

iRecord QUICK START GUIDE



Join students and staff from across the University estate in adding your wildlife sightings to our Cambridge University iRecord activity. To get started, simply sign up for an iRecord account [here](#).

iRecord is a website that allows for the sharing of wildlife observations which can then be checked and verified by experts. Verified records can be used to support research, planning, development and environmental legislation. We are using iRecord to do all of that, but also to collate the casual observations made by staff and students across the estate, so that everyone can see and learn about the amazing wildlife which occurs here. The data collected will also help us track progress against the goals of the University's [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (BAP).

Once you have signed up for an iRecord account, go to the Cambridge University activity [here](#) or use the QR code reader on your phone. Click the 'Join' button to explore all the records that have been submitted so far, along with their photographs and locations. After joining you will also be able to add any wildlife sightings you make while on the University estate.



Submitting a sighting is simple. You will need the date, the location in as much detail as you can, and what you saw. If you can, it's best to try and get a photograph but if you are sure of your identification, a photograph is not always necessary. For example, you can submit a list of birds you've spotted on the estate that day without worrying about including photos for every species. On the other hand, if you've spotted some difficult-to-identify insects, a photo will be essential to help verify your record. Don't worry if you can't ID a species, if you know you've seen a butterfly, simply state that and upload with a photo. To develop an accurate database, it's also important that common species like squirrel and rabbit are added too, but probably check whether it has been recorded recently at that location first.

Once you are in the activity go to the 'Enter a Casual Record' button, enter the relevant fields and upload a photo. Select a location on the map, zooming in as far as possible to indicate exactly where you made your sighting. and then add the name of the nearest place and click 'Submit'. **Congratulations, you are now part of the Cambridge University community of wildlife recorders!**

For detailed instructions on how to use the app and other parts of iRecord, refer to our full [iRecord user guide](#).