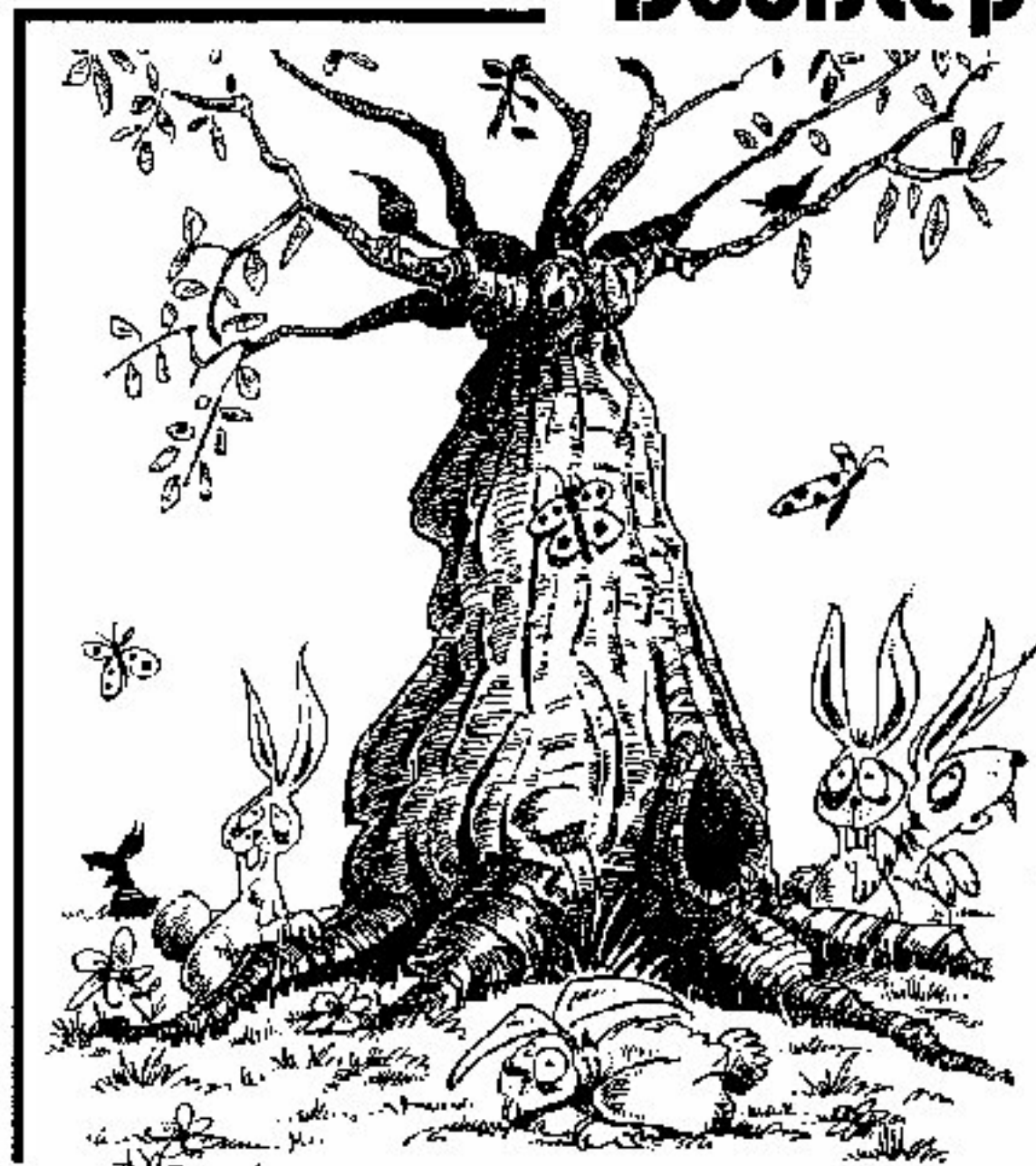


Discover the Wildlife on *your* Doorstep!



Craig Henderson

The Falkirk Council Area Local Greenspace Project

About the Local Greenspace Project

There's a huge variety of wildlife all around us, even in the heart of our towns, but often we don't notice the amazing plants, animals and habitats nearest to us. The Local Greenspace Survey Project invites all communities in the Falkirk Council area to discover the wildlife on their doorstep.

What is greenspace?

Greenspace is any area where wildlife can be found. It could be your local park or garden, school grounds or a golf course, a disused railway or riverside. It could even be a hedgebank or roadside verge. Its amazing the variety of different places that wild plants and animals can be found – just use your imagination! A new survey form especially for gardens will be produced shortly – watch this space!

Why survey our local greenspace?

Falkirk's greenspaces are home to many different wild plants and animals. However, often we don't have much information about exactly which plants and animals live where. That's where you can help. By getting a more detailed picture of the wildlife in your local greenspace you will help to discover how valuable it is. Your information will also help us get a picture of the wildlife throughout the Falkirk Council area. This will help us to look after our wildlife so that way we can all enjoy it for years to come.

Can anyone join in?

Yes! We all enjoy our local greenspaces and we can all help by taking a closer look at the wildlife living there. You can join in by yourself, with family or friends, or in a larger group. You can do the survey by visiting the site just once or you could go lots of times (e.g. while walking the dog). Just have a go and do as much or as little as you want – all the information you collect will be valuable. You don't have to be an expert to join in– what's most important is that you have a go.

So how do I start?

Choose an area of greenspace to survey (remember, any local green area will do). Then fill in and return the survey form on pages 3 & 4 to tell us about the site and the wildlife that you discover.

Need more help?

Most libraries have books to help you identify plants and animals e.g. Collins Pocket Guides. Further advice about identifying wildlife and on how to undertake a wildlife survey is available from the Countryside Ranger Service (Tel: 01506 845311) or from the Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre (Tel: 01324 494974). Help and advice for school groups wishing to undertake a survey is available from the Countryside Ranger Service.

How your information will be used?

The records of plants and animals that you provide will be saved and will help to give us a vital picture of the wildlife in the Falkirk area and how it is changing. Some of the plants and animals on the survey form are particularly in need of conservation. Your sightings of these 'key biodiversity species' are especially important.

Your Local Greenspace Survey

Where is your local greenspace?

Site name: _____ Grid reference (if known): _____

Location: _____

(If the location is unclear from the name, please write a description or sketch a map on a separate piece of paper)

How big is your site?

(as a guide a football pitch is about ½ a hectare or 100m x 50m)

What's your greenspace like?

Type of greenspace: (tick as many as required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Wasteground	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> River / Canal
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond / Loch	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf course	<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgebank	<input type="checkbox"/> Estuary	<input type="checkbox"/> School grounds		

Others (please specify): _____

Habitats in your greenspace: (tick as many as required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Mown grass	<input type="checkbox"/> Rough grass	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Scrub / shrubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Running Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower bed
<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered flowers	<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh / Bog	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterside plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Bare ground
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather / Moorland	<input type="checkbox"/> Mudflats	

Others (please specify): _____

Positive wildlife features in your greenspace: (tick as many as required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Bird box(es)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird feeder(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Red squirrel feeder(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Created pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Bat box(es)	

Others (please specify): _____

Negative wildlife features in your greenspace: (tick as many as required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive litter	<input type="checkbox"/> Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/> Dumped rubbish	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalised trees
---	--	---	---

Others (please specify): _____

What do you think?

Which plants, animals or habitats in your greenspace do you like most and why? _____

Have you noticed any changes in the number and type of plants and animals in your greenspace since you started visiting it? _____

Do you think there are any threats to the wildlife in your greenspace and are there any plants, animals or habitats which you think need action to conserve them? _____

What action do you think is needed to look after your local greenspace? Is there anything you could do to help? _____

▪ Which animals and plants have you seen in your greenspace

Column 1: How often seen: **A** – frequently **B** – occasionally **C** – rarely

Column 2: Maximum number seen on one visit

Tick: Tick box if seen

1	2	Birds
		Barn Owl*
		Blackbird
		Blue tit
		Bullfinch*
		Buzzard
		Chiffchaff
		Coal tit
		Curlew*
		Dipper*
		Sparrow
		Goldfinch
		Wild goose*
		Great crested grebe*
		Great spotted woodpecker
		Great tit
		Green woodpecker*
		Grey heron
		Grey partridge*
		House martin
		Kestrel*
		Kingfisher*
		Magpie
		Mallard
		Pied wagtail
		Robin
		Skylark*
		Song / mistle thrush*
		Sparrowhawk
		Swallow*
		Wren

Reptiles & Amphibians

		Frog*
		Toad*
		Newt*
		Adder*

1	2	Mammals
		Badger*
		Bat*
		Fox
		Grey Squirrel
		Hare*
		Hedgehog*
		Mink
		Mouse
		Otter*
		Rabbit
		Red squirrel
		Roe deer
		Shrew
		Stoat
		Water vole*
		Weasel

Butterflies and Moths

		Common blue*
		Small white
		Meadow brown
		Orange tip
		Peacock
		Six-spot burnet moth
		Small pearl-bordered fritillary*
		Small tortoiseshell

Other Insects

		Ladybird
		Grasshopper
		Dragonfly/Damselfly

Fish

		Stickleback
		Salmon*
		Trout*

Tick	Flowers and Ferns
	Bluebell*
	Harebell*
	Meadow sweet
	Orange hawkweed
	Orchids*
	Ox-eye daisy*
	Primrose
	Ragged robin*
	Red campion
	Sundew*
	Wood sorrel

Invasive plants

	Bracken
	Japanese knotweed
	Giant hogweed

Trees and Shrubs

	Ash
	Alder
	Beech
	Birch
	Blackthorn
	Bramble
	Conifers
	Elder
	Gorse
	Hawthorn
	Heather
	Oak
	Rowan
	Sycamore
	Wych elm*

* = Key Biodiversity species. Please list any additional species or comments on a separate piece of paper.

• **About you**

Name (or contact name): _____ Tel No.: _____
 Group/school (if applicable): _____
 Address: _____

• Reporting period covered by this form: _____
 (You can use this form to record information from just 1 visit or over a longer period of time and several visits.)

Please return this form to: **The Biodiversity Officer, Falkirk Council, Abbotsford House, David's Loan, Falkirk, FK2 7YZ.**
 E-mail: anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk

Thank you.