

GOLF BIOBLITZ

How to organise a golf BioBlitz event at your course

Become a driving force for nature



W E L C O M E T O

GOLF BIOBLITZ

The unmistakable sights and sounds of nature are an intrinsic part of golf. As stewards of incredible and diverse landscapes worldwide, we all have a responsibility to help nature flourish. While it's a critical undertaking, it's also one that provides so much colour, satisfaction and joy in our lives.

Golf can have such a positive impact on nature and biodiversity, and we're proud to support the delivery of BioBlitz events. By creating this guide and the accompanying toolkit, we aim to encourage golf courses around the world to consider hosting their own events and demonstrate the sport's positive impact at all levels.

John Kemp

Assistant Director, Sustainable Golf Development
at The R&A



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WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

A BioBlitz is a multidisciplinary survey of wildlife in a set location at a set time. The main aim of the event is to take a snapshot of species present, and ultimately, to raise public awareness of biodiversity, science and conservation. It can be as small or as large as you want it to be, there's no pressure or expectation to do things a certain way.



THE BENEFITS OF HOSTING YOUR OWN EVENT



To record a benchmark for the number of species on your course

Engage with your local community, including schools and wildlife groups

Challenge preconceived ideas about golf and nature

Generate positive publicity in the local area

Meet new people and experts who can help and advise your greenkeepers.

The R&A Foundation has supported two BioBlitz events, made possible by a generous donation in memory of a much-loved colleague, Helen Goodman.

Helen dedicated nearly 40 years to The R&A from 1979, working in the Championships department throughout, until her death in 2018. Her passion for nature and sustainability inspired the Golf BioBlitz to showcase the positive impact of golf on the environment.

“As part of The R&A’s commitment to biodiversity in golf, we want to change the perception of golf’s role in protecting and conserving wildlife, showing that golf courses can have a positive impact on the environment, supporting an abundance of flora and fauna.”

Rachael Petrie
Philanthropy Manager, The R&A

“We want to change the perception of golf’s role in protecting and conserving wildlife.”

BIOBLITZ HIGHLIGHTS

The R&A Foundation's inaugural BioBlitz event was held at Carnoustie Golf Links in 2024, with the 2025 event hosted by Lindrick Golf Club in South Yorkshire.

CARNOUSTIE GOLF LINKS

A total of 231 different species were recorded during the BioBlitz, comprising animals, plants and fungi.

This figure included Daubenton's and Brown Long-eared Bats – both of which had never been recorded on the estate before, a fantastic result for the venue's first BioBlitz.

Read more about the [Carnoustie Golf Links BioBlitz](#)

"Many continue to see golf courses as off-limits, reserved solely for golfers. We're working hard to change that by encouraging the community to use the wider facilities here."

Craig Boath
Head of Sustainability,
Carnoustie Golf Links

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BIOBLITZ HIGHLIGHTS

LINDRICK GOLF CLUB

Despite the changeable weather, 224 species were identified at The Open Regional Qualifying venue.

Of these, 19 are notable species of conservation, and two plants found were invasive non-native species: Wall Cotoneaster and New Zealand Pygmyweed.

Read more about the event at [Lindrick Golf Club](#)

“Seeing different species of bats and listening to their signals and cries was a real highlight for me, but the glow-worm experience was out of this world.”

Jon Duck
Club Manager,
Lindrick Golf Club.

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“Seeing different species of bats and listening to their signals and cries was a real highlight for me. ”



BIOBLITZ HIGHLIGHTS

ROSKILDE GOLF CLUB

An astonishing 817 different species were discovered at Roskilde Golf Club in Denmark over a 24-hour period. 15 experts shared their knowledge of birds, moths, plants, etc. to help identify species and educate the attendees.

The rest of this guide will take you through the steps to organise your own BioBlitz, from planning to communicating your results.



An astonishing

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**Read all about
Roskilde's BioBlitz in
the toolkit case study.**



BEFORE THE **BIOBLITZ**

Good organisation is fundamental to the success of a BioBlitz, regardless of its size. We've covered the most important things to consider below to help set you up for success.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Set up a working group to plan and oversee the event, eg greenkeepers, staff, members and local conservation volunteers

Choose a date – consider if you want to attract non-members, children or young people (choose a school holiday), or make it part of a wider event at the club, eg a 'Try Golf Day' for beginners

Decide on a duration and time – try to establish what time might help you identify the most flora, fauna and wildlife. If it's your first BioBlitz, you might prefer to make it a shorter event

Select a specific area of the course – this is especially important if the course won't be closed for the event

Look into any external funding sources, such as local authorities / municipalities or environmental bodies to help cover the costs.



BEFORE THE **BIOBLITZ**

SPREADING THE WORD

Make members aware and ask them to get involved via the club's email newsletter, noticeboards and social media platforms

Reach out to local experts and groups to get specialist help with identifying birds, plants, butterflies etc

Contact local schools to ask if their kids would like to attend for a unique and exciting learning experience

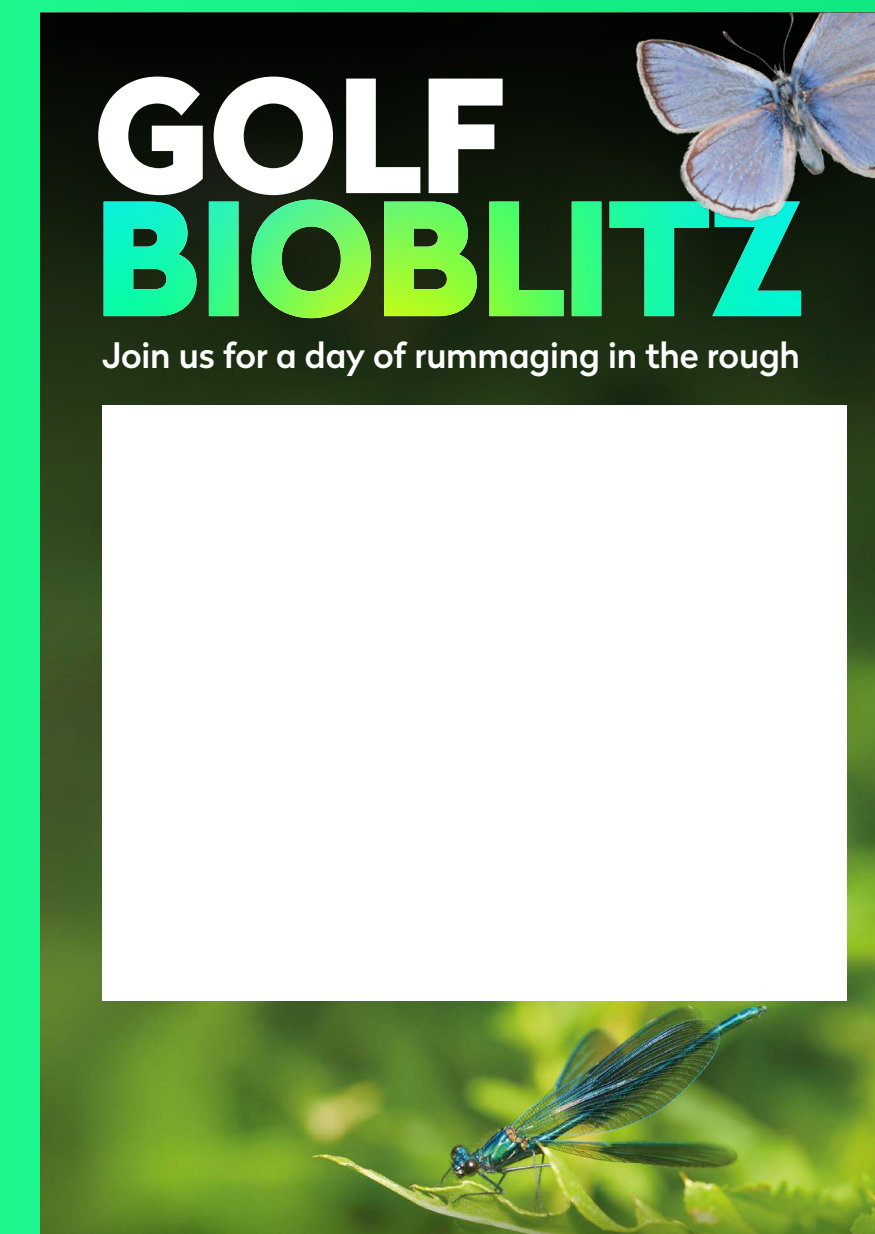
Create a programme for the day with a set time for each walk and activity

Set up online registration so you can easily track signups and keep the numbers manageable

Reach out to the local press if non-members are allowed to give as many nature enthusiasts as possible the opportunity to take part.

Make use of the ready-made templates in the

BIOBLITZ TOOLKIT



**Posters
Case Studies
Reviews**



BEFORE THE **BIOBLITZ**



THE FINISHING TOUCHES

- 1** Organise any equipment you'll need or ask people to bring their own eg magnifying glasses and nets



- 2** Arrange food and drinks for those attending if you're hosting an all-day event

- 3** Be ready to capture amazing moments – on participants' phones or via a passionate wildlife photographer

- 4** If you have the budget, you could arrange a photographer and videographer to record the day and brief them on what you'd like to capture

- 5** Get photo / video consent forms signed by participants if you're planning to use footage on social media



- 6** Print record sheets / inform people about the app you're using, eg iNaturalist

- 7** Choose a BioBlitz HQ location that's undercover, has a whiteboard and is close to toilet facilities

- 8** Have a contingency plan for bad weather by having nature-themed crafts (origami, colouring), books and beverages in the clubhouse

- 9** Print signage for the day so everyone knows where to go (poster templates are in the **BioBlitz Toolkit**), and put it in place.

DURING THE BIOBLITZ

With all the planning done, it's time to focus on ensuring the day goes smoothly. Here are some suggestions based on the events we've held so far:

1 Give a welcome talk and safety briefing (if the course is open for play) at the designated meeting place



2 Check that everyone has downloaded the recommended app before starting and knows how to use it

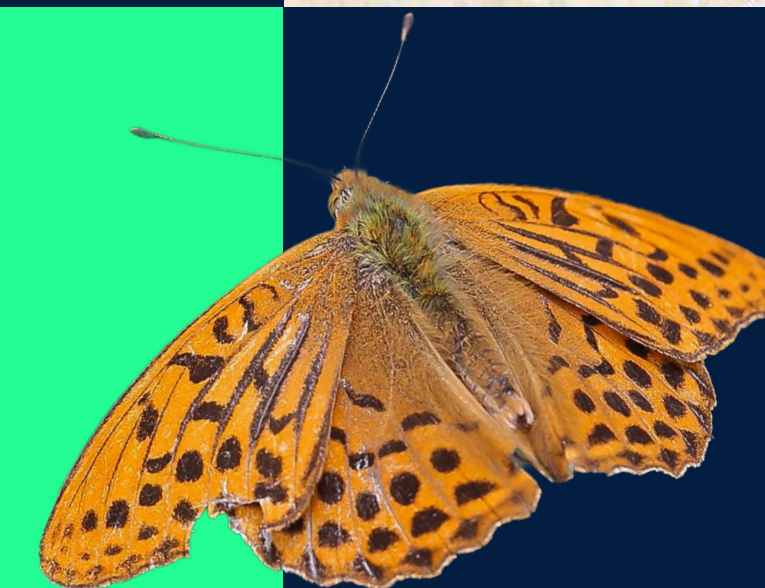


3 Ensure people at the clubhouse know to direct any latecomers to your BioBlitz HQ so they can join in the next activity

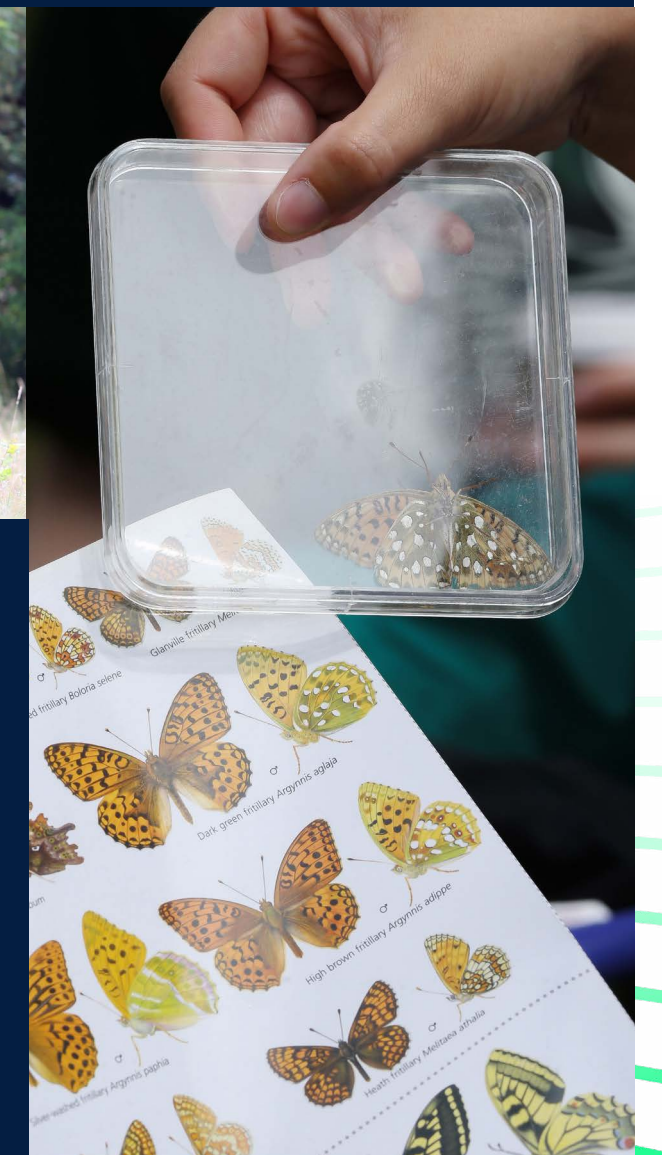
4 Encourage people to post what they find on their social media platforms in real time to help create more interest

5 Allow plenty of time for breaks between guided walks so everyone can enjoy the day at a relaxed pace

6 Capture as many images and videos as possible and ask people to share theirs afterwards



7 Give a closing talk, thank everyone for coming and share how you plan to communicate the findings from the day.



AFTER THE BIOBLITZ

It's important to keep the momentum going after the event by communicating the results and footage from the day.

Produce a BioBlitz report using the previous examples and structure provided in the **BioBlitz Toolkit**

Communicate the total number of species found via the club newsletter, notice boards and social media

Share the stories of the day – any images, video clips etc

Host a BioBlitz presentation for interested club members using the images and video footage

Use the data gathered as a benchmark for your next BioBlitz over the same part of the course for the same length of time

Share records with your Local Environmental Records centre.



WHY NATURE NEEDS YOUR HELP

According to the [2023 State of Nature report](#), one in six species in the UK is at risk of extinction. As a land-based sport, golf is ideally placed to make a meaningful impact.

While all the points in this guide might seem like a lot to think about, you can choose as many or as few that you feel are important. The main thing is to get started and do your best because hosting a BioBlitz is a lot of fun.

“These events are excellent for mapping out what wildlife, flora and fauna they have on their land. A BioBlitz also provides the opportunity to work with experts on increasing the biodiversity value of spaces around the course, which aren’t in play.”

Jana Janotova
Senior Programme Coordinator in the Sports for Nature team at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Every BioBlitz is a great achievement and a valuable step towards helping nature flourish on your golf course. Whether you’ve already taken the first steps to record wildlife on your golf course or you’re starting from scratch, a BioBlitz is the perfect way to do so in a fun, informal and rewarding format, opening up your land to the local community and showcasing the hidden, biodiverse world of golf - you can play an important part.

The future of golf and nature is in our hands – let’s embrace it.

If you’d like further details on hosting a BioBlitz, the Natural History Museum, Bristol Natural History Consortium, Stockholm Environment Institute and The Marine Biological Association have put together a comprehensive [guide to running a BioBlitz](#).

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

JOHN MUIR



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BIOBLITZ

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