

# BioBlitz – A Ten Point Guide



A BioBlitz is a collaborative race to discover as many types of wildlife as possible, within a set location, over a defined time period. Here is our ten point guide to organising your own BioBlitz.

## 1. Generate ideas and set objectives

What are you hoping to achieve from a BioBlitz? Make a plan of what needs doing and an estimate (refine as you develop) of costs.

## 2. Establish partnership

Who is leading the BioBlitz and who is in the organising team? You will need a mixture of naturalists and general public attending on the day. Approach natural history societies (local and national), biological recording groups, local records centres, councils, schools, sponsors etc. Try to get someone involved who has organised a BioBlitz or similar before. Have regular meetings.

## 3. Choose venue

This is dependent on the objectives and scope of the BioBlitz and can range from someone's back garden to a local nature reserve. Permission needs to be obtained and as below don't forget legal issues.

## 4. Venue infrastructure

Make sure your site has the facilities to keep participants involved, happy and comfortable. You will need toilets, refreshments/food, seating, shelter, lighting, power requirements, signage, a focal point marquee (base camp), and details of events throughout the day.

## 5. Set date

The date will depend on whether there is a particular focus for the event that is seasonal. Summer months between May and September are the norm. Date will depend on availability of the venue; but try not to clash with other major, local events.

## 6. Timetable for the day

There needs to be a start and finishing time for the BioBlitz and to generate interest there needs to be specific activities throughout the day to appeal to different ages.

## 7. Press and publicity

The event needs to be publicised to attract participants. Local media need to be approached well before with a briefing on what is planned.

## 8. On the day – have fun!!

## 9. Post event

Thank naturalists and volunteers, extract the science from the event and share your wildlife records with the local biological records centre.

## 10. Don't forget

- a. Legalities (below is not comprehensive)
  - i. Access and use of the land, any local by-laws.
  - ii. Public liability insurance.
  - iii. Risk Assessments, accident procedures and forms are needed.
  - iv. Speak to the local police.
- b. Health and safety, and fire precautions
  - i. Is the land suitable and safe for the public? Fire extinguishers?
  - ii. First Aid on the day.
  - iii. Security of public, naturalists, volunteers and organisers.
- c. Contingencies
  - i. What if it rains all day or if it is too hot?
  - ii. What if a key person doesn't make it?

[For more information see our full guide on running a BioBlitz](#) (PDF, 427KB)