



29 - 30 July 2022 (midday to midday)

Event Report

August 2022



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With:
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Overview

A 24-hour BioBlitz event took place in Tehidy Country Park, running from midday on Friday 29 July to midday on Saturday 30 July 2022. The event was delivered jointly by Sally Luker and Derek Green from Budding Nature CIC and Michelle Lawson from Resilient Orchards Cornwall CIC, with support from Cornwall Council/Cormac and volunteers from Budding Nature. During the event, Tehidy Country Park Rangers Gavin Henderson and Stuart Croft (Cormac) and Charlotte Evans (Cornwall Council) were in attendance, as were Sally and Mark from Resilient Orchards CIC.

Planning/preparation

In March 2022, the Budding Nature team were approached by Michelle from Resilient Orchards Cornwall with regard to the possibility of delivering an orchard-based community BioBlitz event. Michelle's intention was to highlight the importance of traditional orchards as valuable (protected) habitats for thriving ecological communities, with the combined presence of veteran/younger trees, grassland, meadows and shrubs supporting high levels of biodiversity. In addition to introducing members of the public to the importance of traditional orchards, it was hoped also that learning more about species present in such a habitat by means of biological recording would be a productive means of improving the knowledge of both those working in an orchard environment and those keen to learn more about how species interact within a particular ecological community. As such, the Budding Nature team were especially keen to come on board!

The initial idea was for the BioBlitz to take place mid-June, with the event location still to be decided. Due to her volunteering involvement with Tehidy Orchard and the suitability of its location within Tehidy Country Park, Michelle proposed that this be our location of choice, and at the end of April, approached Charlotte Evans (Countryside Officer – Major Projects), at Cornwall Council for further advice and guidance. Much appreciated advice was duly provided by Charlotte, including guidance on seeking the permissions required to hold an event on Cornwall Council-managed land; this included completion of an Event Notification Form, accompanied by a detailed Risk Assessment, and evidence of appropriate level of Public Liability Insurance. In the meantime, event-funding was sought by Michelle, and as a consequence of it being the end of May before confirmation was received of a successful grant bid to South West Water's Community Fund, the decision was made to seek a later date for the BioBlitz, thus enabling a greater lead-in time.

With the last weekend in July now in place as the event date, and the necessary permissions all in-hand, it was now full steam ahead. In early June a very enjoyable site visit was carried out by the organising team, accompanied by Tehidy Park Rangers, Gavin and Stuart. The enthusiasm, support and overall accommodating attitude of the Tehidy team far exceeded our expectations, and the remaining event organisation was made much more amenable with their involvement. Practicalities were discussed, obstacles were overcome, solutions were found, and it was time to begin promoting the BioBlitz...

Promotion took the form of word-of-mouth communication, the design, production and distribution of hard copies of event posters and timetables, creation of a Facebook event/social media postings, online listings with Cornwall 365, People's Trust for Endangered Species Orchard Network, and with calls for volunteers and recorders shared with appropriate social networks.

During the event itself, additional posters were displayed within Tehidy Country Park, accompanied by distinctive arrows to direct attendees to the event Base Camp.



Tehidy Country Park **Park & Poet Tihydin** **South West Water**

Tehidy BioBlitz

29 - 30 July 2022 (midday to midday)

Join us for a 24-hour wildlife BioBlitz in/around Tehidy Orchard in Tehidy Country Park (parking available via North Cliffs – Rangers Office entrance).

Meet experts to learn about the species that call Tehidy home.
Learn about the importance of orchards and other habitats in supporting and improving biodiversity.
Take part in activities or simply wander around to see what you can find!

How many species can we find?

All welcome – free, family-friendly!

- Invertebrate safaris
- Wildflower walks
- Moth-trapping
- Bat-detecting
- Pond-dipping
- Bird walks
- Night-time wildlife-watching
- And more...

For more info
Email: info@buddingnature.co.uk

cornwall.gov.uk



Tehidy BioBlitz

Timetable of events

For all events, meet at the orchard entrance near the Rangers' House

Friday 29th July

- 12:00 – 13:00 Historic Lists of Plants challenge – who can accurately list all the cover?
- 14:00 – 15:00 Pond-dipping – what lives in the Rangers' House pond?
- 15:00 – 16:00 Orchard Hour – factsheet about Cornish orchards
- 15:00 – 17:00 Guided Trail Walk – spotting and recording for birds with a local expert
- 18:00 – 19:30 Guided Nature Walk – a wildlife walk around with local experts
- 21:00 – 00:30 Night Time Wildlife – moths, spiders, bats and mammals

Saturday 30th July

- 09:00 – 10:00 Meet The Opening / Garden Tree Chiseling
- 10:00 – 11:00 Guided Nature Walk – a wildlife walk around with local experts
- 11:00 – 12:00 Orchard Art session – get creative using orchards as inspiration

Other activities

- Orchard tour – learn all about orchards in Cornwall
- Themed Cornish language activities
- Themed games and challenges
- General wildlife recording and wildlife walkabouts

Please note:
While we will endeavour to deliver all events as scheduled, as a potential consequence of weather conditions and other circumstances beyond our control, activities are subject to change at short notice.






Tehidy BioBlitz

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Call for volunteers!

We are in need of a team of volunteers to help us deliver the Tehidy BioBlitz

Roles available

car park/info station manning ✳ assistance with activities ✳
 general helpful and friendly presence around the site

What we can offer

free Budding Nature T-shirt (design of your choice) ✳ free overnight camping (if required) ✳ refreshments ✳ good company

For more info
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Tehidy BioBlitz

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Call for recorders!





www.buddingnature.co.uk
info@buddingnature.co.uk

The Budding Nature team are super organising a 24-hour BioBlitz in/around Tehidy Orchard in Tehidy Country Park (parking available via North Cliffs – Rangers Office entrance). Our preparatory site visit for recorders on 29th July (10am-12pm) is a chance to meet the team, see the site, and get a head start on the BioBlitz. We are looking for recorders who are able to make use of the common field/ponds etc. as well as the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard.

We will also be using the Rangers Office as a base, so available to use the facilities, being made tea, coffee, power for microscopes, etc, etc, etc.

We have a lot of lovely old trees in/around the orchard, so we will be looking for recorders who are able to make use of these. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard.

We are excited about this event, and it would be great to have you on board! If you are interested in this event, please email info@buddingnature.co.uk as soon as possible. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard.

If you are new to recording, we will be happy to help you get started. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard. We are also looking for recorders who are able to make use of the orchard.

info@buddingnature.co.uk

BUDDING NATURE
PROVIDING A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

PLANTS AND THEIR HISTORIC USES

A wild plants challenge

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BUDDING NATURE
PROVIDING A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

PLANTS AND THEIR HISTORIC USES

Aim: to find/ID plants in order to fill as many boxes as possible

Time available: 1 hour

Plants have a long history of being used by humans – as medicine, food and for many other practical purposes. This challenge will introduce you to both wild plant identification and to a little bit of this interesting history.

Participants will be divided into two or more teams that will compete, in a walk around the Tehidy BioBlitz area, to find plants that in past times would have protected from or eased ailments and diseases, and provided food, shelter and other home comforts/necessities.

In completing the challenge a species can only be used once – e.g. dandelion could be used to fill one of the 'medical kit' boxes as a treatment for rheumatism or the 'flavouring for a non-alcoholic drink' box as a coffee substitute, but not both.

Each team will be provided with information on the historic uses of plants that you might find around the BioBlitz area.

A member of the Budding Nature team will be assigned to each team to advise on species identification and ensure plant safety. As a record of your participation, you might like to take photos of the plants you find.

The winning team is the one which successfully fills the most boxes on the accompanying sheets.

GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY!

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Achillea millefolium Yarrow

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BUDDING NATURE
ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

**Beetles
 Spotter Sheet**

		
<input type="radio"/> Bloody-nosed Beetle	<input type="radio"/> <i>Chrysolina banksii</i>	<input type="radio"/> Common Red Soldier Beetle
		
<input type="radio"/> Figwort Weevil	<input type="radio"/> Green Dock Beetle	<input type="radio"/> Orange Ladybird
		
<input type="radio"/> Red-headed Cardinal Beetle	<input type="radio"/> Rose Chafer	<input type="radio"/> Seven-spot Ladybird
		
<input type="radio"/> Sulphur Beetle	<input type="radio"/> Thick-legged Flower Beetle	<input type="radio"/> Wasp Beetle

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BUDDING NATURE
ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

**Butterflies
 Spotter Sheet**

		
<input type="radio"/> Comma	<input type="radio"/> Gatekeeper	<input type="radio"/> Large Skipper
		
<input type="radio"/> Meadow Brown	<input type="radio"/> Peacock	<input type="radio"/> Red Admiral
		
<input type="radio"/> Ringlet	<input type="radio"/> Small Copper	<input type="radio"/> Small Skipper
		
<input type="radio"/> Small Tortoiseshell	<input type="radio"/> Speckled Wood	<input type="radio"/> Wall

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BUDDING NATURE
ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

**Wild Flowers
 Spotter Sheet**

		
<input type="radio"/> Common Ragwort	<input type="radio"/> Creeping Thistle	<input type="radio"/> Foxglove
		
<input type="radio"/> Hedge Bindweed	<input type="radio"/> Honeysuckle	<input type="radio"/> Pineappleweed
		
<input type="radio"/> Red Campion	<input type="radio"/> Scarlet Pimpernel	<input type="radio"/> Sethead
		
<input type="radio"/> Silverweed	<input type="radio"/> Tufted Vetch	<input type="radio"/> Woody Nightshade

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BUDDING NATURE
ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

**Minibeasts
 Spotter Sheet**

		
<input type="radio"/> Bumblebee	<input type="radio"/> Butterfly	<input type="radio"/> Caterpillar
		
<input type="radio"/> Centipede	<input type="radio"/> Dragonfly	<input type="radio"/> Grasshopper
		
<input type="radio"/> Hoverfly	<input type="radio"/> Ladybird	<input type="radio"/> Slug
		
<input type="radio"/> Snail	<input type="radio"/> Spider	<input type="radio"/> Woodlouse

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Biological Recording

A total of 1045 records were made as a consequence of the Tehidy BioBlitz. These represent 465 taxa, with 331 records of 221 taxa being for the tetrad SW6343, and 714 of 370 taxa for the tetrad SW6443, with the majority of records being at a finer resolution. Overall, for the tetrad SW6343, 122 taxa are believed to have not been previously recorded, and for SW6443, 141 are taxa believed to have not been previously recorded.¹

Taxa recorded mostly represent the focal efforts of the biological recorders present, as well as the given time restraints of a BioBlitz event. It is hoped to address gaps in groups recorded (notably bryophytes, lichens and fungi), and to re-survey for all invertebrates present via follow-up visits.

Key recorders included Tylan Berry, Laura Fox, Derek Green, Frank Johns, Sally Luker, Martin Rule, John Worth with support from Phil Harris, Michelle Lawson, Rosie Lewis, Heidi Kirk-Mackrell (and her boys) and Andrew Tompsett.

Review of records:

Invertebrates

Lepidoptera: Moths and butterflies

The weather and timing of the BioBlitz were particularly conducive to productive moth-trapping and casual records made throughout the event. As such, moths made up the greatest number of taxa recorded (135), with live trapping taking place in two locations on the Friday evening, and 6 traps left in situ overnight. Over 500 individual were recorded via trapping efforts. Of the 135 taxa recorded, 8 species are recognised as Schedule 41 (Species of Principal Importance) species, i.e. appearing on the priority species list for England (Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Section 41²: Knot Grass *Acrionicta rumicis*, Small Phoenix *Ecliptopera silaceata*, August Thorn *Ennomos quercinaria*, Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe ferrugata*, Grey Dagger *Acrionicta psi*, Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata*, Small Square-spot *Diarsia rubi*, The Rustic *Hoplodrina blanda*.

Other moth species worthy of note regarding rarity are Broom Moth *Ceramica pisi* (IUCN Vulnerable) and Rosy Minor *Litoligia literosa* White-spotted Pug *Eupithecia tripunctaria* (IUCN Near Threatened), with *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* noted as IUCN Near Threatened also³. With respect to GB conservation status, Chequered Moth *Barea asbolaea* and Jersey Mocha *Cyclophora ruficiliaria* are considered adventive/recent colonists, Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*, Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella*, Rusty Dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* are considered migrant species, and Marsh Grey *Eudonia pallida* is considered a locally-occurring species⁴.

A total of 16 butterfly species were recorded. These include at least 3 Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* individuals and 2 Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia* individuals – two species which seem to be ‘having a good year’ with anecdotal evidence suggesting an increase in usual observations, at least regionally, as well as good numbers of Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* and second brood Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*. Also of particular interest was a single fresh-looking Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* (second brood), seen at the start of the event, and a Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Schedule 41²).





Clockwise from top left: Pebble Hook-tip *Drepana falcataria*, Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*, Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra*, Common Slender *Gracillaria syringella*, Rosy Footman *Miltochrista miniata*, Gold Spot *Plusia festucae*

Hymenoptera: Bees, wasps and ants

A total of 14 Hymenopteran taxa were recorded: 5 bee species, 2 ant species, 1 social wasp (large numbers of *Vespa vulgaris* in the orchard), 2 parasitoid wasps and 4 gall-causing wasps. Of particular note were the large swarms of *Lasius niger* male ants attracted to the moth trap lights, while in contrast, a mere single Queen was observed (inside a moth trap) the following morning.



Clockwise from top left: Oak Spangle Gall-wasp *Neuroterus quercusbaccarum* f. agamic, Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*, Black Garden Ant *Lasius niger*

Coleoptera, Hemiptera and other insect orders: Beetles, bugs, etc.

Most other insect records were as a consequence of sweep-netting/vegetation beating in the large meadow and adjacent pine trees, and from a short visit to the woodland adjacent to the Rangers House. Sweep-netting/beating revealed such species as Great Green Bush Cricket *Tettigonia viridissima*, Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*, Common Earwig *Forficula auricularia*, Dock Bug *Coreus marginatus*, Tortoise Shieldbug *Eurygaster testudinaria*, Broad Damsel Bug *Nabis flavomarginatus*, Common Green Lacewing *Chrysoperla carnea* agg., and Active Grey Pine Needle Aphid *Eulachnus rileyi* and several species of grass bug. A group visit to the woodland revealed a variety of species, including the mines of the Beech Leaf-mining Weevil *Orchestes fagi*, gall-midge presence of *Dasineura plicatrix* on Bramble, and a rather striking ground beetle, the Snail Hunter *Cychrus caraboides*, uncovered by a young attendee.





Clockwise from top left: A tortoise beetle *Cassida vibex*, a fly *Eriothrix rufomaculata*, Tortoise Shieldbug *Eurygaster testudinaria*, Great Green Bush-cricket *Tettigonia viridissima*, Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina*, a leaf-mining weevil *Orchestes quercus*, a grass fly *Meromyza* sp., a caddisfly *Potamophylax* sp., a plant bug *Oncotylus viridiflavus*

Arachnids: Spiders, harvestmen and mites

A concerted effort by Tylan Berry to seek out spiders present on the site revealed 79 species, 2 of which are recognised by the Spider Recording Scheme as being Nationally Scarce (Tree H-weaver *Episinus maculipes*⁵ and Broad Groove-head *Monocephalus castaneipes*⁶), with *Monocephalus castaneipes* also being a Schedule 41 species². A further 3 Arachnids were recorded: 2 gall-mite species and a single harvestman. Arachnid records are considerably lacking for the two tetrads covered, meaning that the majority of the species encountered are new to the site¹.



Clockwise from top left: Tree H-weaver *Episinus maculipes*, a long-jawed orb-weaver *Tetragnatha* sp. (egg-sac), Common Crab-spider *Xysticus cristatus*

Remaining invertebrate groups: snails, springtails and millipedes

Relatively few records were made for the remaining invertebrate groups; these consist of 4 slug/snail (Gastropoda) taxa, 3 Springtail (Entognatha) taxa, and 1 millipede (Diplopoda) taxon.



Clockwise from top left: A banded snail *Cepaea* sp., Clover Springtail *Sminthurus viridis*, a millipede *Cylindroiulus* sp.

Vertebrates

Birds

Bird activity was seemingly rather low during the BioBlitz period, and this was reflected in the number of species recorded. A total of 16 species were noted, which includes those seen and/or identified by call during a late-afternoon bird walk, led by Martin Rule. Avian presence was dominated by a large on-site rookery, with other species represented by a good number of swallows, and smaller numbers of species such as Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (Schedule 41²), Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (Schedule 41²), with the characteristic calling of a Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* being heard on several occasions. On the Friday, the distinctive 'yaffle' of a Green Woodpecker *Pica pica* was heard from the woodland area, while a surprise visit was made to the large meadow by a lone Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Mammals

Four camera traps placed overnight around the site proved disappointing, recording zero activity other than moving vegetation. Of note, however, were the two bat species recorded: a large Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* colony was observed in the large trees to the south of the campsite, with individuals also encountered flying in and out of the Rangers House, while the following day, what seems likely to be a Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* (Schedule 41²) maternity roost was encountered in the woodland area, with significant calling emanating from within a Beech tree – it is intended to re-visit the latter with appropriate bat recording equipment (this was unavailable at the time) to better assess the bats' presence/activity.

Reptiles and amphibians

No reptile species were recorded; however, Friday's pond-dipping activity revealed two amphibian species: countless Common Frog *Rana temporaria* tadpoles and a single, tiny Palmate Newt *Lissotriton helveticus* eft.



Clockwise from top left: Palmate Newt *Lissotriton helveticus*, Bird walk in the meadows, Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula* (entrance to roost)

Plants

Vascular plants

125 vascular plant taxa were recorded, representing 26 plant orders and 43 plant families. The greatest number of taxa were recorded in the immediate environs of the Rangers House (66), followed by the Camping field (48), Large meadow (46), Orchard (44) and Woodland (28). Given the intensive previous and continued biological recording effort of County BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles) Recorders and other recorders, it is interesting to note that several plants species seemingly not recorded previously within the two tetrads covered were encountered¹: for SW6343, these were Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Elm *Ulmus* sp(p). and Pine *Pinus* sp(p)., and for SW6443, these were Broad-leaved Willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, Woodruff *Galium odoratum*, Pencilled Cranesbill *Geranium versicolor*, Bristly Ox-tongue *Helminthotheca echioides*, Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima*, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Purple Toadflax *Linaria purpurea*, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, Evening-primrose *Oenothera* agg., Fox and Cubs *Pilosella aurantiaca*, Garden Bramble *Rubus armeniacus*, Annual Pearlwort *Sagina apetala*, Betony *Stachys officinalis*, Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*, Feverfew *Tanacetum parthenium*, Wall Pennywort *Umbilicus rupestris*, and Great Mullein *Verbascum Thapsus*.

Bryophytes

As a group, Bryophytes were very much overlooked from a recording perspective, with only a single species of liverwort noted.



Clockwise from top left: Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*, Forked Veilwort *Metzgeria furcata*, White Poplar *Populus alba*, Fox and Cubs *Pilosella aurantiaca*

Fungi and lichens

Although a small number of species of fungi and three lichen taxa were identified, both groups were heavily under-recorded. Fungal records consisted of several micro-fungi species (rusts, leafspots, mildews, etc.), with a handful of larger species encountered in the woodland area, including Dryad's Saddle *Polyporus squamosus*, Turkey-tail *Trametes versicolor* and King Alfred's Cakes *Daldinia concentrica*. Of significant mention is the clear presence of Ash Dieback *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* affecting several large Ash trees around the site.

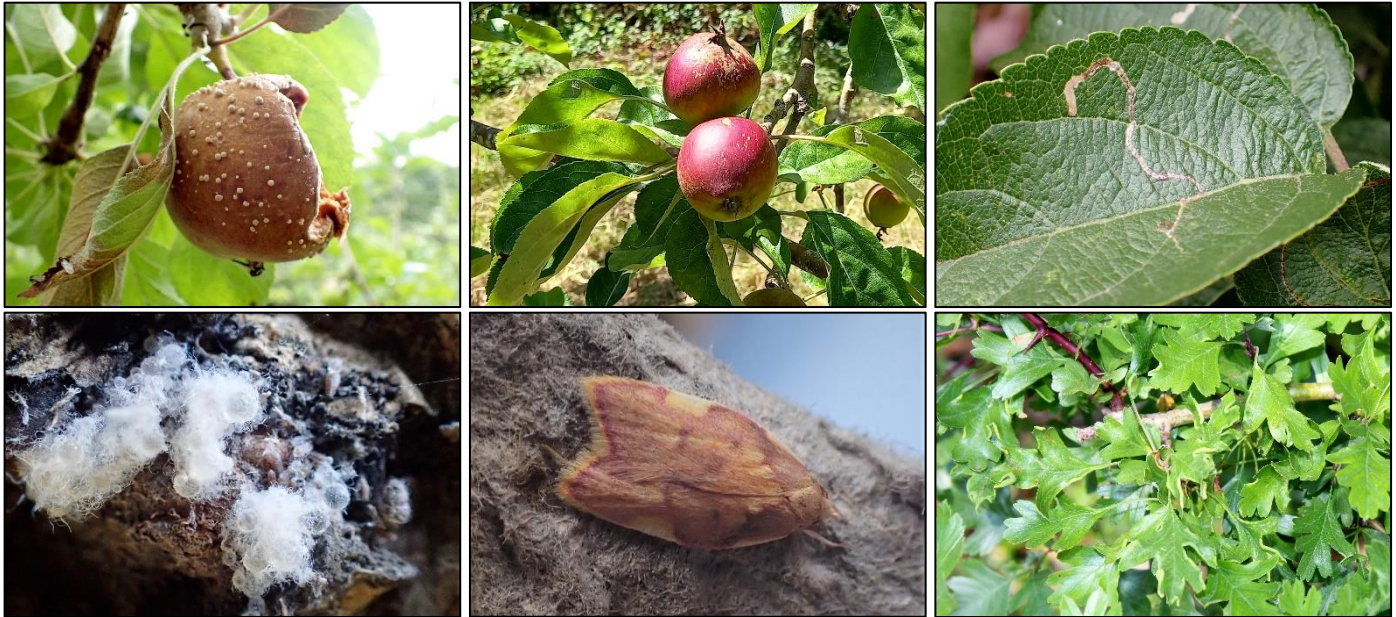


Clockwise from top left: Sycamore Tar-spot *Rhytisma acerinum*, a lichen *Parmotrema perlatum*, Pale Brittlestem *Psathyrella candolleana*

Orchard Biodiversity

Extraction and manipulation of data provided by means of a search of two key online resources^{7,8} detailing plants and their associates, revealed a total of 418 *Malus*-associated taxa (mostly invertebrates and microfungi), recognised as present in the UK⁹. Many associates are polyphagous species, i.e. associated with many plant genera from a range of plant families, while 96 species (= 23%) are more restrictive in their host-plant choice, with 4 or fewer shared plant genus associates. Ten species (=2%) are associated with *Malus* only: 3 leaf-mining/gall-causing fly/midge species, 3 leaf-mining/twig-feeding moth species, 1 aphid species, 2 gall-causing mite species, and 1 sawfly species (larval food-plant). A total of 35 species recorded at the BioBlitz are recognised as *Malus*-associates, with 5 of these having 4 or fewer shared plant genus associates: Apple Scab *Venturia inaequalis* (1 shared host genus), A gall-mite *Phyllocoptes goniothorax* and Hawthorn Cosmet *Blastodacna hellerella* (2 shared host genera), Brussels Lace *Cleorodes lichenaria*

and Green Pug *Pasiphila rectangularata* (4 shared host genera). Of the remaining 30 species recorded, 10 had 14-20 shared genus associates (species included Apple Woolly Aphid *Eriosoma lanigerum* and Apple Leaf-miner *Lyonetia clerkella*), 10 had 21-40, 4 had 50 and above. Due to time restraints/recorder capacity, biological recording effort within the orchard focused primarily on plant presence; it is hoped that a more thorough survey of the orchard itself will follow, thus allowing for a better assess associate-species presence and to determine ecological networks, etc.



Clockwise from top left: Brown Rot *Monilinia fructigena*, Apple *Malus domestica*, Apple Leaf-miner *Lyonetia clerkella*, Apple Woolly Aphid *Eriosoma lanigerum*, Long-horned Flat-body *Carcina quercana*, a gall-mite *Phyllocoptes goniothorax*

Section references

¹ Cornish Biodiversity Network (CBN) *Species list for 1km square*

<https://www.cornishbiodiversitynetwork.org/xyz/Get1km.php> [accessed 24 August 2022]

² Natural England 2013. *Section 41 Species - Priority Actions Needed (B2020-008)*. :

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/495871946076979224>

³ Fox, R., Parsons, M.S, & Harrower, C.A. 2019. *A review of the status of the macro-moths of Great Britain Butterfly Conservation report to Natural England, 2019* Butterfly Conservation Report Number S19-17 Available [online] at:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/S19-17%20A%20review%20of%20the%20status%20of%20the%20macro-moths%20of%20Great%20Britain.pdf>

⁴ Davis, A.M. 2012. *A Review of the Status of Microlepidoptera in Britain (Butterfly Conservation Report No. S12-02)*.

Butterfly Conservation, Wareham. Available [online] at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/the-status-of-microlepidoptera-in-britain-jan-2012.pdf>

⁵ Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website: *Summary for Episinus maculipes (Araneae)*

<https://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Episinus+maculipes> [accessed 24 August 2022]

⁶ Spider and Harvestman Recording Scheme website: *Summary for Monocephalus castaneipes (Araneae)*

<https://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Monocephalus+castaneipes> [accessed 24 August 2022]

⁷ Plant Parasites of Europe - leafminers, galls and fungi <https://bladmineerders.nl/> [accessed 15 August 2022]

⁸ BRC Database of Insects and their Food Plants <http://dbif.brc.ac.uk/hosts.aspx> [accessed 15 August 2022]

⁹ NBN Atlas <https://nbnatlas.org/> [accessed 15 August 2022]

Feedback/evaluation

The BioBlitz proved to be a most enjoyable and rewarding event. Public engagement was successful, with lots of happy people and kind words spoken during and after the event, such as the following written feedback from Rosi Jolly (Why Don't You? Club): Brilliant day, wish we could have stayed longer/over/up all night - really enjoyed all the activities and would love to take part again!

As a consequence of a continued presence of attendees, biological recording tended to take a back seat, and not all areas of the BioBlitz site were visited, e.g. the BioBlitz car park, small field and woodlands 2 and 3 but we were still pleased with the number and quality of records generated.

Other than a brief shower during the hours of Saturday morning, the weather was kind, with warm sunshine and no wind.

Overall, we feel that our combined aims were successfully achieved.

An online feedback form was shared with volunteers and other interested parties as well as via the Facebook event page; however, completion take-up proved minimal! Meanwhile, a post-event Resilient Orchards blog post by Michelle, reproduced below, provides a fitting summary and review of the BioBlitz:

Tehidy BioBlitz 2022 – A blog post by Michelle Lawson

<https://www.resilientorchards.org.uk/2022/08/01/tehidy-bioblitz-2022/>



Base camp at Tehidy Orchard on Friday

What a fantastic BioBlitz event at Tehidy Orchard and surrounding area!

A massive shout out to Budding Nature CIC and the amazing team of volunteer experts who helped us record species and teach people (including me - I learnt lots!) how to search for and I.D. different creatures and plants. Over 100 people, around half of them children, came to the 24 hour event on 29th and 30th July to join in, whether identifying species, learning from the experts, taking part in a nature walk, art activity, searching for spiders, or moth identification. Many of the core participants camped overnight and stayed up late to catch the night-time creature activities.

This community BioBlitz event was made possible thanks to the Neighbourhood Fund grant from South West Water which was provided to Resilient Orchards Cornwall CIC. Traditional Orchards are designated priority habitats, and this project is part of our ongoing mission to raise awareness of the importance of orchards, not only as an important local food resource, but also for their amazing habitat value to local wildlife.

There are many people to thank including Sally & Derek from Budding Nature, Andy (Dynamic Dunescapes) and Nick Taylor (Penwith Landscape Partnership) for loan of equipment; John and Frank (moths), Tylan (spiders) Sam, Jos, Heidi & family, Rosie, Laura, Abi, Martin (Birds), Tony (Cornish language in the Orchard!), Andrew for coming to talk about the orchard and it's health, biodiversity and history, Vicki for leading an engaging art session on Saturday morning, Gavin and Stuart from Cormac for helping us with organisation and setting up and taking down, Charlotte from Cornwall Council for supporting the idea and helping us with permissions and organisation, the CN4C community group 'Why Don't You Club' led by Rosi; Sally and Mark from Resilient Orchards Cornwall, Jen & Jowan and Dave, Frida and Tam, and not forgetting everyone else who came to join in and help us search for wildlife! And others I may have forgotten - apologies if I have missed you out.

The 24 hours started on Friday midday with a visit from The CN4C Why Don't you Club where lots of families went searching for creatures alongside the experts using nets in bushes to find spiders and other creatures, magnifying glasses in the woods to find beetles and spiders, and pond dipping in the garden area, the older children and parents enjoyed learning about the different uses of various plants around the site too, from medicinal uses to edible uses.



Some of the exciting finds included some buff tip moths (aka apple twigs!), Elephant hawk moths and two rare spiders.

A highlight for many was opening up the moth boxes early on Saturday morning that had been out all night to see which moths live there (over 70 species identified!), and other creatures including two rare spiders. There were huge numbers to work through including Buff tip moths (that look just like apple twigs!), magpie moths, Elephant hawk moth and Privet hawk moth.

Comments such as ‘my best day ever’ came from children plus adult participants who said they’d never visited the orchard before and had no idea it was even there.



The BioBlitz has raised the profile of the orchard at Tehidy and the emerging importance of this area of Tehidy Country Park. There will be a report detailing the species found plus an overview of biodiversity specifically within the orchard.

We hope to go on to conduct further studies into Cornish orchards and learn more about how best to support the creatures that call it home. If you have any interesting studies on Cornish orchards we’d love to hear from you. Please email us on resilientorchardscornwall@gmail.com



Grateful thanks/acknowledgments

A massive 'thank you' to everyone who supported the Tehidy BioBlitz in one capacity or another (or many!). Your involvement was invaluable, and the event wouldn't have been the success we like to think it was without you!

South West Water – for deeming the event worthy of funding

Charlotte Evans (Cornwall Council)

Gavin Henderson and Stuart Croft (Cormac)

Nichola Kite at Penryn Reprographics Office – for an efficient and friendly printing service

Penwith Landscape Partnership and Cornwall Wildlife Trust for the loan of equipment

Andrew Tompsett – for volunteering his orchard knowledge and expertise

Tony Phillips – for delivering fun, themed Cornish language activities

Martin Rule – for sharing his expert birding knowledge, as well as his volunteering services

Rosi Jolly and the Why Don't You Club (CN4C) – for excitement, enthusiasm and for getting our juices flowing at the start of the event

Vicki Aimers and friend – for delivering a nice, relaxing art activity of a Saturday morning, and for capturing this with her series of short videos (see below)

Tylan Berry, Laura Fox, Frank Johns and John Worth for their biological recording expertise

Jos Pardoe, Abi Lofthouse-Love, Rosie Lewis, Sam Tancock, Heidi Kirk-Mackrell, Martin Rule for their fabulous assistance as volunteers

Jen & Jowan, Dave & family, Andy & family, Sally, Mark, Shelley, Liz, Phil, Sue and others for their good company and general support

And, last but not least, all the other individuals, families and groups who popped by to spend some time with us



A morning spent in an orchard at Tehidy Woods



Loved running the bug hunt With magnifying glasses and art materials



Beautiful apple varieties



Loved the drawings by the visitors



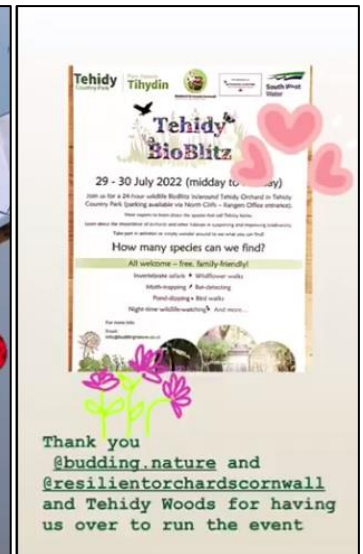
Moth counting



Lots of things to learn



Bug hunting with pocket books and our bug hunt sheets



Thank you [@budding_nature](#) and [@resilientorchardscornwall](#) and Tehidy Woods for having us over to run the event