

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Chris Packham kicks off UK-wide bioblitz at Ben Lawers

The National Trust for Scotland's team at Ben Lawers are inviting the public to get involved in a bioblitz event on Saturday 14 July, as part of a new campaign by TV naturalist Chris Packham.

Chris begins his ***UK Bioblitz – nature reserves are not enough! Campaign*** at the National Nature Reserve early on Saturday morning. This is the first of 48 Citizen Science events taking place in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales as part of his campaign designed to create a snapshot of the UK's wildlife.

From 8am to 12 noon, visitors are invited to come along and get hands on with recording the wildflowers, plants, insects and birds that flourish on Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve.

National Trust for Scotland's Senior Ranger Naturalist at Ben Lawers, Helen Cole said:

"We are very honoured to be the starting point for Chris's epic journey, looking at the wildlife across the UK. Ben Lawers is a very important place for all sorts of plants, insects and animals and we hope that the public will come along and help us discover more about the wonderful wildlife that all of us here help protect, for the love of Scotland."

Attendees should meet at the Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve car park to take part in this free event.

Ben Lawers is a hugely significant place for botanists as it is renowned for its arctic-alpine flora, many of which are rare and endangered species. The area is also home to a variety of wildlife including red deer, ptarmigan, black grouse and ravens.

Sister National Trust for Scotland property, St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve in the Scottish Borders is also taking part in the campaign, with an event on 18 July.

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