts with holes in. You could make a [butterfly feeding table](#) to help encourage the butterflies - take a photo and identify them.

**Recommended kit:** pencil, spotter sheets, a camera or phone to take pictures

## 1. Expert Explorers

### **Become and expert - learn more about a particular area of wildlife**

Research a British species or local area

Theme could be:

- Trees or woodlands
- Small mammals
- Hedgerows
- Dormice
- Hedgehogs
- Garden birds
- Mushrooms
- Butterflies
- Wildflowers

Share your findings with your leader or the rest of the unit. This could be by song, leaflet, PowerPoint etc. Be creative!  
This [Wildlife Watch video](#) could help!

## 2. Know a naturalist

“Get to know” your famous naturalist: What is/was their life like? What have they done for nature? Why are/were they famous? Where are they from? How did they get interested in the natural world? What did they like and what didn't they like?

Pretend to be your famous person while everyone else asks you questions about your life.

You may want to choose a famous naturalist from this list or one of your own; David Attenborough, John Muir, Charles Darwin, Chris Packham, Jane Goodall, Steve Irwin, Steve Backshall, Joy Adamson

### **Go Wild Challenge Badge - Section two**



## 3. Daily diary

All the experts do it! Keeping a wildlife diary for a week or two is a great way to look back on what you have seen and it makes it easier to identify things later on.

Create/ decorate/ personalise your own wildlife diary.

**Tip:** It could be separated into sections such as trees, plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

For at least one week (can be longer) record any wildlife you see while out and about. This could be in the garden or on a local walk!

Record the date, location of the sighting, what it was (if you're not sure, take a picture and look it up in an ID guide) and include a small drawing or photo with labels of interesting features.

### 1. Nocturnal knowhow

While you're asleep in bed the natural world comes alive! Creatures such as bats, badgers, barn owls, moths and hedgehogs come out to feed and interact with others.

Sit in your garden on a clear still evening as the sun goes down and see what you can find. Don't forget to look up at outside lights for flying insects such as moths.

You can also just sit quietly in the dark and listen to the sounds of the night. If there are any trees in your garden, look on tree trunks you might see moths as they feed on sap dripping down the trunk.

**Recommended Kit:** Moth ID guide, Phone to record night sounds.

### 2. Go bird watching in your garden or on your walk.

Birds are fascinating and they are everywhere! Get outside and discover their daily routine, listen to the amazing repertoire of songs and spy on them to see what they do.

In your garden or through your window sit, watch and listen to the birds that live there. How many different bird songs or calls can you hear? Is one bird making more than one type of call? Watch their behaviour and note any changes. What sort of colours are their feathers? How do they move? Record as much information as you can then share what you've found. You could set up a [bird feeder](#) in your garden to encourage visitors or you could even try [making a hide](#) in the garden.

Birds can be identified by their markings or song. Make a note and use a spotter sheet to identify them. Count how many different birds appear in your garden or how many you see on your walk in an hour. This [Wildlife Watch video](#) could help you!

**Recommended kit:** Binoculars, ID guide. [Bird Identifier | British Garden Birds and Many More](#), Sketch book, Camera.

### Go Wild Challenge Badge - Section three



### 3. Mud mayhem

**Ask a grown up before you try this one!** Create some muddy madness! (Wash your hands after handling mud)

In your garden you could make mud monsters and mud pies. Use mud to create paintings of the landscape - or whatever takes your fancy! Get yourself covered in mud...go on give it a go - choose from the list below:

- Make your own a mud kitchen. All you need is an area to dig and some disused kitchen utensils and pots. To encourage creativity you can add things like cake cases, cups, plates or bowls.
- Make a mud hedgehog. Use mud for the body and sticks for prickles then hide them in the garden.
- Make seed bombs with mud. You can download an activity sheet from the [Wildlife Watch website](#)
- Make some mud bricks and build a mini mud house.
- Go digging in the mud to see how many worms you can find
- Go barefoot in the mud and make muddy footprints.
- Go for a muddy walk and look for animal tracks take photos

**Recommended Kit:** Change of clothes, Towels, Baby wipes, Water, Wellies, Waterproofs/overalls, Spades or trowels, Buckets or bowls.

### 1. Build a bat box

Our bat populations are at risk. With fewer wooded areas, ponds and open grass spaces for them to feed and roost, their habitat is shrinking.

Download the '[how to make a bat box](#)' activity sheet on the Wildlife Watch website then follow the instructions.

#### Putting up your bat box

Boxes are more likely to be used if they are located where bats feed. Boxes should be put as high as possible in sheltered sunny places. On buildings, boxes should be placed as close to the eaves as possible. Some bats use a tree line or hedgerow for navigation so putting boxes near these features may help the bats find the box.

### 2. Make a feast for the birds

Winter means less food for the birds, so putting out some extra will help them through the colder months.

However, food shortages can happen at any time so it's a good idea to feed the birds all year round.

There are so many different ways to make bird feeders but to get started why don't you download the '[how to make your own bird feeder](#)' activity sheet on the Wildlife Watch website and follow the instructions.

**Tip:** remember that whatever you design should be hygienic and safe for feeding birds. That means either easy enough to keep clean, or cheap and easy enough to replace and with no sharp edges.

This [Wildlife Watch video](#) might help you!

## Go Wild Challenge Badge - Section four



### 3. Make a butterfly feeder

Butterflies are not only beautiful to look at, they are great pollinators for the plants in your garden. A lot of butterfly species are in decline and need all the help they can get. So why not create something to attract them to your garden and help them on their way.

Download the '[make a butterfly feeding table](#)' activity sheet on the Wildlife Watch website and follow the instructions or enjoy this [Wildlife Watch video](#).

**Helpful hint:** This is a great activity for summer and early autumn. **Tip:** You can also put fruit on your [feeder](#) as some species prefer it to the nectar solution.

### 4. Create a hotel for insects

Did you know an average garden can hold over 2,000 different species of insects?! With all this diversity of life it is good to know that very few creatures cause significant damage to our prized flowers, fruit and vegetables, the ones that gardeners call pests. Even better, there are many more creatures that help us control the pests. By providing the right habitats we can greatly increase the number of beneficial insects in the garden. Not only that, some wild invertebrates, such as bumblebees and solitary bees, are declining in numbers in the wider countryside, so by providing homes we can help them survive.

Download the '[how to make an insect hotel](#)' activity sheet on the Wildlife Watch website and follow the instructions.

## Save our Bees

It's true to say we take Bees for granted and the statement "Bees don't need us, but we need them" has never been more true. Since 1900 the UK has lost 13 species and a further 35 are under threat.

*Why should we help Bees? This [Wildlife Watch video](#) will help you learn more about pollination.*

Bees are vital to our lives as they pollinate plants that we depend on for food. If our native bees were to die out the effect on crops and wildflowers would be utterly catastrophic. We could easily lose up to a third of our regular diet. This is a very real problem, and one that's not getting the attention it needs.

**Open a bee café:** A Bee Cafe is a place for bees to feed. It could be a flower pot with lavender in it, a new flower bed to replace lawn. We suggest you plant some flower pots with pollinator friendly seeds.

**Extra activity idea:** You could also let your lawn grow - it doesn't need to be the whole thing, some people have created beautiful shapes in their lawns with long grass areas. Let your imagination fly!

**Build a bumble bee nest:** Anyone and everyone can make a bee nest. Bee nests are inexpensive to make and can be put almost anywhere. Get making and receive a 5\* rating from bees everywhere.

Download the '[how to build a bumblebee nest](#)' activity sheet from the Wildlife Watch website and follow the instructions.

**Take part in the great British Bee count :** This annual event, operated by Friends of the Earth, is a fun way to learn more about bees and help their preservation. The Bee count lasts from mid May to the end of June and there is a free resource pack on The Friends of the Earth website.

## Go Wild Challenge Badge - Section five



## Save our Seas

At sea, just like on land, nature needs our protection to help it recover from years of damage. Marine Conservation Zones are areas at sea where damaging activities are restricted and special wildlife and parts of the seabed - including undersea canyons and magnificent mud plains - are given protection and a chance to recover.

**Have a go at one or all of these to help protect the sea (You might like to take a look at this [Wildlife Watch video](#) before you start!)**

**Reduce reuse recycle** - say not to single use plastics - the big four are straws, bags, cups and bottles - think reusable.

**Research Eco-friendly toiletries and cleaning products** Chemicals and microbeads in toiletries are an increasing problem in our seas and rivers. By avoiding these products you can help. Always check the labels for presence of plastic microbeads

**Pick it up** - using gloves pick up five pieces of litter on your walk and dispose of it properly and prevent it from ending up downstream in the sea.



### Go Wild Challenge Badge on a walk or in your garden

All Guiding sectors are welcome to take on the challenge. Rainbows must complete five activities from any of the sections, Brownies must complete one activity in each of the five sections; Guides and Rangers, two activities from each section.

A few things to remember when doing your Go Wild Challenge badge:

- Inform your Unit Leader that you are taking part.
- Make sure you have parental consent to go out for a walk or take them with you.
- Carry out a risk assessment of the activity for which you are responsible.
- Make sure you maintain appropriate social distancing and that you are safe.
- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately.
- Respect and be careful with the wildlife you are looking for. Put insects back where you found them and don't pick wildflowers.
- Follow the countryside code when out and about in wild spaces:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>
- Wildlife Watch [Activity Sheets](#)

Have fun and enjoy the outdoors!