

MILFORD-ON-SEA BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (BAP)

Wildlife Garden Initiative

Milford Conservation Volunteers have embarked on producing a Biodiversity Action Plan for the parish, where wildlife habitats and species important to the area will be summarised, and actions to conserve them agreed. Gardens can provide excellent habitat for wildlife and can be given a helping hand by making a few simple changes to the way we manage them.

While this initiative will be primarily aimed at Milford residents, MCV members are asked to actively participate in this project. So whether you have a large, medium or small garden, or even a small window box or a corner of your garden that you are prepared to give over, they can all be modified and made better for wildlife.

“Have you got a Tiger in your garden”?

- Have you seen in your garden any slow-worms, garden tiger moths, stag beetles, or early bumblebees?



The beautiful garden Tiger moth

- Do you encourage wildlife to your garden with plants rich in nectar and pollen – especially in early spring and late summer? These do not have to be *wild* flowers although that helps to bring back disappearing plant species.
- Can birds, creepy crawlies, little mammals, etc. find a few small and untidy spots for nesting and hibernation (even if they haven't used them yet, as far as you know)?
- Do you have a fish-free pond or little basin surrounded with plant cover, which might encourage reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, etc. (they can be quite easy to please)?

Information about what uses your garden is needed to encourage the rest of us make space for wildlife.

We aim to compile and make available a sample of successful Milford wild-life gardens. Gardens will not be formally accredited, nor publicised by name or address without your permission, so can remain anonymous, nor will you be under pressure to open yours to the public (although this can be very enjoyable and rewarding), nor will you be press-ganged into conservation working parties!

So if you have a garden that's good for wildlife, please get in touch with your contact details, without commitment, and we will arrange to talk with you. If you are looking for new ideas or advice we may be able to help you, ***free of charge!***

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