

# Biodiversity in Schools Project

Heritage Lottery Fund supported from 2013 to 2016

The Biodiversity in Schools project helps children and young people in schools in Barnsley appreciate the value of our natural environment and learn how to become involved in its conservation.

The approach has the school grounds as its focus and involves the school children in practical activities.



## The Biodiversity in Schools project involves:

- A survey of the school grounds with a written report on its environmental potential for children and school to consider.
- A presentation to the school on biodiversity and its importance, including an interactive Q & A session with the children.
- A class lesson with hands-on activities.
- Nest boxes - for birds, bees, bats, hedgehogs - provided for school use, with help to install them.
- Other habitat enhancement in school grounds including wild flower areas, ponds and wetlands, bird feeder stations, hides.
- Guidance and advice to encourage observing and recording wildlife.
- Follow up work: giving advice, helping to clean nest boxes after use, bird watching with children and parents and talks to groups.

## HLF funding enables 18 schools in Barnsley to benefit over three years to 2016

### Outputs

- Wildlife management plan for each school grounds.
- Habitat enhancement and nesting boxes for each school.
- Help with maintenance and recording.
- Active participation of children.
- Guide and audio/visual material.

### Outcomes:

- Children with raised awareness of our natural heritage and biodiversity.
- School grounds improved for wildlife.



## Volunteers are key

The project depends on volunteers, from the Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, from schools and attracted by news of the project in the media and online.

A training day each year equips everyone with the necessary skills and knowledge and helps build the team.



"An incredibly exciting and positive experience for all children involved. The expertise of people in the team is amazing and children benefited from this greatly." Jump Primary School.



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Presentations to schools



Children actively involved



The Biodiversity in Schools project aims to involve children actively, both in the classroom and in the school grounds: in classroom activities, considering the survey and plan for the school grounds, siting nest boxes, improving the school grounds for wildlife – and above all observing and recording wildlife.

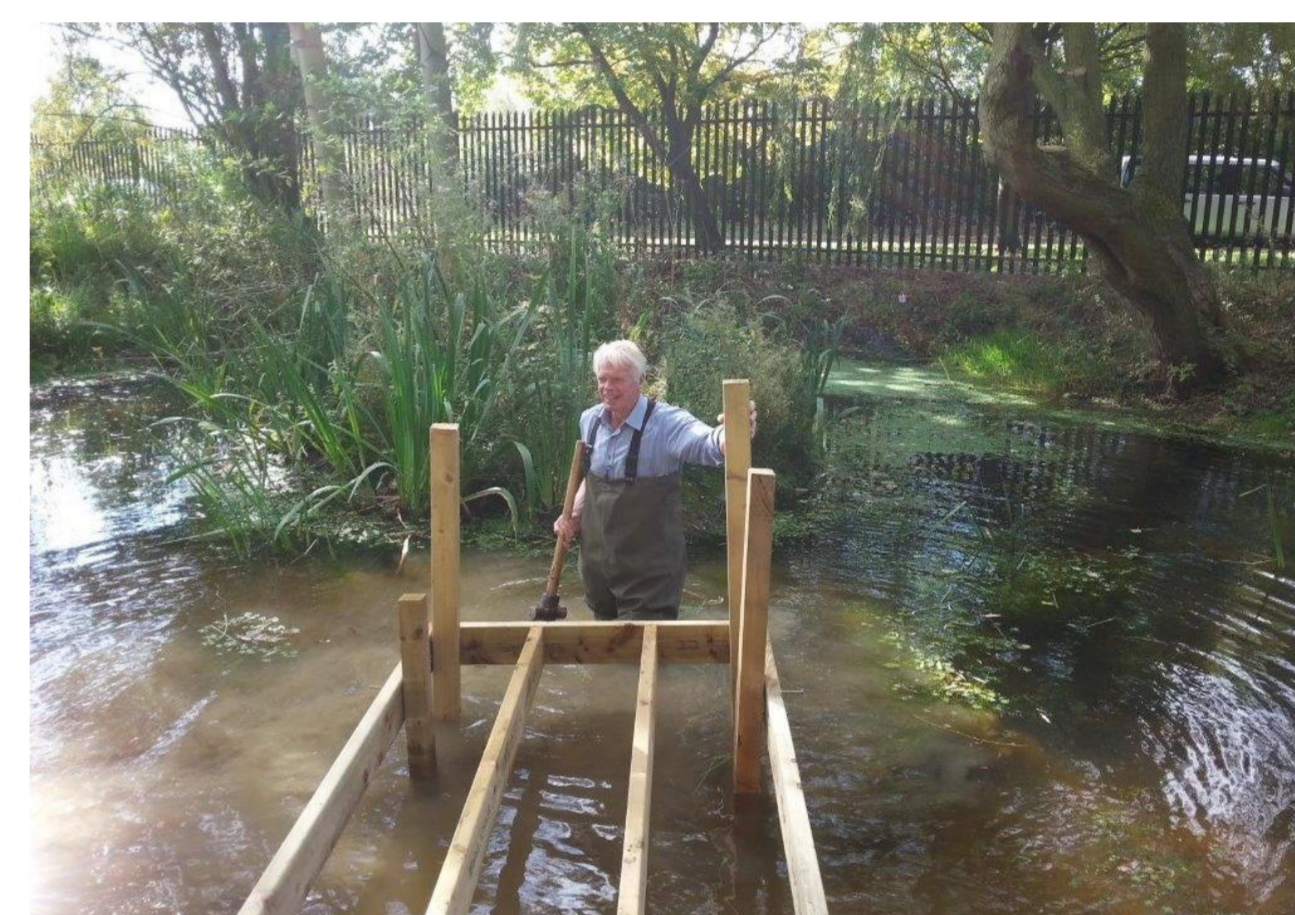


One of the most valuable activities is clearing nest boxes and examining the contents.



Volunteers are involved in classrooms as well as school grounds.

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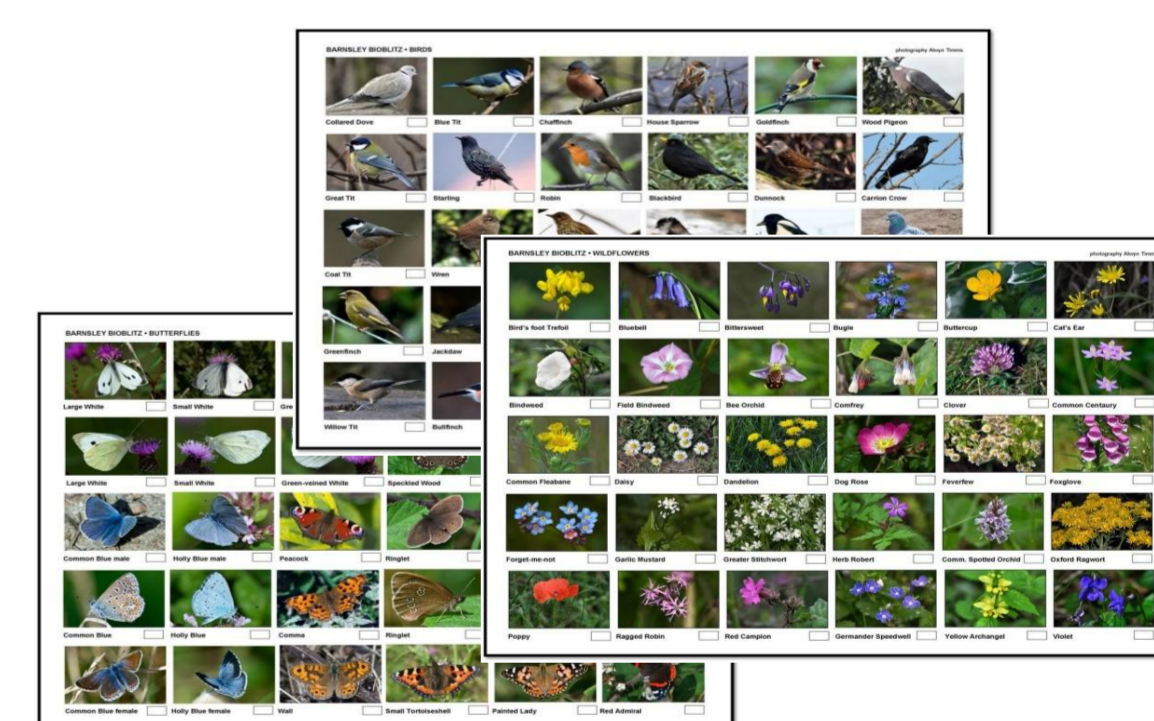
Nest boxes and other habitat enhancement in school grounds including wild flower areas, ponds and wetlands, bird feeder stations, provide opportunities for activities to raise awareness of nature and biodiversity.

Biodiversity in Schools introduces children to the rich tapestry of nature in their backyard. We believe that if you equip children with the skills, knowledge and passion for the natural world, they will become its guardians as they grow up.

We hope that we have sown the seeds in many children's minds, to make them aware of their surroundings and its biodiversity. We are all dependent on that biodiversity and we must protect it. We are proving that from little acorns, oak trees grow.

Observing and recording the wildlife in the school grounds is important.

In June 2015 children in 15 schools participated in a Biodiversity in Schools bioblitz to identify wildlife species in their school grounds.



Barnsley Biodiversity Trust applied for support for the Biodiversity in Schools project from the Heritage Lottery Fund from 2013 to 2016. Its members with additional volunteers run the project with schools.

Barnsley Biodiversity Trust is made up of individuals and representatives of organisations with an interest in Barnsley's biodiversity - its landscapes, habitats, sites and wildlife. Together we raise awareness of biodiversity issues and take action to promote Barnsley's biodiversity.

Barnsley Biodiversity Trust produces the Barnsley Local Biodiversity Action Plan which identifies important habitats and wildlife species as priorities for nature conservation in Barnsley, and gives a targeted approach for the improvement of their status.



Web: [www.biodiversity.org.uk](http://www.biodiversity.org.uk)  
 Facebook: Barnsley Biodiversity  
 Twitter: @BarnleyBiodiv

