



Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Hello,

As someone interested in wildlife recording in a county bordering Northamptonshire, you may be interested in our HLF-supported **WILDside Project**, due to launch in May.

Whether you are keen to learn more about wildlife recording activities in your vicinity, willing to get involved with surveys, looking for support to build your own expertise or wanting to share your knowledge with others, please follow this link to help us tailor WILDside to your and other participants' needs and keep you informed of news, events and opportunities.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d-hlgQnNuZTP7WCSjXoIQCYhyhptOldkf9j3pmXF3kc/edit>

Why WILDside is important

The project's focus is split between encouraging people to get involved with wildlife recording in Northamptonshire and helping those who gain or already have an interest in particular species groups to develop their skills and confidence, wherever they currently reside. Along the way, WILDside will also be filling in 'gaps in the map' for a variety of species and improving our knowledge of what occurs at some of the county's key wildlife sites.

- There are numerous holes in our knowledge of the county's wildlife even for many common or obvious species;
- This becomes even more critical in relation to priority and protected species and what is known about the county's 730 plus local wildlife sites;
- For some species groups there is just one recorder for the county - or none at all - leaving Northants in a much worse position than other counties;
- Encouraging new recorders now will not only strengthen surviving recording networks but help to ensure that the data vital to guiding decisions that may impact on wildlife conservation will be collected and available in future; and, perhaps most importantly,
- It will offer a huge opportunity to anyone who is keen to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence in identifying and recording a particular species group.

WILDside will integrate closely with the [WTBCN training workshop programme](#) with the intention of providing lots of opportunities not just to be taught about how to survey for, identify and record different species but to learn whilst doing all these things. This will give lots of scope to reinforce and build on new knowledge, and to put it into practice in a range of habitats across the county.

WILDside will not only take us several steps in the right direction but offers the chance to build momentum that will carry on long after the project ends. If this appeals to you, please follow the [link](#) and let us know in which species and habitats you're most interested, what knowledge you already have in relation to these and what you'd like to gain from the project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Ryan Clark
WILDside Project Coordinator