

Twenty species

for special focus in Maidenhead's
Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2023



Insects and Spiders – the crucially important creepy crawlies on which others depends for food, pollination ...



Limenitis camilla
White Admiral

A beautiful woodland butterfly seen in Maidenhead Thicket in June/July. Adults feeds on Bramble blossom and the lava on wild honeysuckle



Bombus
Bumblebees

Hardworking pollinators of wild flowers and crops. In Berkshire, the conservation priorities are the Brown-banded, Red-shanked and Shril Carder Bees



Argiope bruennichi
Wasp spider

A harmless grassland creature which uses its stripes to look like a wasp and try to appear dangerous. Eats flies, bees and moths



Lucanus cervus
Stag Beetle

The UK's largest beetle. Its larvae live in old trees and rotting wood for up to six years. Can be seen May-August in woodlands, hedgerows and gardens

Birds – spread plant seeds, eat insects, clean up waste and sing



Alcedo atthis
Kingfisher

A striking bird of slow moving or still water. Fishes from waterside perches. Seen along Thames and its waterways including York Stream in Maidenhead



Emberiza citrinella
Yellowhammer

In serious decline, this red-listed bird is most often seen on farmland atop hedges singing a tune said to sound like 'A little bit of bread and no cheese'



Delichon urbicum
House Martin

Migrates from Africa to breed in mud nests, often on the eaves of buildings. Depends on flying insects for food. Declining



Passer domesticus
House Sparrow

Live in groups, often near people. Opportunistic feeders eating seeds and scraps. Once common, now in serious decline in rural and urban areas

Fish – indicators of clean water



Salmo trutta
Brown Trout

Freshwater fish found in the River Thames and our local gravel pit lakes. Eats invertebrates, and then as it grows larger, small fish

Trees – food and shelter for birds, insects and others



Quercus robur
English Oak

Supports more species than any other tree. It is vulnerable to attack from the oak processionary moth. Doesn't produce acorns until it is 40 years old

Mammals – affecting many areas of the food web mammals are grazers, predators and pollinators (bats).



Nyctalus noctula
Noctule Bat
Our largest bat (18-40g). Roosts in trees. Navigates and communicates with high-pitched chirps, audible to young people. First bat to emerge in the evening



Erinaceus europaeus
Hedgehog
A once-common sight, numbers have fallen dramatically. Hedgehogs travel about 2km a night to forage for earthworms and slugs

Flowering plants – critical food sources for many adult animals and their young



Orchis mascula
Early Purple Orchid
Flowers emerge from spotted, shiny dark green leaves in April to June. Up to 40cm tall



Leucojum aestivum
Loddon Lily
Named after the River Loddon and also known as 'summer snowflake'. It grows in a few wet and riverside locations in our area. Between 30-60cm tall

Other plants – critical fodder and habitats



Ophioglossum vulgatum
Adders Tongue
This distinctive fern is usually found on old grasslands between June and August

Fungi



Hygrocybe calyptriformis
Ballerina Wax-cap
This delicately beautiful little fungus grows in grasslands

Reptiles – predators that are cold-blooded and so can be seen basking in the sun to warm up



Anguis fragilis
Slow Worm
This 'worm' is actually a legless lizard and unlike snakes, it can blink. Eats invertebrates. Often found in compost heaps. Hibernates



Natrix helvetica
Grass Snake
A harmless snake of grasslands and wetlands. May be seen swimming. Up to 150cm long

Amphibians – indicators of clean water



Triturus cristatus
Great Crested Newt
UK's largest native newt. They breed in ponds and spend winter hiding under rocks, in compost heaps or covered up by mud



Bufo bufo
Common Toad
Thousands migrate every year to breeding ponds near Ray Mill Road East and in Cookham. 'Mr Toad' from local author Kenneth Grahame's 'Wind in the Willows'

For more information about local species find Wild Maidenhead's scoping study report at <http://www.wildmaidenhead.org.uk/biodiversity-report> or Maidenhead Library.

Record your sightings at iRecord (www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/) or on the Wild Maidenhead website (<http://www.wildmaidenhead.org.uk/report-sightings>).