

# Biodiversity at the Met Office

The Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) was established in 2008. In 2011 the Met Office obtained the Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark. Since then, work continues to increase and monitor the biodiversity on site. A variety of habitats are managed wildflower meadows, ponds, woodland, bee hives, bee hotels, bat and bird boxes and hibernacula. Monitoring has led to over 500 species recorded on site, with this number continuing to rise.

## Habitat and site management



### Ponds

Home for many species, including our resident moorhens, amphibians and insects. Occasional visitors include kingfishers, water rails and herons. Insects lure in bats, for which we have installed roosting boxes in the trees around the pond.



### Meadows

The upper meadow is managed with a carefully planned mowing schedule to promote wildflowers, which in turn provide food and habitats for insects and birds. The more recently designated front meadow we hope will make a more visible wildflower display and provide insect prey for bats and birds.



### Flowerbeds

Our work to develop flowerbeds provide sources of nectar for as much of the year as possible. Plants include lavender, stoncrop, foxgloves, and many more.



### Dry basin

The quiet part of site is relatively undisturbed filled with water loving plants. Blue tits use the bullrush seeds for nesting material. A seasonal pond was installed to encourage frogs.



### Woodlands

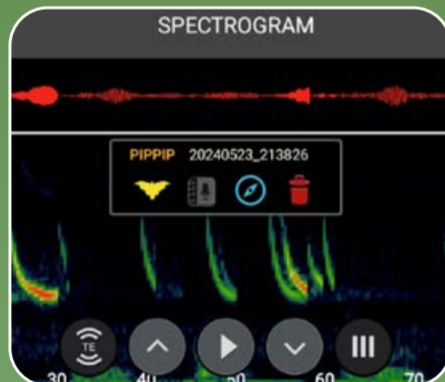
The woodlands on site are managed to promote a beneficial understorey, with leaf litter and log piles for nesting and hibernating creatures. Nest boxes have been installed throughout.

## Surveys and monitoring



### Birds

Fortnightly surveys tell us which species occupy the site through the seasons. The large variety of habitats is mirrored in the large variety of bird species that we report.



### Bats

Bats are known to use the site for feeding, particularly around the pond and meadow areas. A bat detector is used to detect and identify species which are active and feeding at dusk.



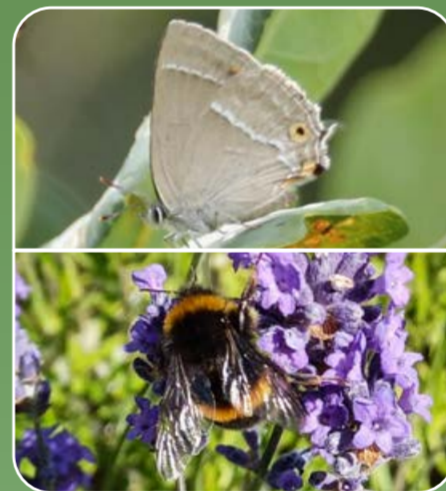
### Moths

Important night-time pollinators and prey for bats and birds. Regular moth surveys using a light trap reveal which species are on site. Some species fly during the day, such as the six-spot burnet moth which can be present in their hundreds in the meadow.



### Reptiles

We have a stable population of slow worms on site. During their active season (March – October) weekly checks of the reptile mats are made to monitor any changes.



### Butterflies and bumblebees

During the summer months regular surveys of these important pollinators are carried out during warm, calm days.



### Fungi

An integral part of any ecosystem, the diversity of fungi is a good indicator of the health of the site. For most species fruiting bodies emerge briefly during autumn allowing us to record what is present.

## Timeline

**2003**  
Met Office HQ moves to current site



**2011**  
Biodiversity Benchmark Award



**2013**  
Improvements at frontline sites, such as bat boxes installed at Camborne

**2021**  
10 years of Biodiversity Benchmark Award.  
Seasonal pond created



**2023**  
Number of species recorded on site exceeds 500 – wild strawberry being the 500th!



**2008**  
Biodiversity Working Group established



**2011**  
First bee orchids recorded



**2017**  
Installation of new insect hotels and rock piles for basking lizards



**2022**  
New meadow established at front of site



**2024**  
BWG acquires a moth trap to monitor the population of these (mainly) nocturnal insects