

Bioblitz Bristol

26-28 June 2009

Arranged by the Bristol Natural History Consortium, with support by Science City Bristol and Defra, and Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC), the first terrestrial 'BioBlitz' in the west of England was a 30-hour race against the clock where scientists, naturalists, students, members of public, schools and community groups worked together to find and identify as much wildlife as possible in the Ashton Court Estate. From Base Camp, 2 large marquees situated just north of the mansion/visitor centre, groups went to one of five areas to investigate the variety of plants and animals. The last tally was: 569 species including a great-spotted newt, many rare butterflies, and plant and tree species rare to South West England.

Being the first-ever UK pilot of its kind – Bioblitz is a US-inspired – teething problems inevitably occurred including with school groups on the Friday and getting families out to the Ashton Court Estate who might otherwise not have come. All in all, a successful event.

To view the Bioblitz blog, visit: <http://bioblitzbristol.wordpress.com/>

Henricus Peters, NAEF Executive who volunteered at this event.