

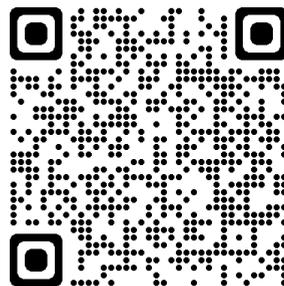
Wildlife on your walk

The parks and open spaces in Bracknell Forest are home to a wide range of wildlife, from the common to the rare.

Below you will find pictures and descriptions of nine different species you might spot on your walk.

They are important locally and can be found across a range of habitats, such as farmland, grassland, heathland, wetland and woodland. They can be considered indicators of good quality habitat.

Visit our website to find out about local wildlife, and how you can record your sightings with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.



The golden-ringed dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) is a large, striking dragonfly and the longest British species in terms of body shape. They are on the wing from May to September and are typically seen flying over heathland. They are good hunters, having large eyes to spot prey, and powerful toothed jaws to grab victims in flight.



Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) are in urgent need of our help following a huge decline in their population numbers since the early 1980s. Skylarks are mainly found in the north of the borough in large pasture and arable fields. We manage local meadows to improve the habitat for these birds.



Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) is known to be present across the borough in low numbers. It nests and feeds within woodland edge, hedges, orchards and gardens, feeding on seeds, tree buds and berries.



Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is widespread nationally, but localised to the neutral and clay soils in the north of the borough. It is most often found in ancient woods and hedgerows.



Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) is localised within Bracknell Forest where it is reliant on protected sites. It is a species of damp grassland managed by cutting or grazing to prevent more vigorous plants from becoming dominant.



Photo © Rose Wilcks

Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) has suffered declines in the UK but it is still widespread. It is mainly found in the south of the borough in grasslands with neutral to mildly acidic soils.



Photo © Rob Solomon

Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) can be found at lakes, rivers and streams across the borough. It feeds on small freshwater fish using overhanging trees as hunting perches. It nests in secluded earth banks.



Swift (*Apus apus*) is a species of conservation concern, after experiencing a decline in their numbers. They nest in tall buildings and they forage for insects at high speed in the sky. To help swifts, install specially made nest boxes under roof eaves.



Photo © Rob Solomon

Cowslip (*Primula veris*) is widely distributed within Bracknell Forest but has declined during the last century. It is found in meadows, pastures and grass banks.