

Wildlife and habitats in Burgess Park



Meadows and grasslands provide grass and flowers

Common Blue Butterfly



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) by Peter Broster
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Where?

Open sunny grassland with long grasses (not cut grass).

When?

Sunny summer days

Food?

Nectar from wildflowers, caterpillars live on grasses and herbs.

Why is it important?

Good grasslands rich in wildflowers and food for insects.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)



"Eurasian Kestrel" by Ron Knight
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Where?

Grassland – hovering above and then plunging down to seize its prey

When?

All year

Food?

Small mammals (mice/rats/short-tailed vole) and small birds such as house sparrows.

Why is it important?

A kestrel's presence regularly hunting indicates good quality grasslands supporting small animals and trees where kestrels' can nest.

Lake, Ponds and Wetlands support insects and birds

Damselflies and dragonflies

Various species (e.g. southern hawker, common red damselfly)



"Dragonfly" by Tom Soper Attribution Licence

Where?

Damselflies: often small stay close to the water surface. Dragonflies: usually larger, stronger flying, fly away from the water.

When?

During the summer.

Damselfly adults live for only 1-2 weeks

Some dragonflies live up to 4 months

Food?

Mosquitoes and midges other insects

Why is it important?

Wetlands with varied plants and insects support many wildlife creatures like bats and swifts.

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Woodland fringes

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapella*)



Blackcap by Åsa Berndtsson Attribution License
Male has a black cap; the female a chestnut one.

Where?

Woodland, parks and gardens with plenty of trees and shrubs.

When?

June - a summer visitor from Germany/ north-east Europe arriving April/May but increasingly spending the winter in the UK.

Food?

Insects and berries

Why is it important?

A blackcap's presence is an indicator of good structural woodland providing food, nest sites and cover for breeding birds.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)



Where?

Woodland edges

When?

June and into the summer

Food?

Seeds like sunflowers, insects like spiders

Why is it important?

The trees and woodland provides the birds with good canopy cover, places to hide and plentiful food like leaf invertebrates.

Speckled Wood Butterfly (*Pararge aegeria*)



Speckled Wood Butterfly by Tony Hisgett
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Where?

Found on the edge of woodland.

When?

April to October, most numerous in August and September.

Food?

Adult butterflies feed on honeydew* bramble flowers, dandelion, privet and ragwort.

* Honeydew is produced by greenfly

Why is it important?

Good woodland edges have lots of places to hide and forage for food.