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. One of the most important things you can do to help your local wildlife, is to tell us what you see and where. Below you will find pictures and descriptions of 8 species in which we are particularly interested.

You can report sightings of these species via the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) online at sightings.tverc.org

You will need to record the following:

- Species seen
- Date
- Location
- Number (optional)
- Name of the person making the record
- Telephone number or email address

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is a species of conservation concern due to declines in numbers over the last 25 years. The kingfisher 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.

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.

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 poor acid soils.

Swift (*Apus apus*) is another species that has suffered declines, estimated to be 79% in Berkshire between 2000 and 2008. It nests in roof crevices of buildings and forages for insects often high in the sky across the borough.

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.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) is an RSPB redlisted species due to a 50% decline in numbers in the last 25 years. It is mainly found in the north of the borough in large pasture and arable fields.

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.