

LINDRICK GOLF CLUB

BIOBLITZ 2025 REVIEW



R&A

Become a driving force for nature

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

It's 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.

This year's Golf BioBlitz, supported by The R&A Foundation, was held at Lindrick Golf Club in South Yorkshire, a course which winds through nationally notable¹ calcareous grasslands with pockets of scrub, woodland and scattered trees, as well as offering a glimpse of the River Ryton by the 4th green and 5th tee.

Activities took place from 9pm on Saturday 5 July until 4pm on Sunday 6 July, 2025. Over the course of the event, there were six different public-participation activities timetabled, which covered a broad range of habitats and wildlife found on the golf course. Around 25 people attended, including both golfers and non-golfers from the local area and wildlife experts from further afield. Attendees also enjoyed putting together a mega-sized jigsaw puzzle, highlighting interesting facts about the wildlife supported by golf courses in the UK. Thanks to everyone's hard work, a total of 224 species were identified during the event.

The event was the second Golf BioBlitz to be supported by **The R&A Foundation** following on from the success of the inaugural Golf BioBlitz at Carnoustie Golf Links in 2024. In fact, it was so successful that Carnoustie Golf Links hosted their second BioBlitz this year too. The BioBlitz events were made possible by a generous donation to The R&A Foundation 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.

The event was graciously hosted by Lindrick Golf Club with the assistance of Oleo Ecology and the RSPB, who helped to schedule activities and rally supporting experts.



The BioBlitz team at Lindrick Golf Club.

“It was a delight to discover that Lindrick hosts such high quality areas of grassland. **Marbled White Butterflies on Greater Knapweed** and carpets of **Purple Betony** were a real showcase for how golf course management can nurture species-rich, threatened habitat in an otherwise cultivated and urbanised landscape.”

Mark Schofield, Botanist

¹ Lindrick Golf Course is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and permission to host the BioBlitz within parts of the SSSI was granted from Natural England in May 2025.

THE 2025 SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 July



EVENING BAT WALK

Starting off the BioBlitz with a memorable night for all in attendance, Marie Athorn began by showing the group the various bat species which could be present on the golf course.

Sunday 6 July



BIRD WALK

Sunday started off with heavy rain which would feature intermittently through the rest of the day, but that didn't put off the early-risers who joined us for a wander around the course to record birds braving the July showers.



DISCOVER MOTHS

Having set out a moth trap on the Saturday evening, the group gathered the following morning to discover which moth species had been drawn to the light.



HEDGEHOG TUNNELS

Tunnels with ink and paper pads for tracking small mammal footprints were baited with cat food and set out in suitable areas of the golf course two nights prior to the BioBlitz.



BUTTERFLY WALK

Due to the changeable weather, it was uncertain whether any butterflies would be spotted, but thankfully a brief spell of hot sunshine enticed them out in their hoards.



WILDFLOWER WALK

Paul Hughes guided people through the diverse grasslands on the 12th, 13th and 18th holes, showing the difference between calcareous and acid grasslands, and the unique identifying characteristics of different wildflowers.



BIOBLITZ ACTIVITIES

EVENING BAT WALK



Attendees gathered by the 11th green, watching Common Pipistrelle Bats dive through the air. Photo credit: Richard Riddell, Biodiversity Champion at Muirfield.



Marie showed different bat species to the group, explaining their biology and ecology before setting off on the bat walk.



As darkness fell, 'feeding buzzes' of foraging bats could be heard along the woodland on the 2nd hole.

Marie passed around a series of faux bats, all accurately sized and weighted, so the group could get to grips with just how small (and big!) bats can be in the UK.

Bat detectors were dished out so that the group could hear echolocation calls, and a thermal imaging camera was used to view **Daubenton's Bats** skimming over the River Ryton. At least four different species were recorded and the group were astounded to also stumble across a single glowing female **Glow-worm** during the walk!



A hunting Kestrel spotted during the afternoon butterfly and bird walk and brilliantly captured by Richard Riddell. The Kestrel was seemingly hunting over the grassland at the back of the 12th tees and wasn't put off by the BioBlitzers' presence.

BIRD WALK



Long-tailed Tits were seen in small groups, twittering in the tree tops. Photo credit: Richard Riddell.

Typical golf course birds such as **Pied Wagtail** and **Black-headed Gull** were spotted loafing on the managed turf first before the flash of a **Jay** across the 4th hole, **Bullfinch** by the greenkeeping facilities, and a group of **Oystercatchers** on the 9th green. A total of 24 different bird species were spotted across the day, with nine of those listed as Birds of Conservation Concern.

DISCOVER MOTHS



Above: A Small Fan-footed Wave – the wave moths are a difficult group to identify!

Left: The group's favourite moth – Black Arches!

A haul of 20 species were identified thanks to Carl and Marie's expert knowledge, with the group being amazed at the variety and sheer beauty of moths, especially **Buff-tip** and **Black Arches**. By the end of the BioBlitz, another moth was added to the count with the sighting of several **Cinnabar Moth** caterpillars on **Ragwort** plants on the golf course.

HEDGEHOG TUNNELS



Close-ups of the tiny weasel prints.

Upon checking, whilst no hedgehogs had been passing through, the group denoted that a **Weasel** had been feasting on the food. The group measured the prints and checked them against a guide with all in agreement that a Weasel was the closest match.





A Common Blue Butterfly feeding on Knapweed.

BUTTERFLY WALK



Bob's entertaining netting method!



Some of the group gathered by a big patch of Bramble which was alive with butterflies.

The locally infamous grassland behind the 12th tees, managed for decades for its wildflower and butterfly interest, delivered an impressive 14 different butterfly species. Bob Croxton showed the group the difference between **Dark Green Fritillary** and **Silver-Washed Fritillary** butterflies by employing his unique netting skills.

WILDFLOWER WALK



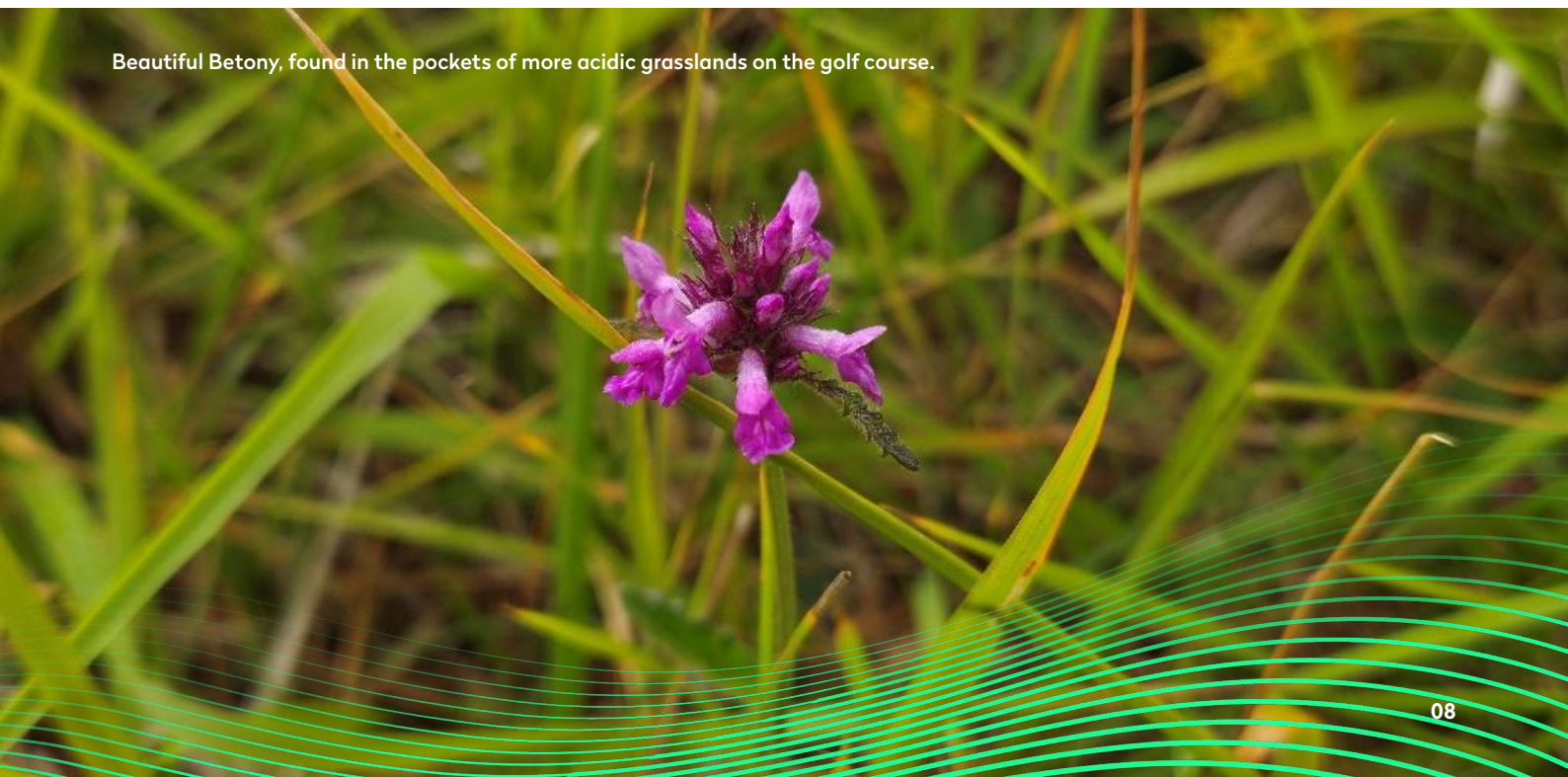
Goat's-beard 'clock' – also known as 'Jack-Go-To-Bed-At-Noon' due to its habit of closing up around midday, when in flower.



Botanist, Mark Schofield, showing some of the group different parts of grasses and their terminology – from awns to ligules and spikelets.

Whilst the course's many orchid species had dwindled in the summer heat, attendees got the chance to see other beautiful species such as **Salad Burnet** (nibbling was encouraged to try its 'cucumber-like' taste), **Kidney Vetch** and **Sneezewort**. A total of 137 vascular plants were recorded across the event.

Beautiful Betony, found in the pockets of more acidic grasslands on the golf course.



SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS



A single female **Glow-worm** found during the bat walk. Not a worm at all, but a beetle.



Numerous **Dark Green Fritillary** butterflies, darting from flower to flower. Bob Croxton captured one to show the group the tell-tale patterning on the underwings.



Roesel's Bush-Cricket, which the group heard before seeing thanks to its long and mechanical-like stridulation (song). This species has rapidly expanded in its range, having previously been restricted to the south-east coast.

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS



A female **Southern Hawker Dragonfly** which took respite on the hand of Biodiversity Champion, Dylan Mason.



Buff-tip Moth which looks just like a broken birch twig!



A quirky fungal rust, **Betony Rust**, which causes galls on the leaves of Betony, making them look like the undersides of a fern.

THE FULL SPECIES LIST

Data was collected using paper recording forms, a communal whiteboard at the BioBlitz HQ, and via iRecord where a project was set up specifically for the BioBlitz.

A total of **224 species** were recorded and uploaded to iRecord/sent to the Local Environmental Records Centre. Of these, **19 are notable species of conservation**, and two plants found were invasive non-native species (INNS): **Wall Cotoneaster** and **New Zealand Pygmyweed**.

A list of all species recorded during the BioBlitz are provided below along with the conservation status of each species, if notable.

BoCC = Bird of Conservation Concern

SPI = Species of Principal Importance in England

INNS = Invasive Non-Native Species

WCA = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981



BIRDS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber BoCC
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber BoCC; SPI
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber BoCC
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red BoCC
Oystercatcher	<i>Haemotopus ostralegus</i>	Amber BoCC
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red BoCC; SPI
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red BoCC; SPI
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber BoCC
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber BoCC

INVERTEBRATES

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
BEEES		
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidaries</i>	
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	
BETLES		
14-spot Ladybird	<i>Propylea quattuordecimpunctata</i>	
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	
Common Red Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	
Glow-worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>	
BUTTERFLIES		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	Near Threatened
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia Galathea</i>	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa Atalanta</i>	
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	
GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS		
Field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	
Roesel's Bush-Cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	
DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES		
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	
HOVERFLIES		
A Hoverfly	<i>Platycheirus scutatus</i>	

INVERTEBRATES

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
MITES		
A Gall Mite	<i>Eriophyes similis</i>	
Acer Gall Mite	<i>Aceria myriadeum</i>	
MOTHS		
Black Arches	<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	
Common Footman	<i>Manulea lurideola</i>	
Coronet	<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	
Dingy Footman	<i>Collita griseola</i>	
Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	
Mint Moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	
Mother of Pearl	<i>Patania ruralis</i>	
Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata</i>	
Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	
Scalloped Hook-tip	<i>Falcaria lacertinaria</i>	
Scarce Footman	<i>Manulea complana</i>	
Shuttle-shaped Dart	<i>Agrotis puta</i>	
Silver-Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	
Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	
Spindle Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	
Yellow-tail	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	
SAWFLIES		
Willow Bean-galler	<i>Euura proxima</i>	
TRUE BUGS		
Dock Bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	
WASPS		
Knopper Gall Wasp	<i>Andricus quercuscalicis</i>	
Pea Gall Wasp	<i>Diplolepis eglanteriae/nervosa</i>	
Robin's Pincushion Gall Wasp	<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	
Silk-button Spangle Gall Wasp	<i>Neuroterus numismalis</i>	

MAMMALS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	
Common Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Schedule 5 of WCA
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Schedule 5 of WCA; SPI
Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis sp.</i>	Schedule 5 of WCA
Soprano Pipistrelle bat	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Schedule 5 of WCA; SPI
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	

MOSSES

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Wood Bristle-moss	<i>Lewinskya affinis</i>	

VASCULAR PLANTS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	
Betony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	
Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	
Burnet Saxifrage	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	
Cat's-ear	<i>Hyochaeris radicata</i>	
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	
Colt's-foot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	
Common Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	
Common Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	
Common Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	
Common Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	
Common Reedmace	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	
Common Restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>	
Common Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Near Threatened
Compact Rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	
Darwin's Barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	

VASCULAR PLANTS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Near Threatened
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	
Domestic Apple	<i>Malus sp.</i>	
Dwarf Thistle	<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	
Early Purple Orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	
False Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	
False Fox Sedge	<i>Carex otrubae</i>	
Fat-hen	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	
Fern Grass	<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>	
Goat's-Beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	
Great Lettuce	<i>Lactuca virosa</i>	
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	
Hairy St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Near Threatened
Heath Grass	<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	
Hedge Garlic	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	
Himalayan Honeysuckle	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	

VASCULAR PLANTS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Hoary Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>	Near Threatened
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	
Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	
Large Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>	
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	
Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	
Narrow-leaved Ragwort	<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	
New Zealand Pygmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	INNS
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	
Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	
Perforate St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoides</i>	
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	
Procumbent Yellow-sorrel	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	
Quaking Grass	<i>Briza media</i>	Near Threatened
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	
Red Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	
Reed Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	

VASCULAR PLANTS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	
Salad Burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	
Slender St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	
Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	
Smooth sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	
Sneezewort	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	
Timothy Grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	
Tor Grass	<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Near Threatened
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	
Upright Brome	<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	
Upright Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>	
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis agg.</i>	INNS
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	
Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	
Wild Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus drucei</i>	
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	

VASCULAR PLANTS

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	

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Sponsors

The R&A Foundation

Participating Organisations

RSPB

Sorby Natural History Society

SK58 Birders

Image Credits

Richard Riddell

Sophie Olejnik

IMG

The people below all played an essential role in making the event a success:

Dr Marie Athorn, guided an insightful and exciting bat walk, as well as being a stalwart BioBlitzer by helping with the set-up and take-down of the event materials and so much more.

Mick Clay, Conservation Officer for SK58 Birders, led a fun morning bird walk, despite the rain and sticking around all day as the bird pro.

Carl Cornish, RSPB, helped with moth identification and provided expert help across multiple taxa on the day.

Paul Hughes, Sorby Natural History Society, was chief botanist and led an interesting wildflower walk through both calcareous and acid grasslands.

Bob Croxton, Sorby Natural History Society, entertained and engaged the group about invertebrates, especially butterflies.

Roger Whitfield, Lindrick Golf Club member, provided incredible wildlife photos to display at the BioBlitz HQ, and helped out with recording.

Kevin Hazlehurst, former Course Manager at Lindrick Golf Club, shared the history of Lindrick with the group and being a valued recorder.

Biodiversity Champions from Muirfield, Ganton Golf Club and Royal Porthcawl Golf Club travelled from afar to join in and learn from other wildlife experts.



**GOLF
BIOBLITZ**

Become a driving force for nature

R&A