

Exploring Nature with iNaturalist

Engaging with wildlife through
observation and discovery



What is iNaturalist?

Citizen Science Platform

iNaturalist is a global platform that allows people to connect to nature and record their observations, building a large-scale database that can be used for biodiversity research.

Species Identification

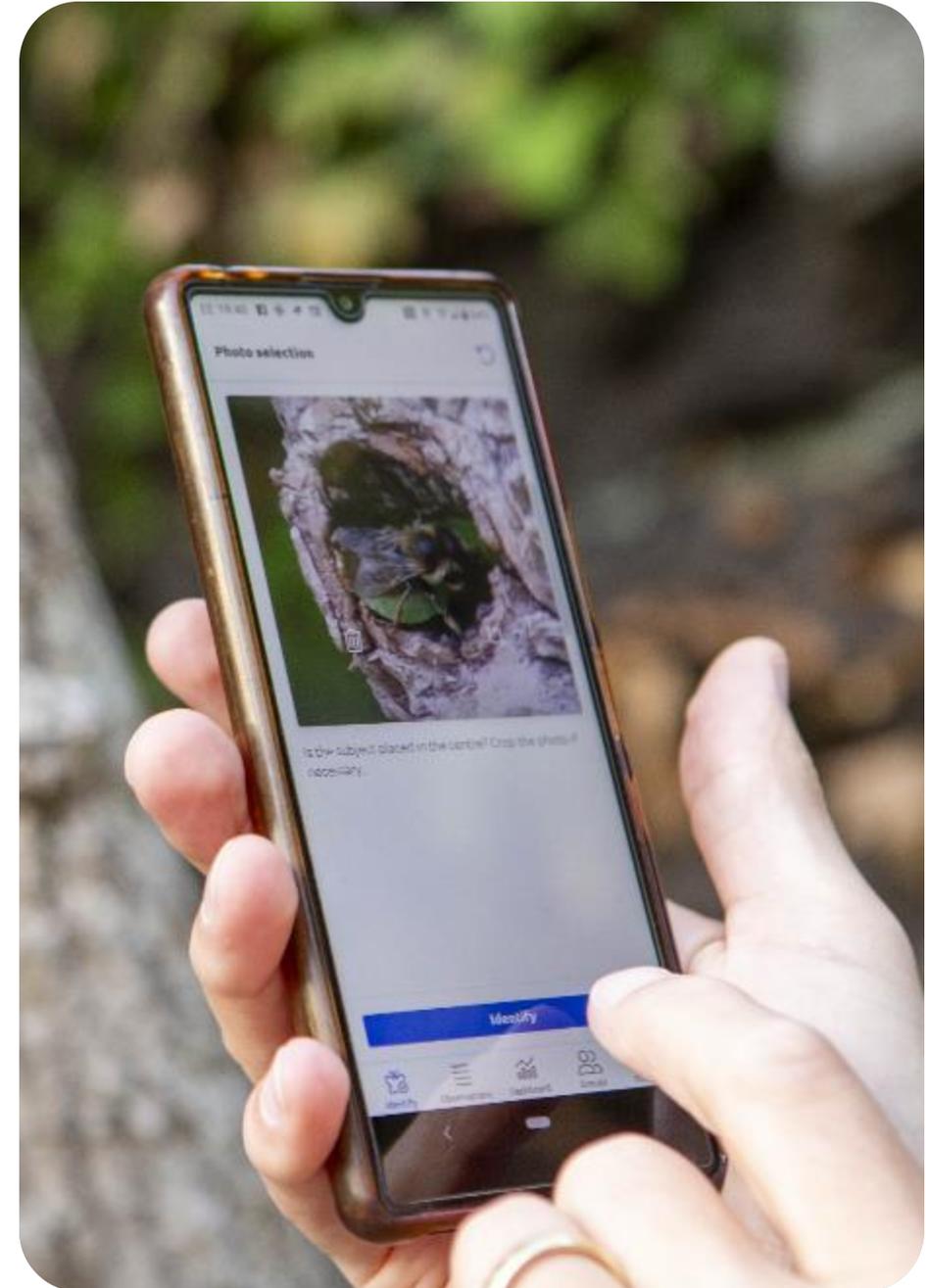
Combining AI and community expertise, iNaturalist helps users identify plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms with a user-friendly app.

Supporting Research and Conservation

The platform enables large-scale ecological data collection, aiding scientific studies and conservation efforts worldwide.

Community Engagement and Stewardship

iNaturalist can empower people and communities to learn more about their local environment. Through its user-friendly website anyone can access local projects and distribution maps to explore local biodiversity and track species changes over time.



Why Use iNaturalist?

Learning and Skill Development

iNaturalist helps nature enthusiasts learn about species and ecosystems, enhancing identification skills and knowledge.

Scientific Data Contribution

The platform generates valuable data that supports research and informs conservation policies worldwide.

In the UK: iNaturalist → iRecord → County Recorders → National Schemes

Community and Collaboration

iNaturalist creates a collaborative user community that shares observations and promotes biodiversity awareness.

Environmental Awareness and Well-being

Using iNaturalist encourages outdoor activity and fosters environmental awareness, benefiting mental health and conservation.



How Does It Work?

User-Friendly Observation

Users easily upload clear photos and locations to record observations on the platform.

AI Identification and Community Verification

AI suggests identifications which are then confirmed or refined by naturalists and scientists globally.

Collaborative Projects

Groups can create projects for wildlife surveys and seasonal monitoring to encourage collective data gathering.



How to Get Started

Downloading and Registration

Download the iNaturalist app or visit the website and create a free account using email or social media.

<https://uk.inaturalist.org/>

Capturing and Uploading Observations

Take clear photos of plants, animals, or fungi and upload them with location details to the platform.

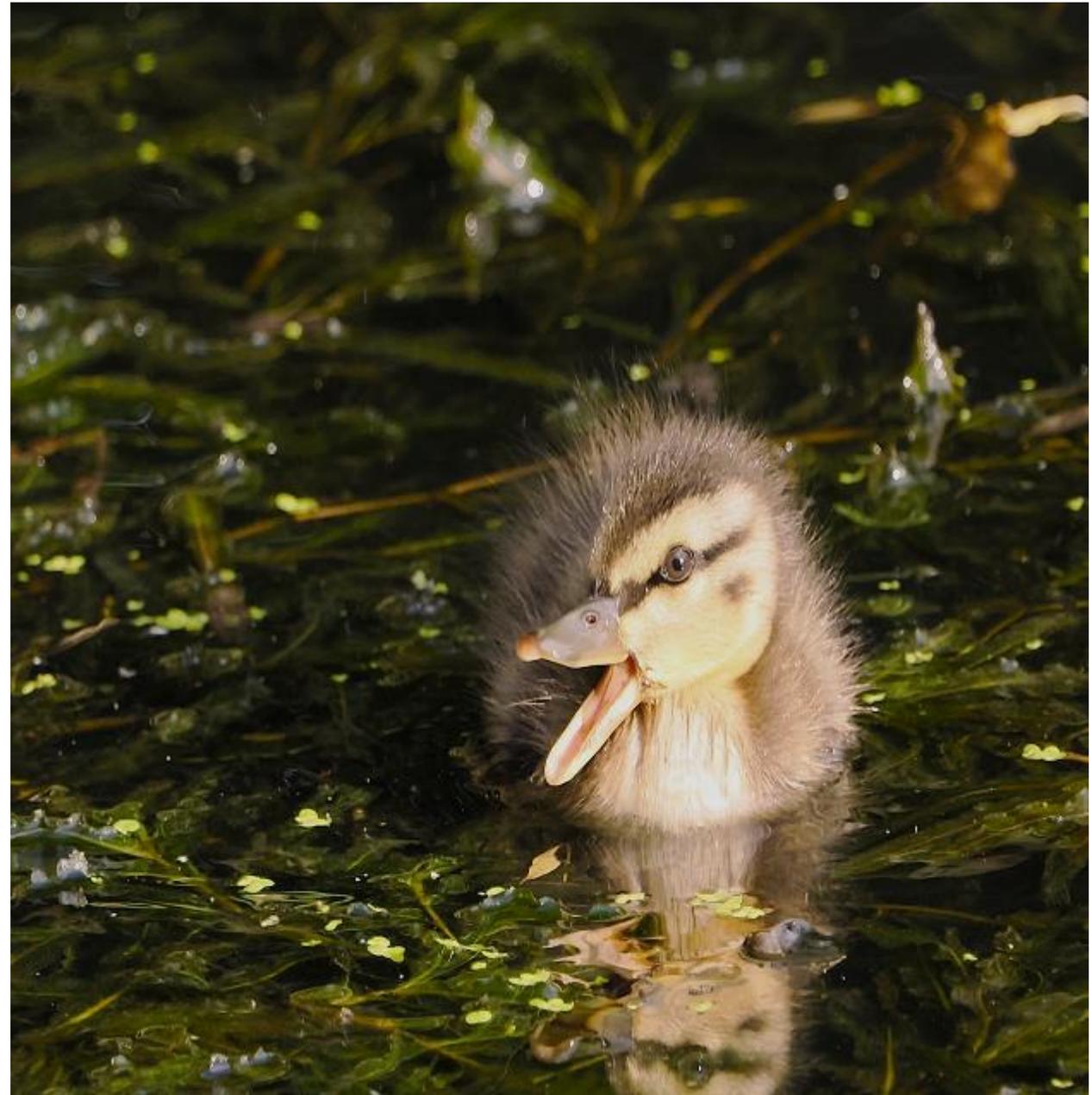
Community Engagement

Browse and explore observations in local Projects, or using search filters

Local community projects:

[Emersons Green Community Nature Reserve](#)

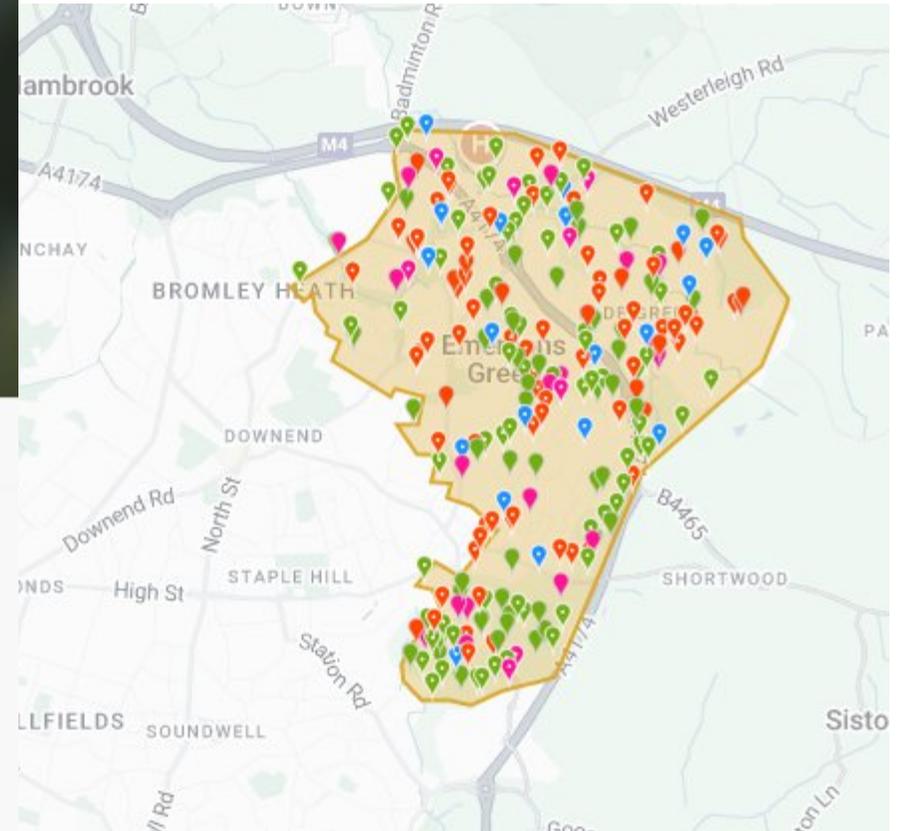
[BS16 wildlife group](#)



Our Project

<https://uk.inaturalist.org/projects/emersons-green-community-nature-reserve>

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist UK project page for Emersons Green Community Nature Reserve. At the top, the iNaturalist UK logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Explore', 'Community', and 'More' are in the center. On the right, there are links for 'Log In' and 'Sign Up'. Below the navigation is a large banner image of a thistle. To the right of the image is an 'About' section with a 'Members' count of 3. The 'About' text describes the project's goal to record and encourage wildlife observations in local gardens. Below the banner are statistics: 1,052 Observations, 462 Species, 445 Identifiers, and 103 Observers. A 'Stats' button is also present. The 'Recent Observations' section shows four entries: a Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) from 4 days ago, a Carnea-group Green Lacewing (Complex Chrysoperla carnea) from 9 months ago, a European Peacock Butterfly (Aglais io) from 5 months ago, and a Speckled Wood butterfly (Pararge aegeria) from 3 months ago. Each entry includes a photo, a user profile icon, and a rating of 'RG'.



Practical Tips for Using iNaturalist

Make sure your iNaturalist network is set as UK and use the UK website if logging in from a browser:

<https://uk.inaturalist.org/>

Settings

Choose United Kingdom common names
(will suggest “wasp” not “yellowjacket”)

Some settings are important to allow data to be integrated into national recording projects

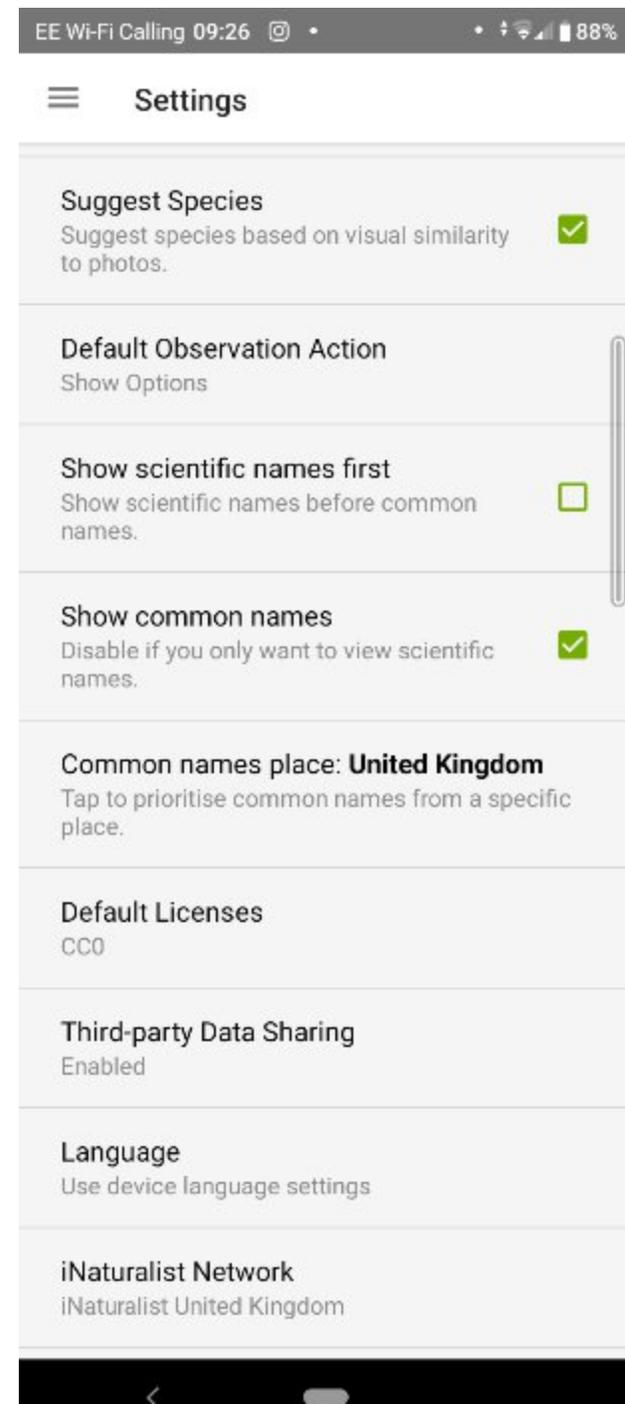
Username can be a nickname/ID, but **display name** should be your real name

License settings:

- CCO, or CC-BY (allow your observations to be used)

Location settings

- For national recording schemes, location precision is good



Capturing and Uploading Observations

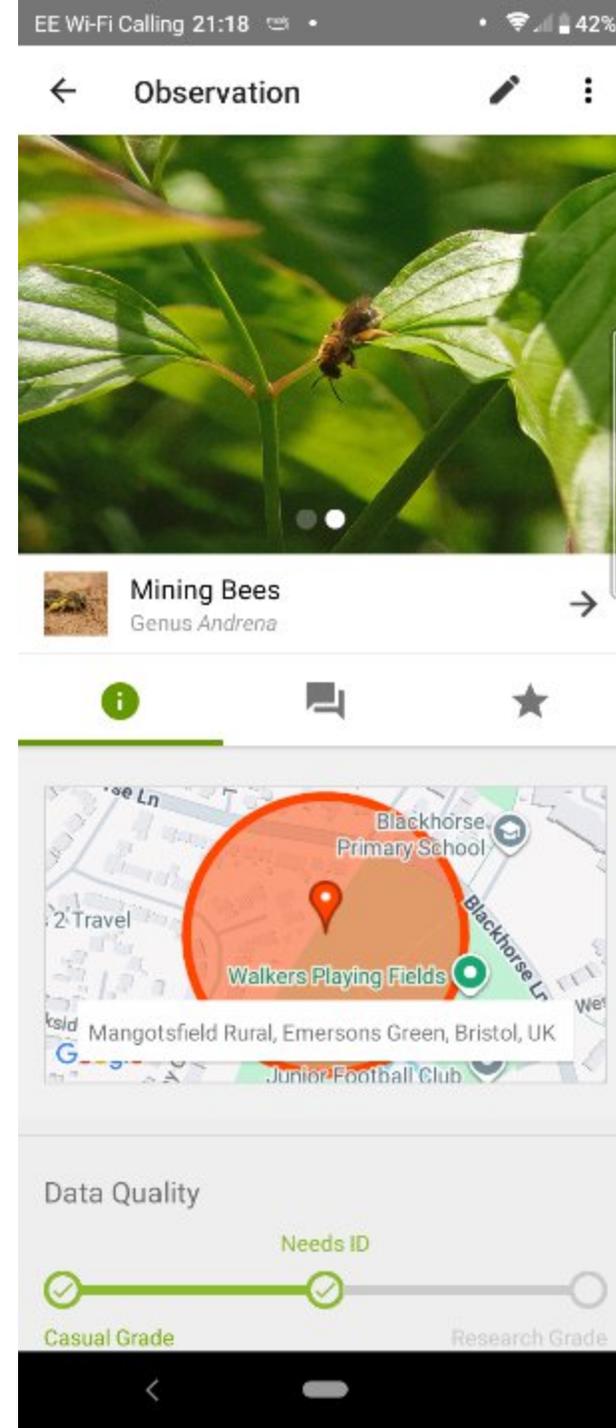
An observation needs four things:

Who (observer); **Where** (location); **When** (time); **What** did you see?

Attached **evidence**/photo(s) to allow the community to identify and verify your observation

Upload clear photos of plants, animals, or fungi with location details

- If possible include different angles to show identifiable features
- **Add or edit the location**
- **Suggest an Identification**
- AI suggestions are helpful, but not always reliable, treat as a hint
- If unsure, a higher-level identification is better than leaving it “unknown” (eg plants, insects, fungi)
 - Will help it be seen by the right people
 - Incorrect identifications will be corrected by the community



Links

[Guidelines: - Best Practice for Using iNaturalist in the UK: - Tutorials - iNaturalist Community Forum](#)

A practical, optional guide to help your observations integrate smoothly with the UK biological recording system.

[Location, Location, Location! · iNaturalist United Kingdom](#)

Some more detailed advice about location settings and privacy

Other resources

[Team Wilder Citizen wildlife reporting resource | Avon Wildlife Trust](#)

[5 Top Tips for Recording on iNaturalist](#)

[Survey calendar for beginners | Natural History Museum](#)

Other identification apps:

Seek

Obsidentify