



Information Sheet

What is a Bioblitz?

It's a race against the clock to discover as much wildlife as possible. BioBlitzes normally last for 24 hours and include the local community, natural history groups and wildlife experts all working together to record plants, animals and fungi.

It's great fun!

Why Lower Wallop?

Lower Wallop Farm nestles in some beautiful Shropshire countryside, just outside Westbury. Angus Roberts owns it and lives there with his family.

The farm is rich in wildlife and wild flowers. Footpaths and bridleways cross the farm, following ancient wooded tracks to the top of Aston Hill. From the top, you will have stunning views over the Rea Valley to the Stiperstones, and over the Shropshire Plain to The Wrekin.

Most parts of Shropshire have *some* wildlife data collected by enthusiasts and experts back over time, but not Lower Wallop. You could argue that more is known about the wildlife of the Amazon Rainforest than parts of Angus's farm!

Where is the BioBlitz taking place?

It's at Lower Wallop Farm, Wallop, Westbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 9RT

Grid reference: SJ324076

Visitors will follow a marked trail from Lower Wallop farmhouse to the top of Aston Hill.

Who is taking part?

Sara Bellis (West Midlands Biodiversity Mentor, www.ispot.org.uk) is organising the event in partnership with Lower Wallop Farm. Other groups supporting the event include:

Greenacres Primary School, Shrewsbury, Westbury, St Mary's Primary School, OPAL www.opalexplornature.org, Field Studies Council Invertebrate Challenge, Shropshire Mammal Group, Shropshire Bat Group, Shropshire Invertebrate Group, Butterfly Conservation, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

When is the Bioblitz happening?

Sunday 13th May 2012 10am-1pm - Recorders/teachers event.

Meet at Lower Wallop Farmhouse for a chance to check the routes and look for wildlife. Please call 07815 857309 for more information.

Friday 25th May 2012 10am-3pm - Schools BioBlitz

Pupils from Greenacres and Westbury Primary schools follow a set route across the farm looking for wildlife. Expert volunteers will be posted along the route to meet small groups and help them collect records of what they see. Full information packs are available from sara.bellis@open.ac.uk

Saturday 26th May 2012 8pm-10.30pm - Public event, comprising of:

Mammal trapping 8-9pm (Shropshire Mammal Group)

Moth trap set up 9-9.30pm (Butterfly Conservation)

Bat walk 9.30-10.30pm (Shropshire Bat Group)

Sunday 27th May 10-12.30pm - Public event, comprising of:

Checking mammal traps 10-11am (Shropshire Mammal Group)

Checking moth trap(s) 11.30am-12.30pm (Butterfly Conservation)

How do I get involved?

Please contact Sara Bellis on 07815 857309, or email sara.bellis@open.ac.uk for more information.