



What Is iNaturalist?

iNaturalist is a **free, plant and animal identification and observation app** for your phone, tablet and desktop PC. It uses image recognition technology paired with the knowledge and expertise of a worldwide community of volunteers to identify plants and animals in pictures that users share. Your contributions will be used by researchers, local environmental records centres, wildlife trusts and other conservation organisations to monitor and study biodiversity.

[iNaturalist](#) is a joint project by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. Here in the UK, iNaturalistUK is a partnership between the National Biodiversity Network Trust, the Marine Biological Association and the Biological Records Centre.

How Do I Join?

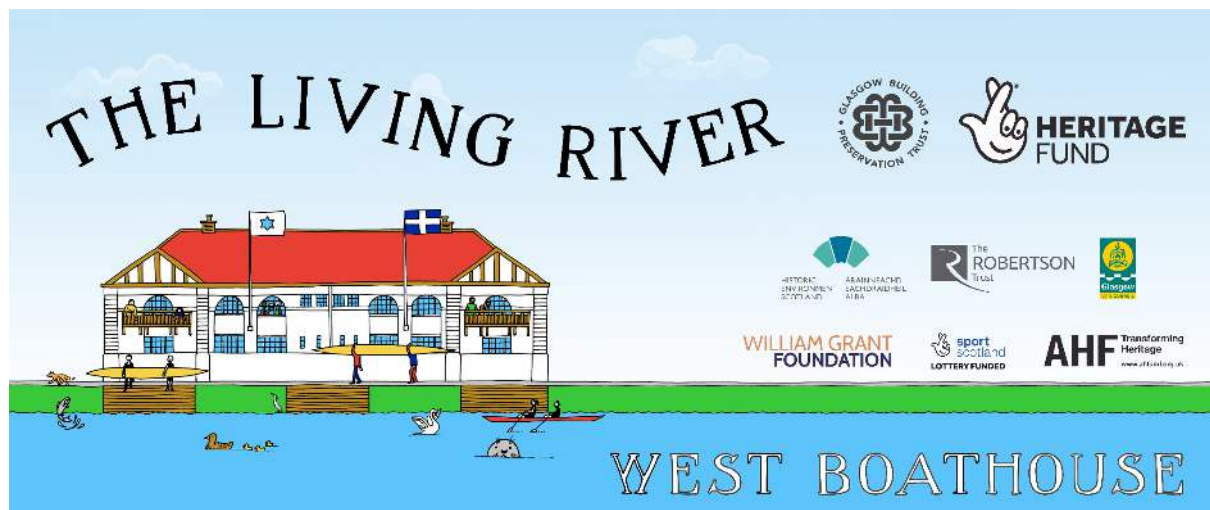
Create an account on the [iNaturalistUK](#) website (uk.inaturalist.org) or you can download the app. Search for 'iNaturalist' on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#). New users will be prompted to affiliate to iNaturalistUK. You will still remain part of the international community.

Help - I don't know very much about plants and animals!

Don't worry! The Artificial Intelligence (AI) on iNaturalist will help you out. When you take a photo, the app will scan through a huge database of photographs of known species and provide you with some suggestions for what you saw. Once you upload your observation, there are thousands of volunteer experts who check through submissions and will correct any misidentified species. The app also gives you lots of information about the species you've observed, so you can learn while you go along.

The Living River Project

In iNaturalist, 'projects' let you combine your observations with other people on iNaturalist. This might be a group that is observing in your neighbourhood, or people with a particular shared interest, e.g. birds, fungi, or frogs.



The Living River is an iNaturalist project set up to encourage people to make observations along the River Clyde from Glasgow Green to the Cuningar Loop. We're looking for observations and records of all kinds of flora and fauna and are keen to identify areas where invasive species are present - particularly Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam.

To Join:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-living-river> or search for 'the Living River' in projects, either on the app or desktop, then click the green 'Join' button.

How to use the app and make observations

Once you've set up your account and installed the app on your device, you're good to go.

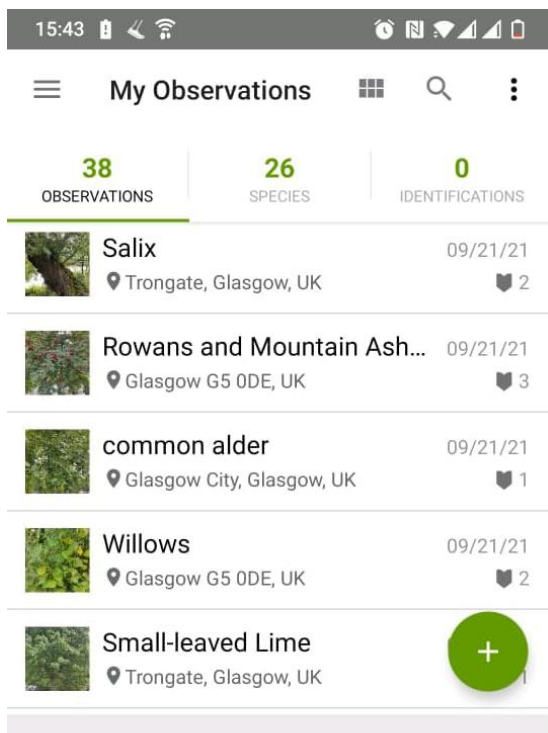
- Make sure your phone's **location services are turned on** for your camera and for iNaturalist. This is usually accessed through the security

settings on your phone and provides the locational information for your observations.

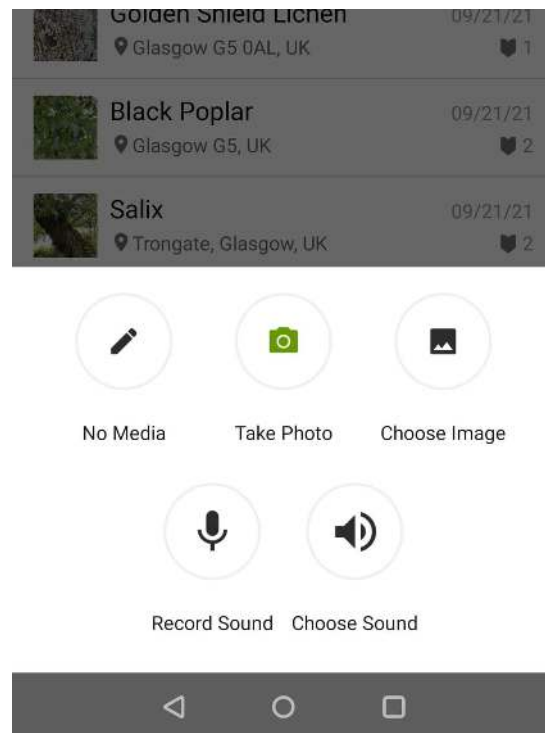
- **Find a subject** (try plants to begin with as they're easier to photograph and don't run away).

Making an observation:

1: Open the app and press the green '+' button on the bottom right of the screen.



2: Select the 'Take Photo' option, (you can also record sound to capture and identify bird song, calls etc, or upload images you've taken previously).



3: Take a few snaps:

- Focus the camera on the species that you want to identify and try not to get too many other plants in the shot.
- Hold your camera as steady as you can to avoid blurry photos that may make identification difficult.

4: Once you have a photo you like, you'll be taken back to the observation screen where you can add more photos if needed, e.g. close-up of the leaves.

5: Next, select **"What did you see? View suggestions."** iNaturalist will offer a few suggestions based on the photograph you provided and how much information it has about the species in your area. Look for suggestions that say "Visually Similar/Seen Nearby" as good possible choices.

6: Save your observation. It will be uploaded to iNaturalist, where the community will work to confirm or refine the identification.

