

The City Nature Challenge comes to The Living Coast



The [City Nature Challenge](#) is coming to the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere ([The Living Coast](#)) for the first time, as part of [Nature 2020](#).

The challenge, which takes place between 24 and 27 April 2020, aims to help connect people with local nature by discovering and recording as much wildlife from their home as possible over the four-day period.

Participants are encouraged to celebrate the healing power of nature and embrace the collaborative aspect of sharing observations online with a digital community, as they document their local biodiversity to the best of their ability within new public safety parameters.

As a flagship event of [Nature 2020](#), participation in the City Nature Challenge has been led by staff at the University of Brighton, the University of Sussex and The Living Coast Biosphere, and the team are now looking for people to take part from their home.

[Dr Chris Sandom](#), Senior Lecturer in Biology at the University of Sussex, said: “During such uncertain times, it’s more important than ever to foster a sense of community, and the City Nature Challenge allows participants to do just that. For both budding and veteran citizen scientists, participating is easy; look for any wild plant, animal, fungi, slime mould, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses!) found in your home, garden, or even through your windows. You might be surprised by how many insects thrive in the nooks and crannies around you.”

Dr Rachel White, Senior Lecturer in Ecology & Conservation at the University of Brighton, said: “We are really pleased to be bringing the City Nature Challenge to The Living Coast, providing something fun that

the family can get involved in while staying at home. If you have a garden, balcony or any outdoor space, you can bring wildlife to you by putting up moth lights or putting down cover boards and seeing what's under them in the morning. There are a range of ideas at bit.ly/HomeCNC."

Using the free [iNaturalist](#) App, people can take photos of any wildlife discovered within the Biosphere region. iNaturalist then counts the number of observations, species identified, and iNaturalist observers who take part to measure how successful each region has been.

Sarah Dobson, The Living Coast Biosphere Programme Manager, said: "The event targets people living in both rural and urban areas. As well as in the countryside, nature exists in every city, and one of the best ways to study it is by connecting scientists and the community through citizen science. As global human populations become increasingly concentrated in cities, it's more important than ever to document urban biodiversity and help ensure the future of our wildlife."

Self-isolating individuals and groups are encouraged to either log sightings from their home (between 24 and 27 April) or to identify species (between 24 April and 3 May). Findings will be announced on 4 May.

It is imperative that participants closely follow government and local public health guidelines as they are updated in real-time in response to COVID-19. For detailed information about how the City Nature Challenge is adapting to COVID-19, visit citynaturechallenge.org/COVID19.

For further information please visit <https://www.nature2020.org.uk/city-nature-challenge> or email naturechallengeTLC@gmail.com.

Social media:

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