

**Chris Packham's Bioblitz Campaign – Coming to Prees Heath  
Common Reserve on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
**Highlighting the State of Our Nation's Wildlife**



TV presenter and naturalist Chris Packham is to come to **Butterfly Conservation's Prees Heath Common Reserve**, as part of the first independent audit of its kind in the UK involving Citizen Science. His goal is to highlight the extent to which the nation's species are under threat.

On **19<sup>th</sup> July** he'll be coming to **Prees Heath Common Reserve**, one of 48 sites across the country he'll be stopping off as part of his UK Bioblitz – nature reserves are not enough! Campaign.

Chris's UK Bioblitz – nature reserves are not enough! Campaign has a serious purpose, as the results of the 2018 audit will be recorded to create a benchmark: this will help measure the rise and fall in numbers of different species on these sites in the future.

He'll be starting off in the Scottish Highlands on July 14<sup>th</sup> and from there, over the course of 10 days, he'll weave his way across the UK, taking in Northern Ireland, Wales and parts of England along the route. All forms of life will be investigated in this snapshot of the country's wildlife: from flies to fungi, mammals to moths and birds to butterflies. At each site Chris and the UK Bioblitz team which includes 100's of experts, young conservationists and film makers and people from all backgrounds and abilities will be helped by species specialists, alongside enthusiastic amateurs, to pinpoint the winners and losers in the battle for Britain's countryside.

Chris Packham comments:

"I'm doing this because I want to highlight that the UK's landscape is in big trouble. We should have a far greater expectation of having wildlife around us all of the time but sadly we find ourselves going to nature reserves"

The ultimate aim is to celebrate some conservation success stories, but also to flag up some of its failures.

Chris concludes:

“We treat them like they’re museums and art galleries, we go there, we get fully satisfied there’s lots of life, but on the way home when we’re driving through the countryside there’s nothing left. Some parts of it are absolutely bereft, they’re deserts, and what we want to do is say to people ‘that’s not good enough’. We want wildlife everywhere; nature reserves are not enough”

The campaign is also Crowd-funding with all monies raised being distributed back into grass roots front-line conservation projects they’ve visited throughout the campaign, as well as The National Autistic Society.

Visit [www.chrispackham.co.uk](http://www.chrispackham.co.uk) to follow the Bioblitz

And join the Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/221259578624823/>

***Interviews in advance or on the day by arrangement.***

**Contact: Stephen Lewis at [phwarden@sky.com](mailto:phwarden@sky.com) or call 07900 886809**

Contact Tina M Lindsay [tina@tinamlindsay.co.uk](mailto:tina@tinamlindsay.co.uk) to arrange interviews.

Link to copyright free film with Chris Packham.

<https://youtu.be/efjqZ8FtiRs>

Download

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XuF8HsKC5wuvp-IBAhHEDYqPYGFHZQ3n>

### **Note to editors**

#### **About Chris Packham:**

TV presenter and naturalist Chris Packham is a wildlife specialist, photographer and author with a passionate concern for conservation and the environment. After studying for a degree in zoology at Southampton University, Chris trained as a wildlife film cameraman but soon moved into TV presenting, beginning with the Really Wild Show in 1986. TV credits include ‘Wildshots’, ‘Wild Watch’, ‘Go Wild’, basically lots of things with ‘wild’ in the title. ‘X-Creatures’, ‘Postcards from the Wild’, ‘Hands on Nature’, ‘Nature’s Calendar’ and more recently the BBC’s ‘Springwatch’, ‘Autumnwatch’ and ‘Winterwatch’ shows.

#### **About Chris Packham’s UK Bioblitz Campaign 2018:**

**A bioblitz** is an intensive field study over a set period of time to record all the living species within a designated area. Participants include groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers.

**Data collection:** Data collected from the UK Bioblitz Campaign will contribute to biological recording in the UK, so is essential for research purposes. It will be made available for each site to further their development, funding applications and wider discovery of the habitats and species they're conserving. Many taking part will never have had such in-depth surveying on their site making this aspect of the campaign doubly important.

**Why Nature Reserves are not enough:** Chris Packham's UK Bioblitz Campaign will champion front-line conservation in action, the people who make a huge difference to the species and habitats they support. As well as recognised conservation sites, Chris Packham will be highlighting that "nature reserves are not enough" by featuring for example; community projects, volunteer initiatives, developments and local council action plans. The campaign will be documenting their stories to demonstrate how we can all make a space for nature and give wildlife a significant boost.

**Fund raising:** Sponsorship for Chris Packham's species count during the UK Bioblitz Campaign can be made via Just Giving ([insert link](#))

All the money raised will be distributed back to the front-line conservationists, projects, initiatives and voluntary groups via invited wish-lists, thus directly supporting those whom need it most. The campaign will also be donating to Autism and Asperger's research, enabling people to realise their worth.

**Carbon neutral tour:** Miles covered using our Campaign vehicles will be calculated and carbon offset.

**Press and media will be welcomed at highlighted sites.**

**ALL SITES CORRECT AT TIME OF RELEASE. PLEASE REFER TO CAMPAIGN CHANNELS FOR UPDATES**

**Chris Packham's UK Bioblitz Tour timetable:**

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July: Scotland**

Ben Lawers - Perth & Kinross (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Loch Leven - Kinross-shire (public welcome, check times)

Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre - Falkirk (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Kinneil Lagoon (invite only)

Callendar Wood - Stirlingshire (public welcome, check times)

On the Verge, Stirling (site TBC) - Stirlingshire (invite only, media welcome by arrangement)

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> July: Scotland**

Flanders Moss - Stirlingshire (invite only)

Lochwinnoch - Renfrewshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Stevenston Beach - Ayrshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Dalmellington Moss - Ayrshire (invite only, media welcome by arrangement)

### **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> July: Northern Ireland**

McIlroy Park, Lagan Valley Regional Park - Co. Antrim (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

An Creagan - Co. Tyrone (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Milford Cutting - Co. Armagh (invite only)

Murlough - Co. Down (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Killard - Co. Down (public welcome, check times)

### **Tue 17<sup>th</sup> July: Northern Ireland and Scotland**

Wildflower Alley - Belfast (Co. Antrim) (invite only, media welcome by arrangement)

Crescent Arts Centre - Belfast (Co. Antrim) (invite only)

Bog Meadows - Belfast (Co. Antrim) (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Caerlaverock Wetland Centre - Dumfriesshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

### **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> July: Scotland and England**

St Abb's Head - Berwickshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Amble - Northumberland (invite only)

Newcastle Great Park Project - Tyne & Wear (invite only, media welcome by arrangement)

Havannah & Three Hills Nature Reserve - Tyne & Wear (invite only)

Filey Bird Observatory - North Yorkshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

### **Thu 19<sup>th</sup> July: England**

Nosterfield Nature Reserve - North Yorkshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Fairburn Ings - West Yorkshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Waingroves Community Woodland Trust - Derbyshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Prees Heath Common Reserve - Shropshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

### **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> July: Wales**

Cemlyn - Anglesey (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Great Orme - Conwy (public welcome, check times

Pensychnant Conservation Centre and Nature Reserve - Conwy (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Ynys-hir - Ceredigion (public welcome, check times)

Gilfach Nature Reserve - Radnorshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

### **Sat 21 July: Wales**

Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre - Pembrokeshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

The "Wild Communities" Project, Cae Lynden - Brecknockshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Newport Wetlands - Newport (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

St Woolo's Cemetery - Newport (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

### **Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> July: England**

Kings Dyke Nature Reserve - Cambridgeshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Papley Grove Farm - Cambridgeshire (invite only, media by arrangement)

Wicken Fen - including The Dragonfly Project - Cambridgeshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Lakenheath Fen - Suffolk (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Weeting Heath - Norfolk (invite only)

### **Mon 23 July: England**

Yateley Common Country Park - Hampshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Cliddesden Community Conservation Group - Hampshire (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

Martin Down Nature Reserve - Hampshire (public welcome, check times)

River Frome Mill & Stream - Dorset (invite only, media by arrangement)

Birds of Poole Harbour- Dorset - (public welcome, check times and media by arrangement)

**--ENDS--**