

Case Study – Knighton Community Woodlands Group

Introduction

Originally part of the Teme Valley Environment Group, the Knighton Community Woodlands Group, known locally as the Woodlanders, work within a private woodland of over 40,000 native broadleaf trees. The Group was interested in learning about surveying the woodland for birds and pollinators with a view to understanding how their woodland management could impact on woodland fauna species.

The Project

Green Connections staff met with the Woodlanders to assess their overall level of competency in bird and pollinator identification and recording methods. This led to two events, a Bird Walk and a Bat Walk and four training sessions. During these sessions participants were taught how to identify birds using visual and audio clues such as colour, behaviour and common bird calls. Participants learned how to set up transects to record birds using the nationally recognised BTO Breeding Bird Survey. This included the methodology of the survey and identifying breeding bird territories. The participants gained confidence and were able to set up transects in the woodland. They checked with Green Connections staff for validation that they were doing this correctly. Training in the identification of pollinator species, including Bumblebees, and how to use a simple National survey scheme, PoMS (UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme) was carried out over two days.

Project Outputs

Green Connections provided one event and six training sessions. A core sub-group attended all the sessions. and advice on the importance of surveying and recording.

Training Sessions	Sessions	Total Attendees	Equipment donated
Bird Walk	1	9	
Bird survey and ID training	2	9	3 tit boxes
Pollinator Survey and Bumblebee ID	2	9	ID guides, PoMS booklets
Bat walk	1	7	2 bat boxes



Feedback

Comments from participant feedback were used to create this informative word cloud. The word cloud reflects a high degree of engagement with the event material and the high quality of the training.



Project Outcomes

Participants gained confidence in National survey techniques for recording birds and pollinating insects. To help the group succeed, publications and further reading were also suggested.

- A core sub-group empowered to continue work to record wildlife .
- People empowered to pass on training to other group members.
- Training and liaison have enabled participants to gain skills which can ultimately benefit wildlife.
- The Group now have key skills and knowledge to record birds and insects using a variety of survey tools.
- By carrying out annual surveys the Group can use the data gained to monitor habitat change, which will, in turn, inform future woodland management decisions.

Castlering Wood

When the Knighton Community Woodland Group took over the management of Castlering Wood, situated near Offa's Dyke was a 35-acre patch of clear fell woodland, no trees, just stumps and needles! Positioned at around 340m high, it has great views, and in the centre of the woodland sits an oval shaped iron age earthwork – Castle Ring. The group cultivated their own tree nursery and planted more than 35,000 hazel and broadleaved trees.

