

Getting Involved

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How Can I Help With This Biodiversity Thing?

First things first! Everyone can help improve the biodiversity within the Borough and small changes, cumulatively, can make a great difference.

We can use energy more wisely, make more use of environmentally friendly and recycled products, eat more organic food and recycle more of our rubbish. The Council is currently integrating a home recycling scheme and this will assist you in enhancing biodiversity in your area. By planting a wild corner in your garden, with nectar-rich flowers to attract butterflies and plentiful seeds and fruits for birds, you will have provided a small haven of biodiversity. Even if you do not have a garden, a planted window box or nesting/roosting boxes can help to bring life to urbanised areas.

Shown on this page are 16 things that you can do to encourage biodiversity to flourish.

Create a goldfish-free garden pond.

Join the Scarborough Conservation Volunteers.

Use home-made compost or peat-substitutes instead of peat.

Avoid cutting hedges during the bird nesting season from April to July.

Make log piles for hibernating toads, frogs and newts in darker, damper corners of your garden.

Provide a bird feeding station all year round, including wild bird mix and fresh water.

Leave an area of lawn to grow into a meadow and patches of nettles to encourage insects and wildflowers.

If you are a cat owner, try to make it a less effective predator by fitting it with a bell.

A small area of tussocky grass could be used by nesting bumble bees.

Maintain bushy hedges with a high diversity of native shrub and tree species and grow native climbers as shelter and nest-sites for birds and insects

Try to have some plants in flower from spring to autumn, to feed bees and other insects.

Look out for organised wildlife and nature events and open days.

Install bird and bat boxes on trees and walls.

Build a bumble bee nest box for the garden.

Help to increase our understanding of wildlife, by reporting the priority species listed in each District Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), to the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. On line record forms are available at www.neyedc.co.uk/Scarborough.html

Stop using slug pellets and chemicals which are harmful to hedgehogs, other animals and plants try alternative methods.

AND/OR 'Become a biodiversity volunteer.'

But there is much, much more. If you believe you have something to contribute, we would love to hear from you. Everyone has some part to play. If you want, you can even get your hands dirty. For more information please contact the Biodiversity Co-ordinator: (Phone: 01 723 3835 10)

Or write to: Scarborough Borough Council, Town Hall, St Nicholas Street, SCARBOROUGH, YO11 2HG

Or E-Mail us on at: forwardplanning@scarborough.gov.uk



Conservation Volunteer looking for Reptiles:
(Photograph by NEYEDC)



Above and Below: Conservation Volunteers in action:
Photographs by Whitfield Benson

