



## BIODIVERSITY POLLINATOR SURVEY

Biodiversity refers to the variety in type and number of different species of plants and animals that you may find in an area. Native plants and trees found in the Tiny Forest can support biodiversity by providing habitats and resources for a broad range of species. In this survey, you will investigate the biodiversity of the forest by identifying and recording the different species and number of pollinators that you observe.

### EQUIPMENT:

- 1 x Timer
- 1 x Pollinator ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/printed field sheet

### WHEN TO SURVEY

Ideally when it is warm (midday or early afternoon) and if possible, when the forest is not too disturbed by people.

May to September is best. Different species will be active at different times of year, but generally late spring and early summer are best for surveying.



### INSTRUCTIONS

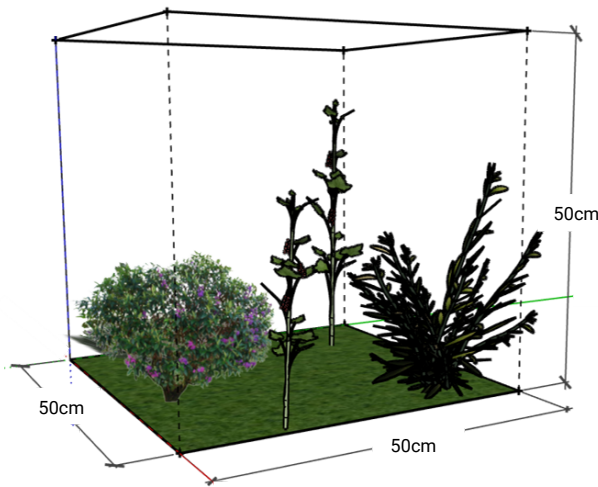
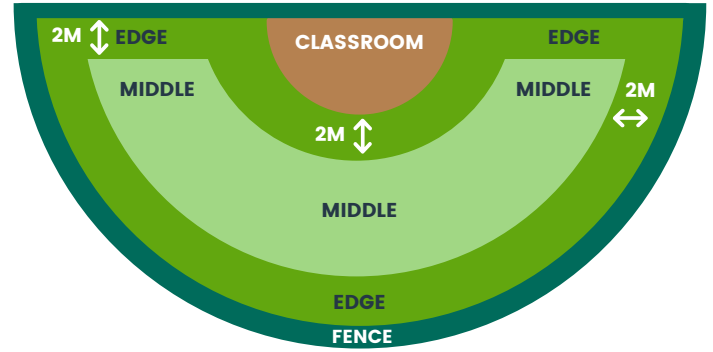
In this biodiversity survey you will count the different kinds of pollinators seen in the Tiny Forest. You will have 10 minutes to conduct your survey.

#### STEP 1:

Begin by choosing where in the forest you will do your pollinator count. If possible, choose an area that has some flowering plants or trees. Once you have chosen your survey location, use the diagram and notes below to help classify it. Record this, along with the Tiny Forest name, date and time that you started the survey, on your tablet, phone or field sheet.

**Middle:** A Tiny Forest cannot be less than 4m wide at any one point. If you are 2m or more away from any edges, including where the classroom area starts, then you are in the middle of the forest. The middle is shown in light green in the diagram.

**Edge:** If you are 2m or less away from an area where there are no planted trees, including the classroom area, then you are at the edge of the Tiny Forest. The edge is shown in dark green in the diagram.



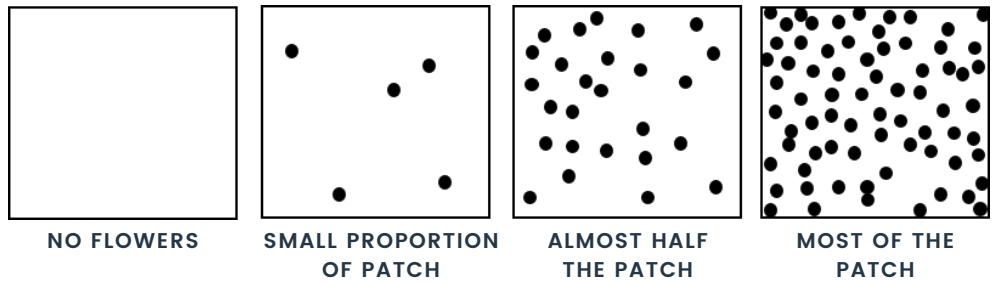
**STEP 2:**

Now look at what the weather is like, considering rain, sun, cloud and wind. Select the closest option from the list on your tablet, phone or field sheet.

**STEP 3:**

Your survey site should be a 50x50cm patch. Because this is a 3D space, you should take note of all of the plants that are growing vertically upwards from this 50cm squared area. Use the 3D diagram to help.

Estimate how much of your site is covered by flowers. You can use the dotted diagrams as an example, where each black dot represents flowers. Then, select one of the options on your tablet, phone or field sheet.



Remember to also include flowers in the trees and on the ground. Remember that in some trees, flowers may not look as we expect them to, but they are still very attractive to pollinators. Some examples that do not look like obvious flowers are shown here.



Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) flower    Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) flower

## STEP 4:

Take a look at the Pollinator ID guide before you get started. This will help you to understand some of the pollinators that you might see and will help you with identification.

Find a comfortable spot to stand or sit and begin your 10-minute timer.

Try to remain still and quiet for the full 10-minute period, so as not to disturb any pollinators. Watch your survey site closely and keep track of the maximum number of any insect group visiting your survey site at the same time.

If you see three bumblebees in your survey patch at the same time then you can record the abundance of bumblebees as three. If however you see one bumblebee at minute two and then two bumblebees at minute five, then the maximum number of bumblebees you have seen together at the same time is two (not three). To count an individual it must land on a flower or plant within your survey patch.

Record the pollinator groups and maximum abundances of each on your tablet, phone or field sheet. If you're not sure what type it is, just add it to the "Other insects" category.

To get the most out of this activity, try to switch off from distractions, tune in to the sounds of the Tiny Forest and take deep breaths as you start to engage with the forest and the creatures that live there.

## STEP 5:

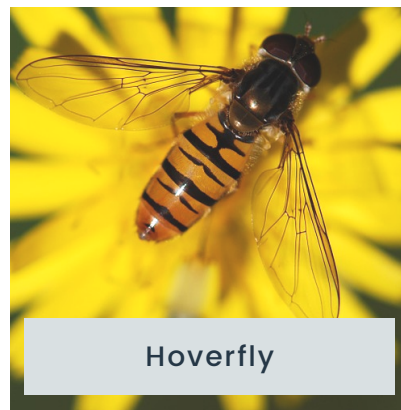
When your 10-minute survey is over, think about whether your patch was mostly in the sun or shade during the survey. Record this on your tablet, phone or field sheet.



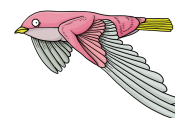
Bumblebee



Common wasp



Hoverfly



## DID YOU KNOW?

We have around 270 species of bees in Britain and around 93% of them are solitary bees!



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earthwatch  
EUROPE

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