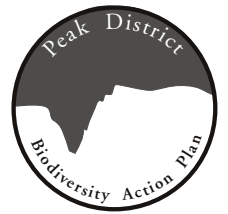


*Make no unnecessary noise. Leave gates as you find them.*

# Wildlife on Your Doorstep **ACTION SHEET 5/7**

Are you a wildlife friend? Use this sheet to support the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan -and help ensure the Peak District remains a special place.



Wildlife is all around us, not just on special sites or even just in areas like the National Park. Have you looked at what's living near you? Right on your doorstep, just around the corner? Check out your hometown. Biodiversity is about conserving and enhancing wildlife everywhere not just in 'special' places.

## Parks and Gardens

Why not try creating wildlife friendly gardens (see fact sheet 4)? But don't forget to take the time to enjoy the results! Why not keep a record of all the different animals you attract to your garden? Knowing what is where is a very important part of wildlife conservation. Parks, even formal ones, can be havens for wildlife. Jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches, tree creepers and sparrowhawks are regular park inhabitants. Foxes, woodmice and bank voles inhabit the shrubberies. Frogs, toads and even newts often take over ornamental ponds.

## Waste' Land, Brownfield Sites

All around (even inside) the Peak District are areas of land formerly used for industry. Many are former colliery sites, others old railway sidings and some have had factories on them, or housing. Many don't stay empty for long. New development comes along quickly, especially in urban areas. However, a lot of industrial land remains vacant for years, wildlife moves in and heals the scars. Skylarks love to nest on sparse grassland, brown hare and grey partridge range over spoil heaps. Scarce flowers, such as bee orchid, common-spotted orchid, common centaury, blue fleabane and cudweed, carpet the landscape. Often these sites are suntraps and butterflies abound. Holly blue, speckled wood, comma, painted lady, skipper, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown, all love post-industrial sites.

Old colliery ponds are often rich in amphibians too. Some of the best great-crested newt sites are on old industrial sites. They often support a huge range of dragonflies and water voles find the networks of drainage ditches provide good, safe habitat.

## Local Nature Reserves

Nearly all local councils have their own, official, Local Nature Reserves. The aim is to enable people to enjoy wildlife on their doorstep. That way, you don't have to travel miles to see more of the natural world. Each site is different, from remnants of moorland and ancient woodland, tucked away between housing estates and roads, to country parks, reclaimed post industrial land, planted and set out to encourage wildlife to move in. Ask your local council's Countryside Services for details of what is on your doorstep.

Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan sets the agenda for wildlife conservation in the Peak District. These action sheets have been developed by a range of organisations working together to promote biodiversity. If you would like to know more about the BAP go to: [www.peakdistrict-nationalpark.info](http://www.peakdistrict-nationalpark.info) or if you have any comments about this action sheet then please contact the Peak District National Park Authority on **01629 816200**

*Help keep all water clean. Use gates and stiles. Take your litter home. Protect wildlife, plants and trees.*

*Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work. Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.*

*Guard against fire. Keep to public footpaths. Take care on country roads.*