



Notes - Make your own wildlife observations count

Many people are interested in wildlife watching and identifying the species which visit their gardens or favourite local places. Unfortunately, not many of us record the wildlife we see and pass on this valuable information to special interest groups and Local Records Centres, like BMERC. And that is where you can help!

What are Wildlife Observations

Wildlife Observations -more commonly referred to as biological recording, is the scientific study of the distribution of living organisms. In its simplest form it is no more than writing down a little information about what you have seen, where and when you saw it, and sharing it with others.

In doing so you can help to contribute greatly to local knowledge of our wildlife and habitats across Buckinghamshire, and beyond. Records can help to establish the distribution and size of populations, and regular recording may enable us to detect changes over time. They may also support the identification and location of rare and locally important species and in some cases can be used to help protect them and their habitats from damage. Over time they can increase understanding of how our environment is changing, for example in response to climate change. Even records of commoner species can be valuable too – what is common today may not be in the future. A great deal of useful information remains locked inside the heads of local people, so why not help by sending in your wildlife records and make the information available to present and future generations.

Target audience:- anyone who is keen to make records of the wildlife they see either at home or when out and about. You don't need to be an expert of any kind, just have an enthusiasm for wildlife and want to understand a little more about recording what you see and where.

Format:- this is designed as a free two-part online course. Please note that the two sessions are considered a set with complimentary content, participants are encouraged to attend both to get the fuller picture.

Background:- Biological recording is the scientific study of the distribution of living organisms. Biological records describe the presence, abundance, associations and changes, both in time and space, of wildlife.

However, you don't need to be a scientist to contribute to biological recording – indeed the vast majority of biological records come from volunteer recorders, naturalists and citizen scientists.