



- [Home](#)
- [Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- [Sites](#)
- [Records](#)
- [Contact-us](#)

Records of wildlife species and where they have been seen are important, particularly in places where they feed, roost, nest or are found because of the nature of the site. They help identify the places and wildlife species that need conservation and protection.



Information on biological records and Barnsley Biological Records Centre. It includes links on how to send in records and how to ask for records from BBRC.

Records of wildlife sightings and places with notable habitats are used by a wide range of people, including naturalists, students, schools, conservation bodies, land owners, developers and ecology consultants.

As well as being of general interest, these biological records are used for finding out how widespread different species are and whether they are increasing or decreasing in numbers.

Records help identify the need for conservation and appropriate land management and are referred to when planning authorities are considering planning applications and changes of use of sites.



Barnsley Biological Record Centre (BBRC) holds local records of wildlife species, habitats and sites for the Barnsley area, collected by naturalists and surveys.

Over 275,000 records have been collected since BBRC was set up by Barnsley council in 2011.

Records are always welcome - why not contribute?

For information on how to record wildlife sightings and on how to send in or request records, use the links below:

How to:

[record wildlife](#)

[send in records](#)

[ask for records](#)

[Comment](#)

A biological record comes from an observation by someone of a particular species at a specific place on a given date.

Species are usually recorded by sight; however records can also be obtained by noting birds calls, counting nests of harvest mice, using nets and other surveying methods and even reporting road-kill.

Information about sensitive species such as badgers, rare nesting birds, and rare plants is carefully controlled.



Records

How to record wildlife sightings

How to record wildlife sightings - a record needs:

- What?** The name of the species
- Where?** The place where the species was seen or found.
- When?** The date of the observation
- Who?** The name of the observer / person identifying the species



What? A record needs either the scientific name and/or common name of the species identified. If you are not sure then do not guess; you can give a generic name like oak if you do not know the actual species.

Online images or [ispotnature](http://www.ispotnature.org) can help identify species.

Where? Use a name for the place that can be recognised by looking at a map or better still use a map grid reference; a 100 metre square - six-figure - reference helps produce more detailed records but a four-figure reference (1 km square) is still useful.

Help to find a 4 figure or 6 figure grid reference using an online map or postcode can be found at: [gridreferencefinder](#) [More](#)

When? The date of the sighting (approx. date if actual date not known)

Remember not to disturb or harm the birds, animals or plants you find. In many cases this is against the law.

Who? The name of the observer is also required. If someone else identified the species then this can be added.

Optional comment: The numbers of the species seen, its distribution across the site, the type of habitat the species was seen in, behaviour such as feeding, nesting, etc and the methods you used for recording, may also be added as a comment.

Records are often set out in a table or spreadsheet like this:

Scientific name [if known]	Common name	Location	Grid ref [6-figure preferred]	Date [dd/mm/yyyy preferred]	Observer	Identifier	Comment
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	Penistone Church St	SE 247033	18/06/2013	Rick Korda		Pair nesting in eaves of house.
Bellis perennis	Daisy	Penistone rec ground	SE 243032	18/06/2013	Rick Korda		In flower. Frequent in amenity grassland where grass not mown
Dendrocopos major	Great spotted woodpecker	Barnsley Locke Park	SE 3405	25/12/2017	Sue Denim	Ann Other	Male moving from tree to tree in top corner of park near tower
Quercus sp.	Oak	Silkstone Fall Woods	SE 2905	08/2015	Sue Denim		Common. Scattered throughout deciduous woodland north of A628

This table is available as a downloadable [spreadsheet](#) in excel for entering your records.

A table is also downloadable in word for entering your records: [table in word](#).

How to send in records to Barnsley Biological Record Centre

Comment



- [Home](#)
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