

The Nest Box Challenge needs YOU!



The Nest Box Challenge is a national survey of birds' nests and nest boxes organised by the **British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)**. Monitoring nests and nest boxes may help us understand why some bird species are increasing in numbers while others are decreasing.

You can help! Just keep an eye on the nest boxes located along the Greenock Cut (see map), and let us know if you see any birds using them. There are 15 nest boxes in total, labelled A to O, that can be seen from the Nature Trail Path. See if you can spot the boxes when you are out walking, and let us know if you have anything to report.

If you want to put up a nest box in your own garden, go to <http://www.bto.org/nnbw/info.htm> to find out everything you need to know.

Thank you for your help, and good luck with the birdwatching!



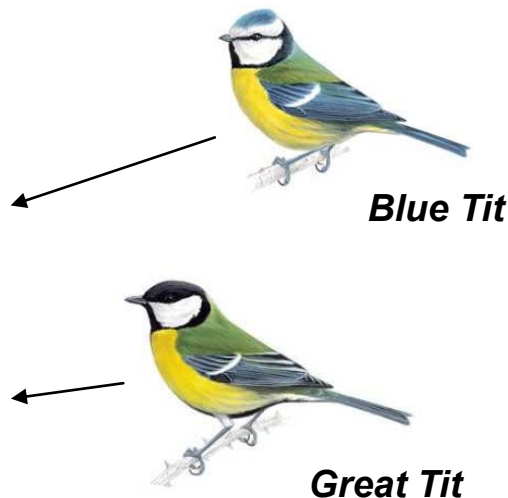
Guide to Nest Boxes



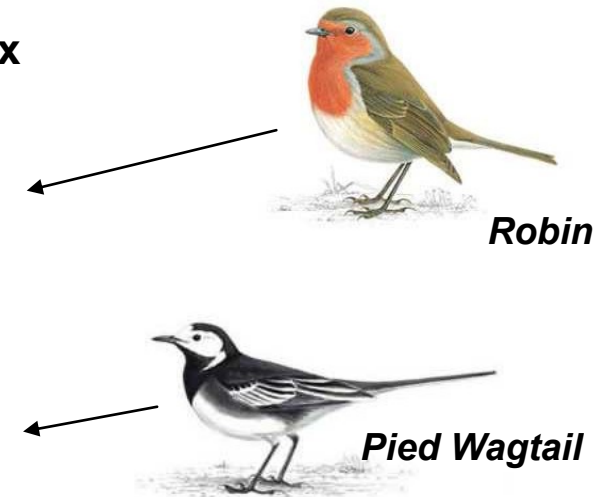
Natural nesting sites, such as holes in trees, have become less available to birds since people began tidying up our gardens and woods. However, thousands of bird lovers in Britain have put up nest boxes to help make up for this loss. It is thought that there are now over 5 million boxes in gardens across the United Kingdom.

Different birds like to use different boxes. For example, the small hole nest box is commonly used by tit species while the open fronted box is used by robins and pied wagtails.

Hole Nest Box



Open Fronted Box



Guide to Watching Nest Boxes



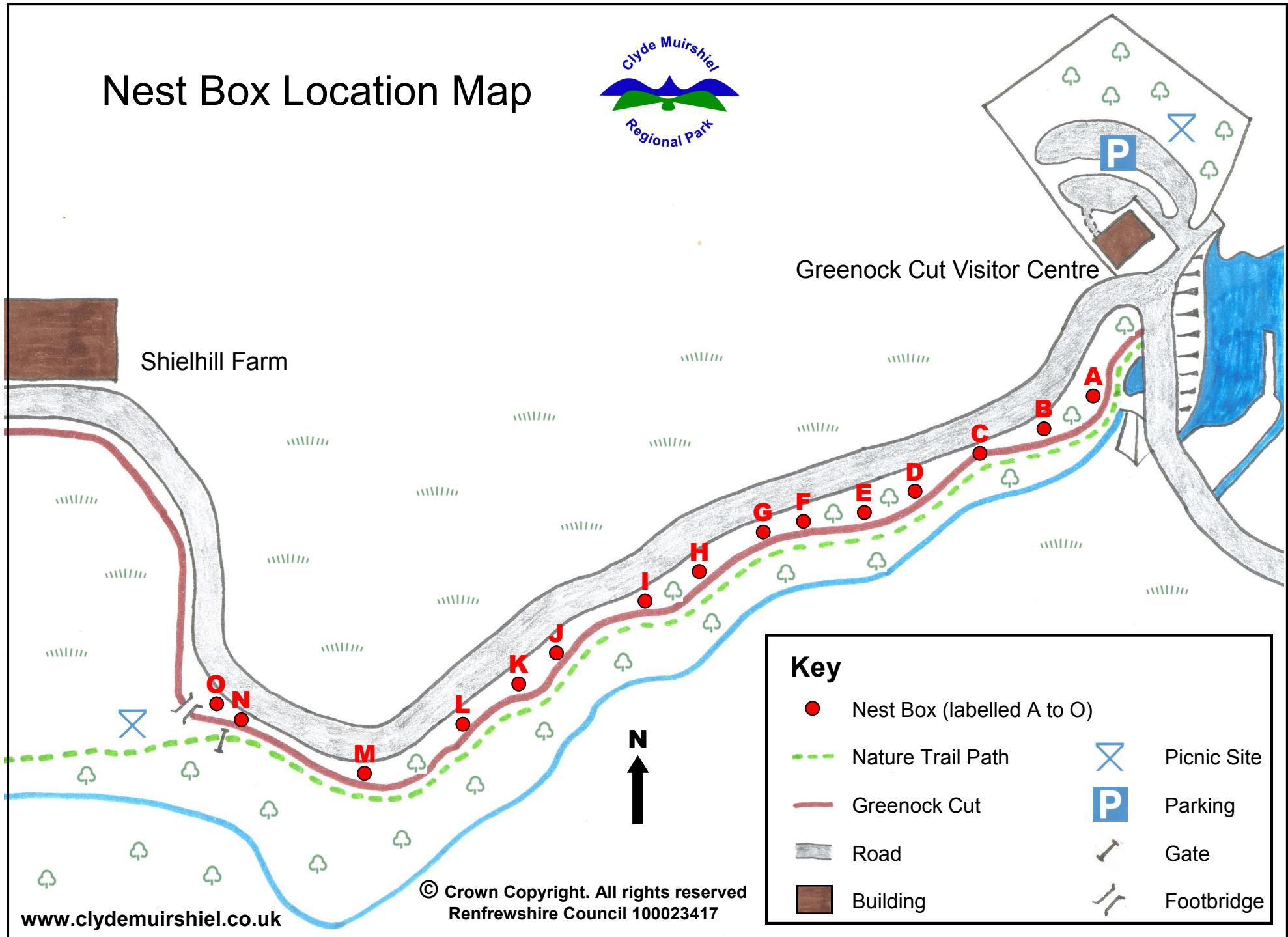
A pair of binoculars would be useful, allowing you to watch the nest boxes from a distance without disturbing any visiting birds. Here are some signs of breeding to look out for:

- Birds flying repeatedly in and out of a nest box
- Birds carrying nesting material into a nest box
- Birds carrying food into a nest box
- Chicks calling from a nest box
- Young poking their heads out of a nest box
- Young leaving a nest box when they are ready to fledge



Please let us know if you observe any of these signs while watching our nest boxes. Remember to take a note of which box you see being used, and the species of bird using it if possible. Thank you!

Nest Box Location Map



Key

Nest Box (labelled A to O)	Picnic Site
Nature Trail Path	Parking
Greenock Cut	Gate
Road	Footbridge
Building	

Nest Box Challenge Record Slip

If you observe any signs of breeding while watching our nest boxes, please complete this slip and return it to the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre.

Please fill in below, using letters A to O to identify which signs of breeding you saw at which nest box. **Thank you for your help!**

Date

Today I observed the following signs of breeding:-

Birds flying repeatedly in and out of nest box/es

Birds carrying nesting material into nest box/es

Birds carrying food into nest box/es

Chicks calling from nest box/es

Young poking their heads out of nest box/es

Young leaving nest box/es when they are ready to fledge.

Please tell us, if you know which species you observed:-

.....

.....

Any other comments:-

.....

.....

My details:-

Name

Address

.....

Telephone Number

Email Address

Please tick this box if you do not wish to be contacted

Nest Box Challenge Record Slip

If you observe any signs of breeding while watching our nest boxes, please complete this slip and return it to the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre.

Please fill in below, using letters A to O to identify which signs of breeding you saw at which nest box. **Thank you for your help!**

Date

Today I observed the following signs of breeding:-

Birds flying repeatedly in and out of nest box/es

Birds carrying nesting material into nest box/es

Birds carrying food into nest box/es

Chicks calling from nest box/es

Young poking their heads out of nest box/es

Young leaving nest box/es when they are ready to fledge.

Please tell us, if you know which species you observed:-

.....

.....

Any other comments:-

.....

.....

My details:-

Name

Address

.....

Telephone Number

Email Address

Please tick this box if you do not wish to be contacted

Nest Box Challenge Record Slip

If you observe any signs of breeding while watching our nest boxes, please complete this slip and return it to the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre.

Please fill in below, using letters A to O to identify which signs of breeding you saw at which nest box. **Thank you for your help!**

Date

Today I observed the following signs of breeding:-

Birds flying repeatedly in and out of nest box/es

Birds carrying nesting material into nest box/es

Birds carrying food into nest box/es

Chicks calling from nest box/es

Young poking their heads out of nest box/es

Young leaving nest box/es when they are ready to fledge.

Please tell us, if you know which species you observed:-

.....

.....

Any other comments:-

.....

.....

My details:-

Name

Address

.....

Telephone Number

Email Address

Please tick this box if you do not wish to be contacted