

School Grounds Biodiversity Survey Report

School name: Lake Farm Park Academy

Address: Botwell Common Road, Hayes, UB3 1JA

Date of survey: 11.07.16-14.07.16

Findings:

Grounds: As a newly established school Lake Farm Park has great potential to improve and maintain the biodiversity currently present. It is bordered by a country park on two sides, which is delivering a wide range of biodiversity into the school grounds that could be increased.

Flowerbeds: Planted with shrubs, the beds have been colonised by several wild plants including willow herb, thistles, chamomile, daisies, sow thistle, thistles and sorrel. These were providing an excellent source for pollinators, especially the thistles which had large numbers of honey and bumblebee species.

Insects:

- i) **Pollinators:** numbers of bees were good, especially honey bees and bumble bees
- ii) **Other insects:** pit fall traps and sweep netting revealed good numbers of invertebrates, especially associated with the area of uncut grass at the back of the school grounds, which is a habitat to a large number of grasshoppers and crickets.
- iii) **Moths:** the trapping showed a variety of moths

Birds: As might be expected by the surrounding country park this area has many birds including feral pigeons, parakeets, magpies, gulls, blue tits, woodpigeons, blackbirds, gold finches, kestrels, skylarks, house martins and robins.

Mammals:

Longworth trap data: traps indicate the presence of small rodents, such as field mice.

Camera trap data: the school has squirrels and foxes in the grounds

Log piles are already in place.



Suggestions for improvement:

Planted borders and thistle beds: Where possible, it would be good if these were not regularly weeded, with at least some set aside for biodiversity

Bird feeders: both squirrel proof bird feeders and fat-based bird food shapes. Advice will be given.

Bird and bat boxes with web cams installed would prove a valuable and low maintenance educational resource.

Pond: building a pond in a fenced off area if possible or making ponds from baby baths or old sinks- advice will be given.

Hedgehog homes: can be easily constructed (advice will be given) and placed around the periphery. The fence is very well constructed to keep things out; some areas could be created by digging out under the fence to create corridors for hedgehogs etc. along the back perimeter.

Wild flower meadow: this could be created along the back border and/or along the thistle banks. Advice for plants will be given.

Pollinators: homes for bees can be constructed from plastic bottles; advice will be given.

Planting of purple plants encourages pollinators such as bees, so lavender bushes and herbs such as borage could be planted.

Calendula also attracts pollinators.

Buddleia bushes could be planted along a border to encourage butterflies.