How to use iNaturalistUK

Note: there may be differences between the pictures in this guide and your phone, depending on the platform (iPhone and Android) and the version being used.

What is iNaturalist?

It's a free website and app to record observations of plants and animals in nature using photographs and sound recordings. The iNaturalist computer version will suggest possible identifications, and then when upload those observations, the iNaturalist community then works together to refine and confirm the identifications. The data collected contributes to a global dataset of biodiversity which is used for science and conservation.

How do I ensure my observation is useful for science?

To ensure that Staffordshire Ecological Record can store and use your wildlife records, you need to check your iNaturalist default license settings are set up correctly.

On **Android**. go to "Settings" and click "Default Licenses". For each setting, click and choose your preferred setting.

You cannot change your licencing setting via the on **Apple** devices. Log onto iNaturalistUK and go to Account Settings > Content and Display. Scroll down the page to 'Licensing'. For each setting, Click and choose your preferred setting.
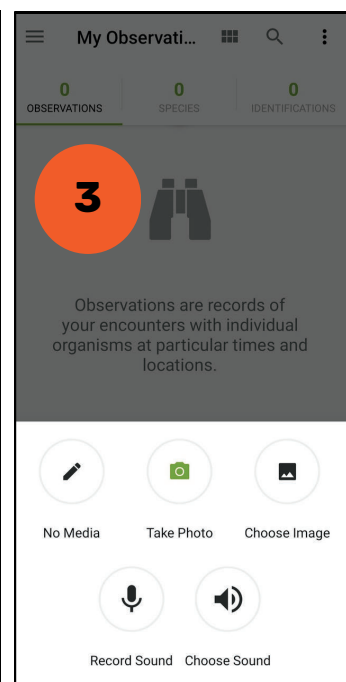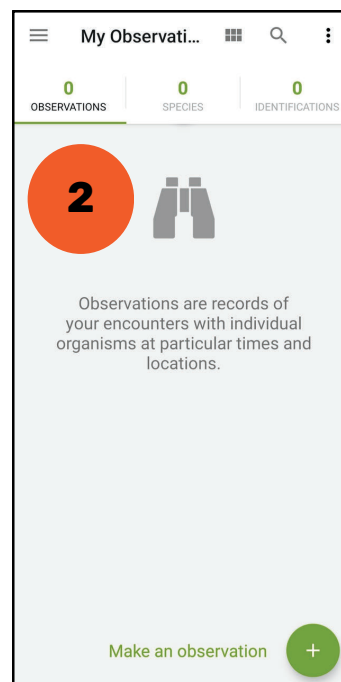
Selecting "CC0" allows your record to be used by anyone in any way, while "CC-BY" allows anyone to copy, distribute, transmit and make commercial use of the material, but ensures you are credited as the owner of the record. The default licence for your record and your photo/sound recording can be different
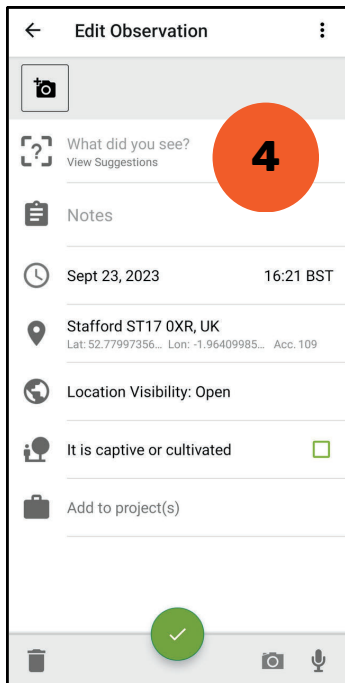
How do I make an observation?

1. Open the iNaturalist app and login/create an account.

2. Select the + symbol to make an observation.

3. Select whether you want to "take a photo" or "choose image" to select a photo you've taken earlier. You can also add sound recordings, such as bird song.

You can add up to 4 photos per observation. Adding multiple makes it easier for experts to confirm your record, as you can take photos from different angles and capture distinctive parts of your specimen, e.g. the flowers and a leaves of a plant.

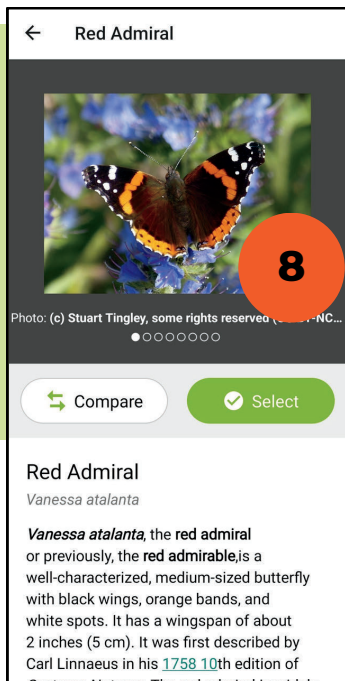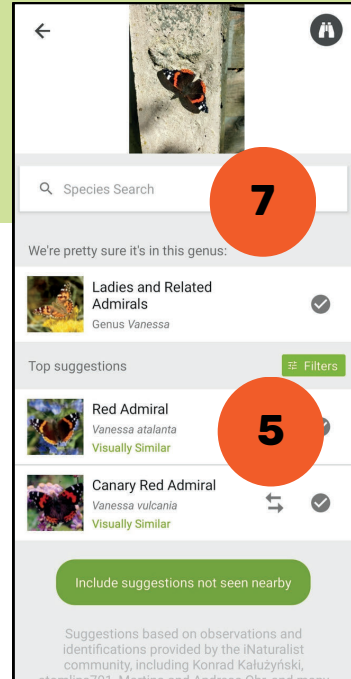**4.** Click "What did you see?" to view suggestions.

5. Look at the 'Top suggestions' list to see if any match what you have seen. Clicking the two arrows allows you to compare your photo to other pictures of the species.

6. Click the species which best matches. Once uploaded, other members of iNaturalist community will review and confirm the identification.

7. If you're not confident about the species, choose a general group it belongs to, such as a genus or family. You can also just search for a general group, e.g. butterfly, bird or plant. Try not to leave this as blank or unknown, as it means it is less likely to be found be someone who can identify it.
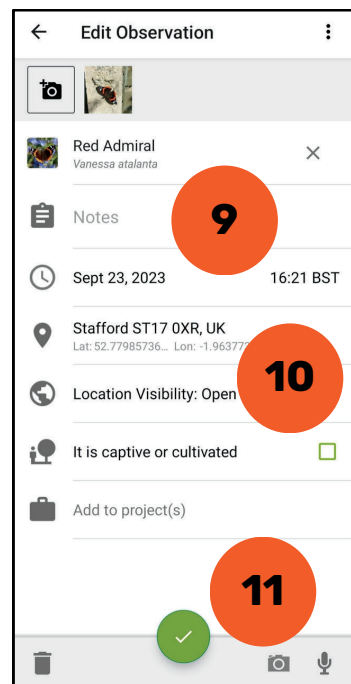
8. Once you are happy with the match, click "select".

9. Check the date and location are correct. They should be filled out automatically (you may need to allow permissions for location settings on your phone) or you can type this information manually if you prefer. You can also add optional notes about the observation if you want.

10. There is a box to tick if what you have found is captive or cultivated. Captive animals include pets and farm animals. Cultivated plants include those bought in garden centres.
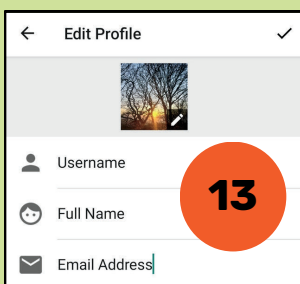
11. When you have filled in the information, press the green ✓. The record will either upload automatically or can be stored for when the recorder connects to Wi-Fi.

12. Congratulations, you've uploaded your first observation to iNaturalist! To make another observation, select the + symbol and follow the steps again. Happy Recording!

13. If you're comfortable, consider changing your display name to your full name. It allows Staffordshire Ecological Record to attribute you to your record, which makes the record stronger. To change your name in the app:
- Select Edit Profile from the menu.
- Change the name next to the head icon.
- Click the tick to update.