



# INFORMATION RESOURCE

## Give wildlife a break

Britain's wildlife needs all the help it can get and Holiday and Home parks can make a real difference.

Helping wildlife is not only vitally important, it can also make a park much more beautiful and interesting for everyone.

The David Bellamy Blooming Marvellous Pledge for Nature brings together many of the things a park can do for wildlife.

- ✓ improving existing habitats for wildlife
- ✓ creating new wildlife habitats and features where possible
- ✓ managing greenspace in as environmentally friendly a way as possible
- ✓ involving guests and staff in wildlife conservation
- ✓ engaging with local conservation bodies and projects

This information resource gives suggestions and links to help you move forward in all these areas and more.

1. [PLANNING](#)
2. [GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT](#)
3. [PLANTING](#)
4. [HORTICULTURAL MANAGEMENT](#)
5. [WILDLIFE INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION](#)
6. [ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES](#)
7. [ENGAGING WITH LOCAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND GROUPS](#)
8. [ARTIFICIAL HABITATS](#)
9. [OPEN GRASSLAND AREAS](#)
10. [AREAS BETWEEN PITCHES AND FORMAL GARDENS](#)
11. [RIVERS, PONDS AND OTHER WETLAND AREAS](#)
12. [TREES AND WOODLANDS](#)
13. [BOUNDARY FEATURES](#)
14. [GOLF COURSES AND FARMLAND](#)
15. [INFORMATION AND ADVICE](#)

## 1. PLANNING

Wildlife conservation brings incredible rewards, but it does take planning, training and commitment.

- ✓ Draw up a written Environmental Policy Statement including the key themes of the David Bellamy Pledge and display it for everyone to see.
- ✓ Get a baseline wildlife survey carried out – ask your local Wildlife Trust for help.
- ✓ Develop a wildlife action plan. Overall, the plan should include planting and management projects designed to maximise biodiversity and to give wildlife somewhere to live and food to eat (see sections below for more ideas).
- ✓ Use the David Bellamy Pledge challenges to develop new projects.
- ✓ Involve staff – they can be a mine of good ideas and will be the people doing all the work.
- ✓ Provide staff training on ecological management issues – structured or informal, depending on your circumstances.
- ✓ Monitor improvements by doing regular wildlife counts and surveys – get everyone involved.

## 2. GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT

In all your planting and park management work, you should aim for a good balance between wild, semi-formal and formal areas.

- ✓ Create large continuous areas of habitat – these support larger numbers of species than small isolated areas.
- ✓ ‘Cut back on cutting back’ and leave more areas of your park to run wild.
- ✓ Look for any opportunities to introduce new wildlife habitat features, e.g. ponds, wildflower meadows, new woodland, etc.
- ✓ Introduce ‘wild areas’ such as bramble patches, rough grassland and nettle banks.
- ✓ Link different areas of your park with wildlife corridors, such as hedges.
- ✓ Look at how your park connects to habitats in your surrounding area and work to optimise the way it does this.
- ✓ Rigorously control invasive/non-native species e.g. Japanese knotweed.
- ✓ Ensure that all management (for example cutting grass and hedges) is timed so that it has a minimal impact on wildlife (e.g. so that it does not disrupt nesting birds).
- ✓ Ensure that you are aware of and follow all relevant wildlife conservation legislation.
- ✓ See the sections below for advice on the management of specific park areas/habitat types.

## 3. PLANTING

Plant local native varieties – these will provide the greatest benefits to local wildlife and make your park an integral part of its landscape.

- ✓ Have an on-park nursery or greenhouse where local plant species are propagated and grown for on-park use.
- ✓ Source native wildflowers, trees and other plants from a reputable supplier that guarantees UK/regional provenance.
- ✓ Plant flowers, shrubs and trees that provide shelter and food for insects, birds and other animals. Winter food plants for birds and nectar plants for insects are particularly important.
- ✓ When planting please try to put in a mix of plants that flower and fruit for as long a period as possible to give the forage that birds and insects need.

- ✓ If you are renovating or constructing park buildings, investigate whether a living roof is an option (e.g. a roof planted up with sedum/moss plant communities).

## Planting for pollinators

Bees and other pollinating insects need food to survive and thrive – for example to get the nectar and pollen they require honey bees need to be able to find flowering plants from early spring through to early winter.

It is therefore important to make sure that there is something for bees and other pollinators to feed on from February/March through to September/October. This will involve four main planting periods over the year:

- Winter/spring: e.g. plant spring and summer flowering bulbs and pollen and nectar-rich wildflower seed mixtures.
- Spring/summer: e.g. plant flowering trees and shrubs.
- Summer/autumn: e.g. sow pollen and nectar-rich wildflower seed mixtures.
- Autumn/winter: e.g. create an herbaceous border filled with long flowering plants.

List of plants that are pollinator friendly can be found at: [www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators)

## 4. HORTICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Aim for a low-impact horticultural approach that is as energy-efficient, water-efficient, peat-free and chemical-free as possible.

- ✓ Use compost produced on-park.
- ✓ Implement the 3R's waste hierarchy – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- ✓ If using commercial compost, use peat-free.
- ✓ Implement an organic or low-chemical horticultural policy.
- ✓ Investigate biological pest control (e.g. setting up a beetle bank where beneficial insects can live and reproduce).
- ✓ Keep all mechanical equipment well maintained and serviced.
- ✓ Keep fuel use to a minimum.
- ✓ Invest in electric vehicles.
- ✓ Use traditional management methods (e.g. coppicing and hand-laying of hedges).
- ✓ Try and keep hard standing and tarmac to a minimum to allow rainwater to drain away naturally.
- ✓ Use permeable hard standing that allows grass to grow up through it.
- ✓ Keep in mind relevant health and safety issues and make sure that caravan/lodge bases are appropriate.
- ✓ Use roadside swales and other soft landscaping features to channel rainwater off roads and to capture it for future re-use.
- ✓ Try and get an electricity supply that is 100% renewable. Look for renewable sources of heat. Practice energy conservation.

## 5. WILDLIFE INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

Do what you can to provide a good range of environmental information and well-designed and interesting wildlife interpretation.

- ✓ Make details of the David Bellamy Pledge for Nature prominent alongside your park's environmental statement and actions plans.
- ✓ Provide a wildlife spotting book/nature notes/diary in reception.
- ✓ Where appropriate 'wild areas' such as bramble patches, rough grassland and nettle banks should be signed to explain why they are not kept closely mown.
- ✓ Provide a wildlife map, leaflet or sheet at reception or in your 'welcome pack'.
- ✓ Set up a well-signed wildlife trail(s) with accompanying guidebook/notes.
- ✓ In appropriate areas set up discrete environmental signage to help people understand the nature around them.
- ✓ Set up a bird hide or other wildlife watching enclosure.
- ✓ Use a CCTV camera to record wildlife on park (e.g. badgers feeding) for playback in reception.
- ✓ Provide staff training so that your staff are well-informed and keen to pass on their knowledge to visitors.

### Spread the word about bees

One good focus for wildlife information and interpretation is the importance of pollinators such as bees. If your park is working to help bees (e.g. with bee-friendly planting) then let everyone know what you are doing and why.

- Incorporate bee conservation messages into your existing interpretation/wildlife activity work. For example, add a sign about bees to your existing nature trail.
- Let guests, owners and residents know what you are doing for pollinators and get them involved.
- Put information about bees (and what you are doing to help them) in your newsletter, welcome pack, etc. Talk about bees on your website and blog.
- Run bee-friendly activities for kids and grown-ups. Local beekeeping associations may be able to help you with this. Go to [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) to find the nearest association.
- Select a bee conservation charity as your chosen wildlife charity and raise money for it in fun 'bee-related' ways.
- Point people in the direction of bee-friendly gardening advice so that they can make their gardens as bee friendly as your park. Stock bee-friendly wildlife seed mixtures for them to buy and plant.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Offer everyone the opportunity to be involved in a range of environmental activities, such as bird and bat watching, bug hunts and tree planting.

- ✓ Tap into your local countryside department's Ranger service and guided walk scheme.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for wildlife watching (e.g. nature rambles, bird watching, bat spotting and plant identification walks) for both adults and children.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for visitors to take part in conservation work (e.g. hedge laying, acorn and seed collection sessions, seed planting, adopt-a-tree planting sessions, etc.).
- ✓ Team up with local wildlife experts or rangers to run practical conservation activity holidays or wildlife-watching breaks.

- ✓ Run a programme of wildlife activities for kids.
- ✓ Run wildlife-themed competitions (e.g. photography or art competitions).
- ✓ Provide advice on what visitors and residents should and shouldn't plant near to their holiday caravans/park homes.
- ✓ Encourage visitors and residents to put up bird boxes, feeders, etc.
- ✓ Look into the RSPB's Wild Challenge activity scheme ([www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)).
- ✓ A large commercial park may have a formal programme of events and a kid's 'Green Club'. A small family park may only be able to put on informal wildlife rambles or the like.
- ✓ On residential parks, wildlife initiatives could include wildlife-friendly gardening clubs, green gardening competitions or projects that get homeowners planting up pots with plants for pollinating insects.

## 7. ENGAGING WITH LOCAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND GROUPS

Parks can do a lot of good by linking in with local wildlife conservation projects and groups.

- ✓ Operate a scheme in which a % of profits or % of park fees is donated to a local wildlife charity or project (e.g. an opt-out scheme for visitors).
- ✓ Collect donations for wildlife charities/projects in other ways (e.g. collection box, events or selling fund-raising products).
- ✓ Support a wildlife charity in other ways (e.g. allow it to use your facilities).
- ✓ Link into a relevant local wildlife project (e.g. a wildflower verge planting scheme, or species re-introduction scheme).
- ✓ If one exists, join your regional wildlife conservation network
- ✓ Link up with your local wildlife trust or other wildlife group – ask them to come and run events and activities on your park.

## 8. ARTIFICIAL HABITATS

Aim to put up a good selection of artificial nesting boxes and other artificial habits or feeding stations designed to give nature a helping hand.

- ✓ Put up nesting boxes and other artificial habitats. Bird, bat and owl boxes are obvious choices, as are bee bricks/hotels and other insect homes.
- ✓ Ensure that all artificial homes are well sited and maintained and that they provide a good variety of nesting opportunities.
- ✓ Provide enough variety to appeal to a wide range of species.
- ✓ In particular, bird boxes with a variety of entrance holes (e.g. 25mm and 32mm) should be provided and should be placed in a variety of orientations.
- ✓ Larger boxes for birds of prey should also be provided where appropriate.
- ✓ Put up water and feeding stations for birds and other animals, make sure they are kept clean and well-stocked with appropriate food.
- ✓ Encourage visitors and residents to feed the birds and set up their own feeding/watering stations.
- ✓ A no-cat or bell-the-cat policy is also vital to give wildlife another helping hand.

## Tips on bug/bee hotels

Providing a home for insects is a great way to help conserve them. This can be done in many ways.

- ✓ **Open a bug hotel:** a bug hotel provides a place for species such as the red mason bee to lay their eggs. Commercial versions are available online. You can also make your own out of a bundle of 10-20 cm long sections of old bamboo canes or dried river rushes. Position the hotel in a sunny spot out of the rain. A bumblebee nest can even be made from an old flowerpot, see [bumblebeeconservation.org](http://bumblebeeconservation.org) for details
- ✓ **Create nesting areas:** many bee species nest in holes, so leave strips of undisturbed rough grassland adjacent to hedgerows and in field corners or banks.
- ✓ **Host a hive:** one easy way to get a hive or hives is to link up with a local beekeeping association and act as a host for a hive or hives. To find a local association, simply visit [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) to find a full listing.
- ✓ **Become a beekeeper:** beekeeping is a fantastic hobby, but it is important to understand what's involved. Help is at hand as the BBKA run beekeeping courses around the country. These will tell you just what you'll need to do to set up and look after a hive. The courses will also provide you with access to a local support network and with advice on sourcing bees.
- ✓ If you host a hive, it is vital to ensure that there are enough forage crops available so that your honey bees do not out compete other bee species.

## 9. [OPEN GRASSLAND AREAS](#)

Not all grassland needs to be close-mown! Grassland that's managed for wildlife can be home to an amazing variety of plants and animals. A wildflower meadow could form the centre-piece of your wildlife-friendly approach.

- ✓ Create rough/wild areas.
- ✓ Leave areas of longer grass.
- ✓ Plant and manage wildflower areas or a wildflower meadow (see box).
- ✓ Introduce clumps of wildlife-friendly shrubs and trees.
- ✓ Add wildlife value to unused corners and edges (e.g. along road verges).
- ✓ Create wildlife scrapes, shallow depressions that seasonally fill with water, boggy areas or other habitat niches that attract wildlife.
- ✓ Use signage to explain what you are doing and to avoid people complaining!
- ✓ Take part in [Plantlife's No Mow May](#) initiative.

## Wildflower meadows

- 1. Where to plant:** Wildflower meadows make a beautiful alternative to lawns and borders; you can also turn small field corners or grass verges into beautiful wildflower areas. Wildflowers can also thrive in rockeries, pots or troughs. They can be planted around ponds, in the rough on golf courses, around trees and along hedges. Some, such as native bluebells, can be planted in woodlands.
- 2. What to plant:** A traditional perennial wildflower seed mix will give you a beautiful meadow which, when established, will bloom each summer. Such meadow plants prefer less fertile soils. Another option is a native cornfield annual mix. Such plants like more fertile conditions and will produce brightly coloured displays from June to September.
- 3. Which plants to choose:** Choose species and seed mixtures that are right for your geographical location and for the aspect and soil type of the area you'll be planting. Choose seeds and plants of British origin. See what is growing locally for inspiration.
- 4. Where to source seeds:** It is cheapest to grow from seeds. The easiest choice is to get seeds from one of the increasing number of seed suppliers that specialises in native wildflowers, such as Emorsgate Seeds [wildseed.co.uk](http://wildseed.co.uk). They will be able to supply you with a mix that will meet your requirements.
- 5. Timing:** You can sow wildflower seeds between March and April or in September, depending on conditions and the species you are planting. Ask for guidance from your seed supplier.
- 6. Plug plants and wildflower turf:** As an alternative to seeds, you can also buy wildflower plug plants and wildflower turf. Both can be used to kick start a meadow area. Plug plants can be used to add wildflowers to borders, lawns and other areas.
- 7. Ground Preparation:** You can establish a meadow on an infertile, weedy lawn, but it is often better to start from scratch. Remove grass and weeds. Then dig or rotovate the soil to make a seedbed.
- 8. Planting:** On all but the biggest areas, you can sow seeds by hand. Seeds generally come with sowing instructions - follow these. Rake the seeds in lightly, water well and protect with netting if birds are a problem.
- 9. Meadow management.** In the first year, regular cutting will probably be required to control weeds. Established meadows should be cut around August. You can leave the hay for a week to let the seeds drop into the soil. All cuttings should then be removed.
- 10. Get help from plants:** Wildflowers can be out competed by grasses. Semi-parasitic plants such as Yellow Rattle can be used to reduce the vigour of grasses and give the flowers a fighting chance.

## 10. [AREAS BETWEEN PITCHES AND FORMAL GARDENS](#)

Manage and plant these areas to add places for wildlife to live and food plants for them to feed on.

- ✓ Use local native species that provide nectar for pollinating insects and seeds and berries for the birds.
- ✓ Use hedges to delineate zones of your park ([see section 13](#)).
- ✓ Leave patches of nettles and brambles, etc.
- ✓ Plant a butterfly-bar using species such as buddleia, remember to include a range of species and varieties to prolong the flowering season.
- ✓ Use signage to explain what you are doing and to avoid people complaining!
- ✓ Create less-structured informal areas e.g. long grass areas and wet boggy patches to create extra wildlife interest.

## 11. [RIVERS, PONDS AND OTHER WETLAND AREAS](#)

A pond or other watery habitat can be a magnet for wildlife – design, plant and manage yours to attract as much native flora and fauna as possible.

- ✓ Keep ponds etc. free of litter and other pollutants.
- ✓ Make sure they do not get choked with invasive plant species.
- ✓ Leave significant sections of river and pond banks wild.
- ✓ Create artificial breeding areas such as nesting boxes and otter holts, etc.
- ✓ Enlist the help of any anglers to keep your waterways in the best of health.
- ✓ If you have a pond, make sure that animals can get in and out easily by providing escape routes.
- ✓ Provide stones for newts to hibernate under, ensure that autumn leaves are removed and that any ice is broken in the winter to let in oxygen.
- ✓ If you are building a new pond, then the best profile for wildlife is a shallow saucer shape with gently shelving sides. If possible, ensure that your pond is a clean water pond – see [Freshwater Habitats Trust's](#) website for details.
- ✓ Put in a good mixture of appropriate aquatic plants, oxygenators such as hornwort are particularly important.
- ✓ Implement sensible signage and fencing to keep insurers happy and everyone safe.
- ✓ **Projects need not be large-scale. More manageable options can include a *mini-pond* and a *bog garden*. These projects are detailed in the WWT's 'Just add water' toolkit, which also shows how to make a wetland habitat at the end of a drainpipe (see resources for links).**

## 12. [TREES AND WOODLANDS](#)

Trees and woodland support an amazing diversity of other plants and animals – properly managed, they can be at the heart of your park's biodiversity efforts.

- ✓ Your aim should be to create woodland areas that have a diverse structure and contain a wide range of tree, shrub and ground flora species and are home to as wide a range of animals as possible.
- ✓ Ensure any new planting maximises the benefits to wildlife by, e.g. helping to link up existing areas of woodland. Ensure that any new planting will add wildlife value and not hurt existing wildlife habitat.
- ✓ When planting, choose a variety of local, native species (from the immediate vicinity if possible) to maximise the value of the new area to wildlife.
- ✓ Maintain a shrub understorey and encourage trees to regenerate naturally. Introduce woodland wildflowers and ground flora.
- ✓ Encourage the growth of wildflowers and other groundcover by judiciously removing plants such as rhododendron (NB: remember your goal is to maximise biodiversity).
- ✓ Develop glades and pathways through woodland to increase sunlight reaching the ground. Create a buffer strip of biodiversity or meadow grassland around the edge of a woodland.
- ✓ Leave logs, prunings and other dead wood in place to decompose, including standing dead wood where possible (unless it constitutes a safety risk). Create brush piles created to provide habitat for reptiles etc.
- ✓ Use coppicing to extend the lifespan of appropriate trees.
- ✓ Leave grass uncut underneath single trees, to a radius of 50 cm or more. Plant bulbs underneath single trees to provide Spring and Autumn colour.
- ✓ Encourage or introduce wildflowers underneath single trees to maintain display after bulb flowering. Consider initiating a pollarding regime on appropriate trees.



- ✓ Check the status of your trees (TPO's etc) and take this into account in your management work.
- ✓ Think about planting an orchard – again choose local varieties to maximise the value of the new area to wildlife.
- ✓ If you are unsure of any aspect of woodland management, please get in touch with your local council or wildlife trust for help.

## Planting trees

1. **What to plant:** Careful species selection is key. If possible, plant native tree species that are appropriate to your location, soil type and climate, as these will provide the most benefits to local wildlife and will thrive best. Be careful to choose trees that are actually native to the UK. Many 'native' trees that are sold originate from other countries. Why not use cuttings or seeds from local trees?
2. **Where to plant:** Space is a key consideration when planning any tree or woodland planting. You must think what the park will be like in 20 years' time and choose species that will fit your park when fully grown. Woods that link other habitat areas provide a major boost for animals, so see if you can create a wood that acts as a wildlife corridor.
3. **When to plant:** Tree planting is traditionally carried out between October and March, but it is important to avoid frost and snow.
4. **How to plant:** Dig the right size of hole. Thoroughly soak the root ball in water before planting and keep plant roots out of the wind. There are many ways to protect new trees including guards, fencing and windbreaks. Water newly planted trees as often as possible, weed and mulch around new trees and check on guards, stakes and ties regularly.
5. **How to create a wood.** According to the Woodland Trust, single species are best planted in groups of nine to 21+ trees, blending edges into the next group. Scalloped woodland edges blend more naturally into the landscape - the edges themselves are important wildlife habitats.
6. **Get everyone involved:** Ensure that everyone can enjoy your trees and woodland areas by establishing woodland walks and setting up discrete signage. You can also erect wildlife-watching hides and even install cameras to record the behaviour of woodland wildlife.

## 13. BOUNDARY FEATURES

Ensure that your park's internal and external boundaries are planted and managed in a way that maximises their value to wildlife.

- ✓ Old walls or hedges on and around the park - these should be carefully maintained and enhanced traditionally if possible.
- ✓ If there are any gappy hedges or long expanses of bare fence fill in the gaps with an appropriate mixture of native hedge species.
- ✓ Get in a group such as the Conservation Volunteers in to help.
- ✓ Hard boundary features should, where possible, be planted with appropriate flora e.g. climbers on fences.
- ✓ Fences should be preserved using low-impact chemicals.
- ✓ Introduce new natural boundaries such as hedges. Use hedging plants from your locality and try and plant several different species e.g. buckthorn, dogwood and hazel. Hedges with both shrub and taller tree layers have been found to be particularly good for birds (see more on hedges in the box).
- ✓ Leylandii hedges make good barriers but do not have a high wildlife value. If you have such hedges on your park, why not plant a native hedge in front of them that will eventually take their place.

- ✓ If you have to put in a hard boundary feature please make sure it is in a locally appropriate style e.g. a Cornish hedge or a drystone wall, depending on where you are located.
- ✓ To maximise the wildlife benefit of any boundary, leave a wild border alongside it on one or both sides e.g. a beetle bank alongside a hedge or a bed of nettles and brambles left to run wild.

## Hedges

1. **See what you have:** It is incredibly helpful to know as much about your hedges as possible, such as the diversity of species they contain, their layout and length (Defra publish an excellent survey handbook).
2. **Go native:** When planting new hedges choose native species such as blackthorn, hawthorn and hazel. See what's growing in your local hedges for inspiration.
3. **Go mixed:** In general, the greater the variety of plants in hedge, the greater the variety of wildlife it will support. For a mixed hedge, the Wildlife Trusts recommend including three plants of one species per metre along with one plant each of two other species. A large hedge can include some standard trees, such as oaks
4. Where appropriate, allow hedges to grow tall and thick – let the hedge 'breathe'. The RSPB notes that thick dense cover at the base of a hedge helps protect nesting birds. Remember, a diversity of hedge types will help the widest range of species
5. **Plant up gaps:** Use native species that are appropriate to your region to fill in gaps in any existing hedges.
6. **Link things up:** When planting a new hedge or adding to an old one, try and link your hedge to other habitats on your park such as woodlands or ponds. This will provide a safe passage for animals.
7. **Manage with a light touch:** Trim in January or February to avoid damaging nests and to allow all berries to be eaten. If possible, only trim one side of a hedge each year. Trim on a two- or three-year rotation to allow thick nesting cover to develop. If necessary, use laying or coppicing to restore and maintain your hedge.
8. **Add wildlife value:** Add climbers, such as Honeysuckle, Ivy and Old Man's Beard, to add extra thickness and wildlife value.
9. **Create a rich grass margin:** Leave a grass strip (at least 1m wide) along the base of hedges. Let leaf litter gather as this can provide habitat for insects and other animals. Encourage flowers and grasses along the bases of your hedges.
10. **Keep dead wood:** Many hedges contain dead wood. This can be a valuable habitat, so leave it in place if possible.

## 14. [GOLF COURSES AND FARMLAND](#)

If you manage a golf course or farmland alongside or as part of your park, there is an incredible amount you can do for wildlife. The following ideas are just a start.

### Golf courses

- ✓ Incorporate a variety of habitats including woods, heath, wildflower meadows, hedges, wetlands and ponds into a course.
- ✓ Fairways can be managed with low-impact chemical and watering regimes.

### Farmland

- ✓ Borders, buffer zones and field corners can be planted with wildflowers.
- ✓ Enhance hedge and tree cover enhanced and expanded.

- ✓ Take part in the relevant national/regional government-run sustainable farming scheme. These provide funding for farms that put in place various environmentally friendly land management initiatives.
- ✓ You could also consider going organic or implementing conservation grade farm management.

## 15. [INFORMATION AND ADVICE](#)

### General

[Wild About Gardens](#) – [wildaboutgardens.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk) – has lots of great advice on how to provide the right plants for pollinators, including a guide to making a butterfly garden and action any gardener can take to help support nature.

The [Wildlife Trusts](#) – [wildlifetrusts.org](http://wildlifetrusts.org) – a **grassroots movement that believes we need nature and it needs us**. Local groups can help with wildlife surveys etc. Website has lots of wildlife conservation advice.

[Plantlife](#) – [plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower\\_garden](http://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden) – a charity dedicated to protecting the UK's native plants. The group's Wildflower garden website has lots of information on growing wildflowers, including a section that helps you choose the best plants.

[Royal Horticultural Society](#) – [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk) produces a range of downloadable lists of plants that are good for pollinating insects. Look out for its *Plants for Pollinators* logo.

### Bees and other pollinators

[British Beekeepers Association](#) – [bbka.org.uk](http://bbka.org.uk) – <https://www.bbka.org.uk/gardening-for-bees> – the British Beekeepers Association provides lots of advice on gardening for bees

**Bumblebee Trust** – [bumblebeeconservation.org](http://bumblebeeconservation.org) – The Bumblebee Conservation Trust works to help the bumblebee – its website has loads of good advice.

[Butterfly Conservation](#) – [butterfly-conservation.org](http://butterfly-conservation.org) – this leading butterfly conservation charity provides lots of information about how to bring these beautiful creatures back from the brink together with lots of advice on the best plants to grow for butterflies.

[Buglife](#) – [buglife.org.uk](http://buglife.org.uk) – this group works to conserve invertebrates – its website has lots of information, particularly on habitat management.

[Friends of the Earth](#) – [friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bee-friendly-plants-every-season](http://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bee-friendly-plants-every-season) – check out this guide to bee-friendly planting from Friends of the Earth.

[Royal Horticultural Society](#) – [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk) - produces a range of downloadable lists of plants that are good for pollinating insects. Look out for its *Plants for Pollinators* logo.

### Other species

The [Amphibian and Reptiles Groups](#) of the UK – [arguk.org](http://arguk.org) – this organisation provides information and advice on the conservation of these groups of animals, along with links to many other organisations which focus on specific species, such as frogs and newts.

The [Bat Conservation Trust](http://bats.org.uk) – [bats.org.uk](http://bats.org.uk) – offers loads of tips on how to look after bats and has many local groups who can help. The group's website includes everything you need to know about bat nest boxes.

The [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](http://britishhedgehogs.org.uk) – [britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://britishhedgehogs.org.uk) – advice on how to feed and look after hedgehogs.

The [International Otter Survival Fund \(IOSF\)](http://otter.org) – [otter.org](http://otter.org) – provides advice on otter conservation, including how to build an artificial otter holt.

The [People's Trust for Endangered Species](http://ptes.org) – [ptes.org](http://ptes.org) – focuses on key species that need a hand, such as dormice and water voles.

The [Red Squirrel Survival Trust](http://rsst.org.uk) – [rsst.org.uk](http://rsst.org.uk) – offers advice on how to help Britain's endangered reds.

The [RSPB](http://rspb.org.uk) – [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk) – everything you need to know about helping our feathered friends.

## Woodland and trees

[Small Woodland Owners' Group](http://swog.org.uk) – [swog.org.uk](http://swog.org.uk) – works to conserve British woodland and is open to anyone interested in woodland management.

[Woodland Trust](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk) – [woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk) – provides lots of information on tree planting, planning and managing a new wood, hedge planting, community involvement, woodland activity ideas, funding etc.

[woodlandwildlifetoolkit.sylva.org.uk/home](http://woodlandwildlifetoolkit.sylva.org.uk/home) – toolkit of information for woodland management for wildlife.

## Hedges

[The National Hedgelaying Society](http://hedgelaying.org.uk) – [hedgelaying.org.uk](http://hedgelaying.org.uk) – provides training and information on traditional hedge management.

[Hedgelink](http://hedgelink.org.uk) – [hedgelink.org.uk](http://hedgelink.org.uk) – a partnership for everyone interested in hedgerows; its website is a cornucopia of all things hedge-related.

[English Hedgerows Trust](http://hedgerows.co.uk) – [hedgerows.co.uk](http://hedgerows.co.uk) – website has a great Good Practice Guide and species list, amongst other information.

## Ponds, rivers and wetlands

[Freshwater Habitats Group](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk) – [freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk) – the Freshwater Habitats Group is a great place to look for inspiration. Its site gives detailed information on designing and managing ponds and other freshwater habitats.

[Wildfowl and Wetland Trusts](http://wwt.org.uk) – [wwt.org.uk](http://wwt.org.uk) – the WWT leads the way on the conservation of wetlands and the wildlife that lives on them. Its site has some excellent tips on creating wetland habitats and looking after them properly.

[River Restoration Centre – therrc.co.uk](http://therrc.co.uk) – the RRC can provide independent and impartial advice on a number of river conservation topics and issues.

