



Teachers guide to iSPYnature.com

What is iSPYnature?

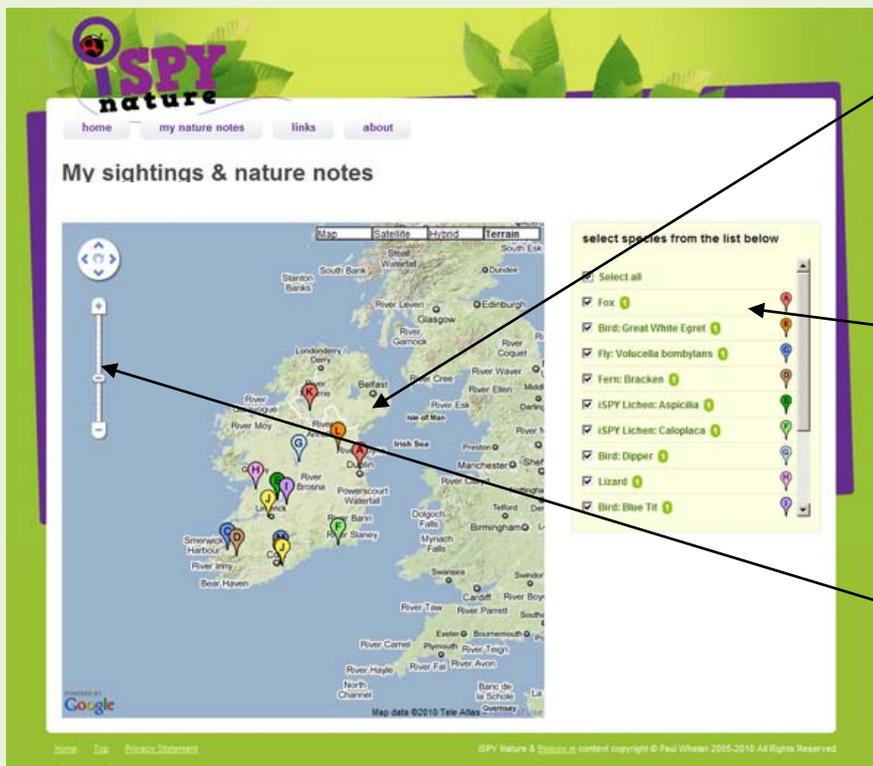
iSPYnature is a biodiversity awareness web site for young people and is particularly suitable for use in Primary schools.

How does it increase a user's biodiversity awareness?

The web site takes a different approach to other online biodiversity resources by involving the user in actively keeping an online record of plants and animals in their own area (perhaps of the school grounds or their garden/farm at home).

How does iSPYnature.com work?

The web site encourages pupils to place sightings of plants or animals on a map and write in some nature notes with the sighting. Using an email address they can return to look at the map and nature notes as their sightings increase. Here is a typical online Map and Nature notes page of a pupil (or class).



Map with sightings marked by the pupil or teacher

List of plants or animals placed on the map

Use to zoom in or out on the map

The nature notes can be called up for any species on the map - these notes are the pupil's own.

The screenshot shows the ISPY Nature website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'home', 'my nature notes', 'links', and 'about'. The main heading is 'My sightings & nature notes'. The interface is divided into three main sections:

- Map:** A map showing a location with a 'Sighting of Fox' popup. A callout box labeled 'Map' points to the map area.
- Pupil's sightings:** A list of species with checkboxes and colored location pins. A callout box labeled 'Pupil's sightings' points to this list.
- Pupil's nature notes for the fox he/ she saw:** A detailed form for a 'Sighting of Fox' on Tuesday, 21 September 2010. It includes fields for 'NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS' (2), 'WEATHER CONDITIONS' (Cold but sunny and dry), 'OTHER NOTES' (Saw two foxes running across the field. One was much bigger than the other. It could have been a mother and cub.), and 'Fox'. A callout box labeled 'Pupil's nature notes for the fox he/ she saw.' points to this form.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with 'Home', 'Tag', 'Privacy Statement', and 'ISPY Nature & Bioscience content copyright © Paul Whelan 2005-2010 All Rights Reserved'.

Is it too complicated for primary schools?

The interface is a simplified version of www.biology.ie tailored specifically for young people. It is intuitive and the steps to input a sighting are clear and easy to understand.

It can be used by the teacher to represent the class sightings after a day or a week of nature studies.

The web site in more detail

The following screen shots will guide you through the main features of the web site. You can decide whether it is suitable for individual pupils or for use as a class project.

The Home page:

The screenshot shows the iSPY nature website home page with several callout boxes:

- Sound file:** Points to a play button icon in the top navigation bar.
- Go to your map and nature notes:** Points to the 'my nature notes' link in the top navigation bar.
- 'What is this?' - click on picture to open the Flickr iSPY page for details:** Points to a 'What is this?' section featuring a dragonfly.
- Scroll through the last few sightings:** Points to a 'Look - what other people saw:' section with a map and a 'Sighting of Fox' popup.
- The most recent sighting from a user of iSPY:** Points to the 'Sighting of Fox' popup on the map.
- Preset species lists:** Points to a vertical list of survey categories on the left side of the page.
- Search here for a species if you don't want to use the preset species lists:** Points to a search bar at the bottom left.

Using preset species lists

These can help you focus on a particular aspect of Ireland's biodiversity.

Here are the steps in using the Butterfly preset.



Imagine you have seen a Peacock Butterfly.

1. Pick on the Butterfly banner

2. The project page will open. This page can be studied at any time by the pupils. At the top right are two large green buttons. One allows you to place a butterfly (in this case) on the map and write in the nature notes. The lower green button allows you to look back at species already placed on the map.

3. Pick on the button 'Put it on the map'. The following page opens:

Butterflies Moths Dragonflies Wasps Flies & Spiders
Submit a new sighting

plant or animal > location > map > date of sighting > nature notes > submit

1 2 3 4 5 6

Step 1: What did you see?

Search the list below

Instructions on use
Click on a species in the list. You can scroll through the list or search it. If the list is longer than your screen then either use Live Search or the scroll bar to find the species you want to use.
Note: all steps must be completed to successfully submit a sighting!

	1st Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
	Ant: Black Garden Ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>
	Ant: Red Ant	<i>Myrmica rubra</i>
	Ant: Wood Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>
	Araniella curcurbitina	<i>Araniella curcurbitina</i>
	Bee: Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
	Bee: Carder-Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
	Bee: Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
	Bee: Leaf-cutter Bee	<i>Megachile centuncularis</i>
	Bee: Red-Tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
	Beetle: 14-spot Ladybird	<i>Propylea 14-punctata</i>
	Beetle: 7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>

4. Find the Peacock butterfly and immediately step 2 - location - will appear. It's a list of counties.

5. Select the county you want (I have selected Co. Donegal) and step 3 (the map) is displayed. If you are not familiar with using these maps you should play around with it for a while (you won't damage

it). For example, you can pan around or zoom in and out. Do this until you find the location of the area the butterfly was seen.

Here I have zoomed in on Killybegs and changed the map to **Hybrid** view.

Step 3 - the map

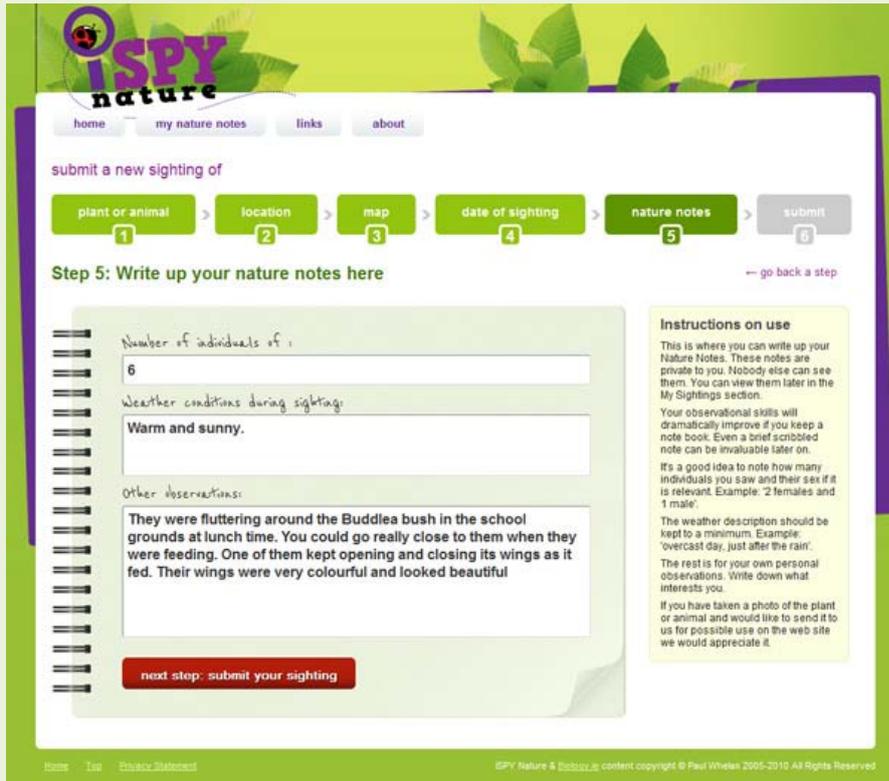
I selected the Hybrid view

I then zoomed in and panned over Killybegs

Now pick a point on the map to show where the butterfly was seen. If you select the wrong place just click again until you are happy with it. A small flag will appear at the point. You are now ready to move on to step 4 so click on the red button 'next step: date'

6. Select the date.

7. The nature notes page appears with a simple simulation of a spiral bound note book. Type in the notes here something similar to the screen below:

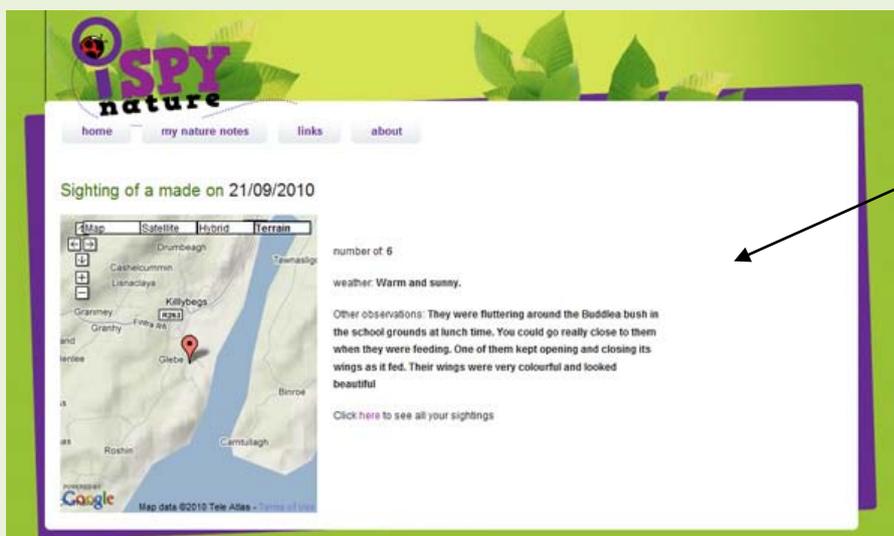


These nature notes will be saved with the Peacock butterfly. Click on the red button 'next step: submit your sighting'.

8. Step 6 appears. You must enter the email address here that you wish to use to look back at all your sightings and nature notes. You can also put in the school name - or pupil's name.

7. Click to proceed. The last page appears with 'click to see Summary of this Sighting' in green. Click on that to see a summary or just click on the home tab to go back to the home page.

Here is the summary of this sighting:



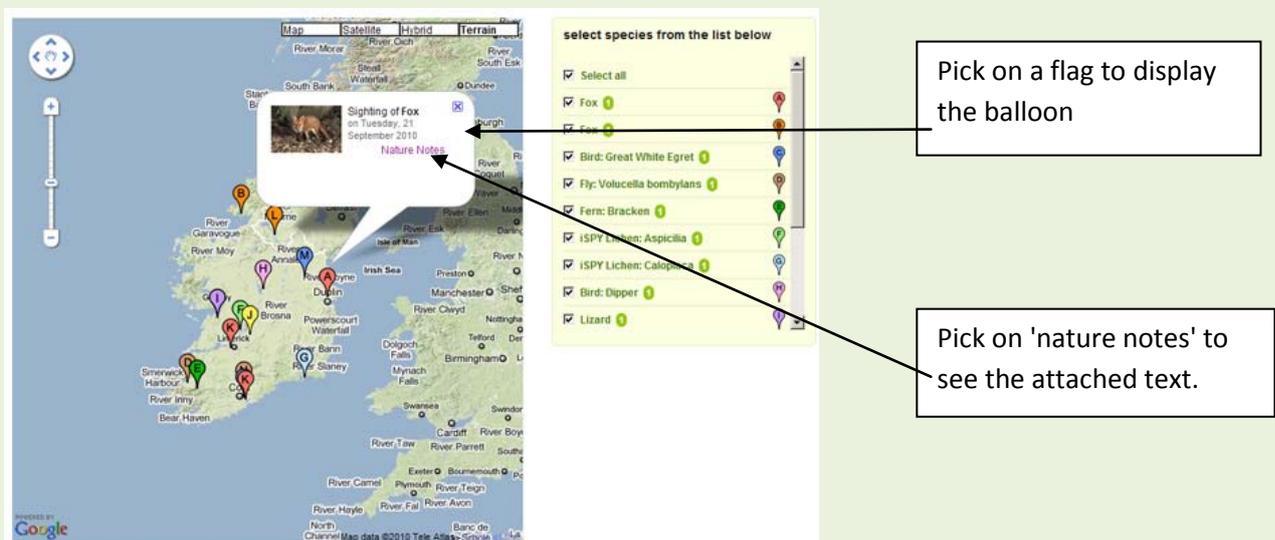
Looking back at a user's (pupil's or class) map and nature notes is very easy.

1. Click on 'my nature notes' tab on the home page.
2. Type in the email address used
3. The user's map will display with the species listed on the right side. The number after a species name is the number of sightings for that species that are on the map.
4. Place a tick in 'Select all' to show all the species on the map. If all your species were in one small area you will need to zoom in to see them in detail. Each species is assigned a different coloured flag and letter so you can distinguish them. The same flags and codes are used in the species list on the right of the page.



How to access the nature notes

1. Pick on a flag for a species - the bubble will appear - and pick on nature notes.



The screenshot shows the iSPY nature website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'home', 'my nature notes', 'links', and 'about'. Below this is the title 'My sightings & nature notes' and a sub-header 'Sightings submitted using xyz@eircom.net'. The main content area is divided into three sections: a map, a sighting report, and a species selection list. The map shows a location in Ireland with a 'Sighting of Fox' on Tuesday, 21 September 2010. The sighting report includes a photo of a fox, the title 'Sighting of Fox', the date, and a section for 'My nature notes' with fields for 'NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS' (2), 'WEATHER CONDITIONS' (Cold but sunny and dry), 'OTHER NOTES' (Saw two foxes running across the field. One was much bigger than the other. It could have been a mother and cub.), and the species 'Fox'. The species selection list on the right is titled 'select species from the list below' and includes a 'Select all' checkbox and a list of species with checkboxes and location pins: Fox, Bird: Great White Egret, Fly: Volucella bombylans, Fern: Bracken, iSPY Lichen: Aspicilia, iSPY Lichen: Caloplaca, Bird: Dipper, Lizard, and Bird: Blue Tit. Two callout boxes are present: one pointing to the 'Nature Notes' field in the sighting report with the text 'The nature notes appear', and another pointing to a close button (an 'X' in a circle) in the top right corner of the sighting report with the text 'Click on the X to close the nature notes'.

A note on iSPY Lichens @ School

A special preset list is the **iSPY Lichens @ School**. This was developed to promote an interest in Ireland's lichen flora. Ireland has a richer biodiversity of lichen than green plants, yet it is a group that has been largely ignored.

In an effort to foster an interest in the group some lichens have been selected for iSPYnature.com. A separate guide to these lichens is available on the website.

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