

# BioBlitz Leicester

## KNIGHTON PARK BIOBLITZ 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Knighton Park BioBlitz took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and turned out to be another resounding success! The total so far for the Park is 437 species!



The torrential rain on Friday morning did not dampen the spirits of the children or staff from Overdale School who came prepared with raincoats and wellies to get stuck. Over 100 children took part in a number of activities which ranged from finding waterlife in Knighton Brook to bug-hunting in the spinney, searching for bees and butterflies amongst the bushes and building insect hotels in the Heath garden and spinney.



In terms of species counts the Park actually has one of the highest even though it does not have the types of habitats that some of the larger and more natural Open Spaces have such as Watermead and Aylestone Meadows. The invertebrate count was impressive and key areas of recording appear to be Knighton Spinney, Heath and Sensory Gardens and flower borders.



Plant gall



Muntjac deer caught on wildlife camera

Mammals were particularly well recorded in the spinney and behind the depot on the wildlife camera. A large black cat regularly visiting the

spinney may explain the lack of small mammals caught in the mammal traps overnight (0)! The Badger Group were surprised at the extent of badger activity amongst the flower beds – and to cap it all a member of the public saw a cub poke its face out of one of the holes during the event!

**Badger caught on wildlife camera**



The Bat Group led a well-attended bat walk on Friday evening with some good bat activity recorded amongst the mature trees and along the brook helped over-night by the fancy bat recording gear left out to record nocturnal activity. We also managed to capture some good footage of badgers and muntjac deer on camera.

Weather conditions were not great on the build-up to the event and the Moths Group optimism and perseverance for trapping moths has to be admired. Fortunately further beating about the bush(es) during the day on Saturday resulted in finding a good number of additional moths and beetles to add to the records.

**Yellow-barred Brindle moth**



The morn chorus bird walk went down well as usual and was greatly supplemented by the Ornithological Society survey which detailed records of where the main bird activity was on the Park.

Knighton Wild were a fantastic support and created a recording sheet as well as updating the tree trail which is now on-line and available on the website for more to enjoy and learn about the wildlife associated with the mature trees. The link is below.

<http://knightonwild.org.uk/tree-trail-map/>

**Knighton Wild leading Tree Trail Walk**



Bug hunts, pond dipping and botanists being available to lead guided walks and talk to the public as well as specialists recording bryophytes, fungi, invertebrates and other species have been a key part of reaching out to the general public so that they can learn what is out there. This part is central to the BioBlitz and goes far beyond the numbers of species being recorded. It is often long and exhausting work so a big thanks to those involved and who attended to support.

**Bryophyte specialist leading walk**



Naturespot have been invaluable in getting the records quickly and efficiently collated so people can see what has been recorded at the Park during the event and afterwards. Once verified we will ensure that all the records are made available to more fully inform on what can be seen in and around the park. People can view the records on <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/wild-place/knighton-park>

Next years BioBlitz event is planned for Belgrave Hall and details will be advertised in promotional material and on-line in the near future.



Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust



Knighton Wild 



Making Wildlife Count  
www.leicester.gov.uk/biodiversity

