



Tiny Forest

Wildlife Count

Survey Pack

earthwatch
EUROPE



Hello there!

Welcome to the Tiny Forest Wildlife Count, we're buzzing to have you onboard! Thank you for signing up to help count bugs and butterflies at your Tiny Forest this May. You will be helping us to track how your Tiny Forest is supporting wildlife and your community.

IN THIS PACK, YOU WILL FIND:

- Introduction to Tiny Forest Wildlife Count
- Planning your Wildlife Count
- Pollinator Timed Count survey instructions
- Pollinator Timed Count survey sheet
- Pollinator Identification Guide
- Butterfly Timed Count survey instructions
- Butterfly Timed Count survey sheet
- Butterfly Species List survey instructions
- Butterfly Species List survey sheet
- Butterfly Identification Guide
- Ground Dweller survey instructions
- Ground Dweller survey sheet
- Ground Dweller Identification Guide

THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PACK INCLUDES:

- Bug Hunt activity sheet
- Pollinator Panic! Game
- Colouring sheets
- Recipe cards

It's time to bee excited! We'd love to hear about your Tiny Forest Wildlife Count adventures, let us know by sharing on social media with **#TFWildlifeCount** and **#TinyForest**. Or you can email us on **hello@earthwatch.org.uk**.



JOIN THE TINY FOREST WILDLIFE COUNT AND DISCOVER THE TINY CREATURES AT YOUR TINY FOREST!

What is the Tiny Forest Wildlife Count?

The Tiny Forest Wildlife Count is taking place May 16th - 31st 2026. The count is a simple wildlife survey across the 270+ Tiny Forests in the UK. We're calling on everyone to get involved and help track how their local Tiny Forest is supporting wildlife. Connect with nature, boost your wellbeing and discover the wildlife in your community!

By measuring the kinds of pollinators and ground dwellers living in the Tiny Forest, you will help us understand how Tiny Forests are supporting urban spaces. This data will help us bring the benefits to more communities, helping both people and wildlife thrive together. Join in the fun this May and count the bugs and butterflies at your local Tiny Forest!

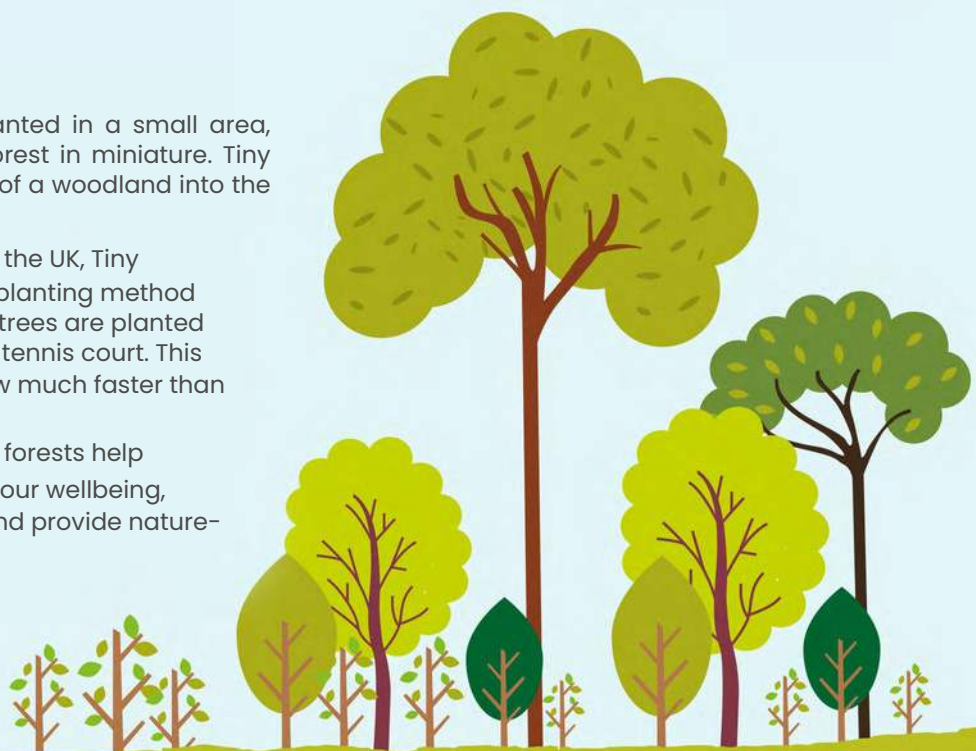


What is a Tiny Forest?

A Tiny Forest is a dense woodland planted in a small area, recreating the natural structure of a forest in miniature. Tiny but powerful, they bring all the benefits of a woodland into the heart of urban communities.

Pioneered by Earthwatch Europe here in the UK, Tiny Forests are created using the Miyawaki planting method developed in Japan. Around 600 native trees are planted into a space roughly the same size as a tennis court. This dense planting method helps them grow much faster than conventional tree planting.

A Tiny Forest is more than just trees. The forests help reconnect people with nature, enhance our wellbeing, tackle the impacts of climate change and provide nature-rich habitat for wildlife.



What are pollinators?

Pollination is where pollen is transferred from the male part of a flower (stamen), to the female part (stigma), of either the same or a different flower. This is how plants are fertilised so they can produce fruits and seeds. Pollinators are animals that help transfer the pollen. They include bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles. Many plants, including the crops we eat, are unable to reproduce without the help of pollinators.



Why are pollinators important?

Around 75% of crop plants require some degree of animal pollination, including many of our everyday fruit and vegetables. Without pollination, we wouldn't be able to grow enough food to eat.

What are ground dwellers?

When we talk about ground dwellers, we mean the bugs, slugs, snails and worms that live underground. Scientifically, they all fit in the category 'invertebrates' meaning creatures without a backbone. Tiny Forests provide safe nutrient-rich places for these creatures to live.

Why are ground dwellers important?

Ground dwellers all play an important role in keeping the soil healthy. Earthworms recycle nutrients by eating organic matter and adding them to the soil. Plants can then use these nutrients to grow. They also improve soil structure by mixing it up when they move and helping air into the soil. Other invertebrates such as woodlice help manage waste by breaking down organic matter.

How do I get involved?

1. Get ready

Find your nearest, or preferred, Tiny Forest on our [map](#) and click through to its page. Here you will find a link to the surveys for your forest. Instructions on how to complete each survey are provided in this pack. You can also watch video guides [here](#). Check out the checklist included in this pack to help you plan for your Count.

2. Join in and have fun

Choose any day and time between Saturday the 16th and Sunday the 31st of May 2026 to visit your chosen Tiny Forest.

There are four surveys: two butterfly surveys, a pollinator survey and a ground dweller survey. Each survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete though you can take more time to do the Butterfly Species List survey, if you like.

3. Submit your data

The easiest way to submit your data is online. You can do this whilst you're at the Tiny Forest if you have internet connection - so remember to bring your phone. If you'd prefer to use paper, or if phone signal is an issue, you can print the survey sheets for each survey included in this pack. You will then need to go to the online survey and add the data by Monday the 1st of June 2026.

After the Wildlife Count, keep an eye on your emails for the results!



About Earthwatch Europe

Earthwatch Europe is an environmental charity that works to create a world where we live in balance with nature.

We connect people with nature, motivate them to protect the environment and provide them with the knowledge and tools to make change happen. Working alongside communities and organisations, we build an understanding and a love of nature, and help everyone to protect the natural world. Guided by science and powered by people, we create change through connection. We work where we can have the biggest impact - in our towns and cities, our farmed fields and throughout our network of rivers, lakes and wetlands.



PLAN YOUR TINY FOREST WILDLIFE COUNT

Here's a handy checklist to help you have a wonderful Wildlife Count!

WHEN AND WHERE

- Decide if you want to make a day of it (perhaps take a picnic or do a litter pick too) or if you prefer to only spend a short time doing the Count.
- Pick a suitable date between 16–31 May 2026, maybe pick a weekend if you want to do a full day.
- Decide which Tiny Forest(s) you would like to do the Count at by using our [online map](#).
- Plan how you will reach your chosen Tiny Forest, can you walk, drive or get public transport? You might not be able to park a car close by so do some research on where to park if driving.

PREPARE FOR YOUR WILDLIFE COUNT

- If you plan to do the Wildlife Count surveys on paper, print all the materials you will need from this pack to take with you.
- If you plan to use your phone, make sure you can access all the information you need including the identification guides and the links to the surveys (maybe save the email we sent you with the links on your phone).

TAKE PART IN THE TINY FOREST WILDLIFE COUNT!

Head to your chosen Tiny Forest between 16–31 May 2026 and once you are there:

- Complete the Butterfly Timed Count. If using your phone, choose your Tiny Forest on the map and pick this survey.
- Complete the Pollinator Timed Count. If using your phone, choose your Tiny Forest on the map and pick this survey. Complete the
- Ground Dweller Survey. Find a numbered tile at the Tiny Forest. If using your phone, choose your Tiny Forest on the map and pick this survey.
- If you have time, take part in the Butterfly Species List Survey by recording all the different butterfly species you see during your time there. If using your phone, choose your Tiny Forest on the map and pick this survey.
- If you did the surveys on paper, make sure to post them to us once completed. Send them to:
Tiny Forest Research Team
Earthwatch Europe
102-104 St Aldates
Oxford
OX1 1BT



POLLINATOR TIMED COUNT

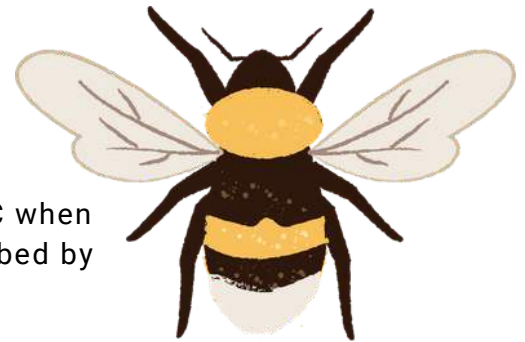
Pollinators are animals that visit flowers and, in doing so, take pollen from one flower to another. This fertilises the flowers (pollination), allowing them to create seeds that will produce next season's flowers. Many types of animals pollinate flowers. You are going to record the diversity of pollinators in your Tiny Forest.

EQUIPMENT:

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

WHEN TO SURVEY

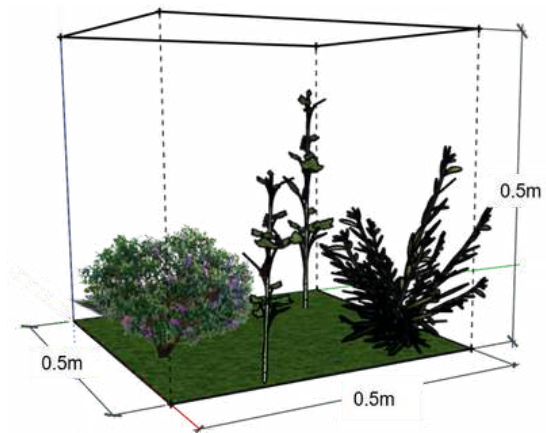
Ideally when it is warm (13°C in sunny conditions, or 15°C when cloudy) and, if possible, when the forest is not too disturbed by people.



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1:

- Choose a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm patch in the forest where you will do your pollinator count. The patch should have flowering trees or plants. Choose just one type of flower to focus on.



NB - some trees have flowers that don't look much like flowers but they are still very attractive to pollinators. Some examples are below:



Hornbeam
(*Carpinus betulus*) flower

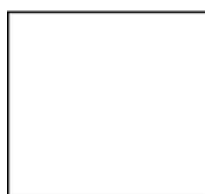
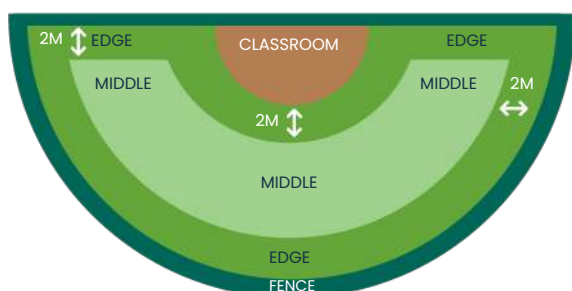


Goat Willow
(*Salix caprea*) flower

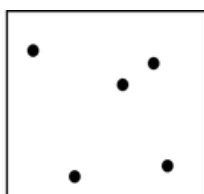


STEP 2:

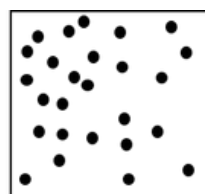
- Record information about your patch and its conditions on your tablet, phone or field sheet:
- Where in the forest your survey patch is (middle = more than 2m from any edges of the Tiny Forest including classroom, edge = less than 2m from any edges of the Tiny Forest) - see diagram below;
- The weather conditions;
- How much of your site is covered by flowers. This includes flowers on the trees and the ground. You can use the diagram below to help you estimate this;
- The type of flower you are focusing on, if you know the plant species or family.



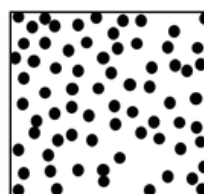
NO FLOWERS



SMALL PROPORTION OF PATCH



ALMOST HALF THE PATCH



MOST OF THE PATCH

STEP 3:

- Record your level of experience in pollinator identification. Before you start your observations record your level of experience in identifying pollinators and familiarise yourself with the Pollinator ID guide.
- Begin your 10 minute timer. Find a comfortable place to sit and start your timer. Try to remain still and quiet for the full survey, so as not to disturb the pollinators
- Record the number of each pollinator group that lands on flowers in the patch. Watch the patch closely and keep track of the **maximum number** of any insect group you see on the flowers (not the stem or leaves) in your patch **at the same time** i.e. if you see three bumblebees in your patch at the same time you can record the abundance as three. If however, you see one bumblebee at minute two and two bumblebees at minute five, then the maximum number of bumblebees you have seen at the same time is two (not three). If you're not sure what type of insect it is, record it in the 'Other insect' category.



STEP 4:

Record if your patch was in sun or shade during the survey time.

POLLINATOR TIMED COUNT

Tiny Forest name	Date	Time you started the survey	What area did you do your survey in? (Middle/Edge)

What is the weather like right now in terms of rain, sun, cloud and wind? Tick one answer from each of the columns below:

RAIN	SELECT ONE	SKY	SELECT ONE	WIND	SELECT ONE
None		Clear - sunny		Still	
Drizzle		Scattered cloud - some sun		Light Breeze	
Showers		Broken cloud		Breezy	
Heavy Rain		Overcast		Strong wind	

Use the diagrams in the instructions as a guide to fill in the table below.

HOW MUCH OF SURVEY PATCH COVERED BY FLOWERS	SELECT ONE
No flowers	
Small proportion of flowers	
Almost half the patch	
Most of the patch	

Use the table below to record the pollinator groups you see during your 10 minute count. Make sure you count the maximum number of individuals from these groups seen together at any one time.

POLLINATOR GROUP	USE THE TICK BOXES TO KEEP TRACK OF THE POLLINATORS YOU SEE AT ANY ONE TIME	WHAT WAS THE MAXIMUM SEEN AT ANY ONE TIME?																				
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During the count, was your survey patch mostly in sun or shade?

AMOUNT OF SUN/SHADE OVER YOUR PATCH	SELECT ONE OPTION
Entirely in sunshine	
Partly in sun and partly in shade	
Entirely shaded	

How was your experience recording pollinators today?

Pollinator Identification Guide

Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes. Some buzz, some are hairy, some fly, and some crawl around on the flowers. Use this guide to identify the pollinators interacting with flower heads during your pollinator timed count.

POLLINATORS THAT BUZZ: IS IT A BEE, WASP OR FLY?

OTHER POLLINATORS

Are its eyes on the side of its head and wide apart or are they big and take up most of the head?



Wide apart



Close together

Are its antenna straight, or do they have an elbow?



Straight



Elbow

Is it hairy?

Yes

No



- Hairy, but less hairy than bumblebees
- Elongated shape
- Colours more muted than bumblebees

IT'S A SOLITARY BEE!



- Some wasps are very dark or very small
- Narrow waste
- Legs are narrow all the way along

IT'S A WASP!



- Tail will be either white, red or ginger
- Very hairy!

IT'S A BUMBLEBEE!



- Wide and flattened hind leg often with pollen in it
- Colour varies from bright orange striped to nearly all black

IT'S A HONEYBEE!



- Slightly shiny or reflective, though some are hairy
- No long tongue (proboscis) sticking out

IT'S A HOVERFLY!



- ~20% of British fly species are pollinators, they could be round, hairy or thin
- If the fly is not a hoverfly, it goes into this category

OTHER FLIES

BUTTERFLIES

Both butterflies and moths drink nectar from flowers using a long tongue called a proboscis. You can tell moths and butterflies apart by how they close their wings. Butterflies close their wings so that they sit vertically whilst moth's wings lie flat against their bodies.



Red admiral
(*Vanessa atalanta*)



Comma
(*Polygonia c-album*)



Buff ermine
(*Spilosoma lutea*)

BETLES

Almost 25% of native UK beetles are pollinators. You can identify beetles by the straight line down the middle of the insect which joins their wing cases.

Wasp beetle
(*Clytus arietis*)



Two-spot ladybird
(*Adalia bipunctata*)

SMALL INSECTS (<3MM)

Some insects that pollinate flowers are very small and can be very abundant, such as pollen beetles so make sure to have a good look inside the flowers and estimate how many small insects you see.

Aphid (Aphodoidea)



BUTTERFLY TIMED COUNT

Biodiversity means the variety of life in the natural world around us. Native plants and trees found in the Tiny Forest support biodiversity by providing habitats and resources for a broad range of species, including butterflies. We can investigate the biodiversity of the forest by identifying and recording the different species and number of butterflies we observe.

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP: 1 x Timer 1 x Butterfly ID guide
1 x Tablet/phone/printed field sheet

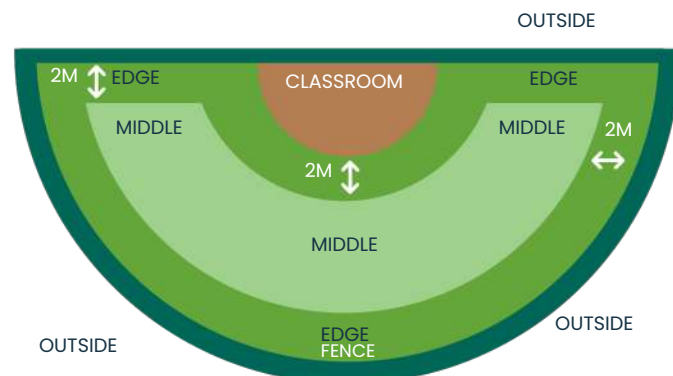
WHEN TO SURVEY

Try to survey during the middle of the day when it is warmest, and when the forest is not disturbed by many people.

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

- **Choose where you will stand to do your butterfly count.** Pick somewhere inside or outside the Tiny Forest where you have a good view of the whole forest.
- **Record your location.** Record if you are in the middle, edge, classroom or outside the forest. See the diagram (right) to help you define where you are.



STEP 2

- **Record your level of experience in butterfly identification.** Before you start your observations, record your level of experience in identifying butterflies and familiarise yourself with the Butterfly ID guide or iRecord app.
- **Begin the 15 minute timer** and observe the whole of the Tiny Forest during this time.
- **Record the abundance of each butterfly species you see in or above the forest** on your tablet, phone or field sheet. Record the maximum number for each butterfly species at the same time i.e. if you see three red admiral butterflies in your patch at the same time, you can record the abundance as three. If however, you see one red admiral at minute two and two red admirals at minute five, then the maximum number of red admiral butterflies you have seen at the same time is two (not three).

Skipper species	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Small Copper	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Common Blue	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Holly Blue	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Marbled White	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Small Heath	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Speckled Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wall Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Meadow Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Gatekeeper	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ringlet	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (write the species or 'unknown' if not sure)		

How was your experience recording butterflies today?

BUTTERFLY SPECIES LIST

Biodiversity means the variety of life in the natural world around us. Native plants and trees found in the Tiny Forest support biodiversity by providing habitats and resources for a broad range of species, including butterflies. You will investigate the biodiversity of the forest by identifying and recording the different species of butterflies you observe over the course of the day.



EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Butterfly ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY:

Ideally, in the middle of the day or in the afternoon when it is warmest.

INSTRUCTIONS:

This butterfly survey can be performed over any time period. As such, you could do it over the entire time you're at the forest, whilst you're having a coffee or lunch break, or whenever suits you.

STEP 1:

- Record the time you start the survey. For example, the time you arrive at the forest.

STEP 2:

- Record your level of experience in butterfly identification. Before you start your observations record your level of experience in identifying butterflies and familiarise yourself with the Butterfly ID guide or iRecord app.
- Record the butterfly species you see in or directly above the Tiny Forest. Identify any butterfly you see during your time in the forest using the Butterfly Conservation ID guide, or use a butterfly ID app such as the Big Butterfly Count app, or the iRecord Butterflies app (both are free).

STEP 3:

- Record the time you finish the survey. For example, the time you leave the forest.

STAY IN TOUCH

BUTTERFLY SPECIES LIST

Tiny Forest name	Date	Start Time	Finish Time

Tick next to the butterfly species you have seen in the Tiny Forest today.

COMMONNAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	WAS THIS BUTTERFLY SEEN? IF SO, TICK HERE
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	
Skipper species	N/A	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	
Other (write the species or 'unknown' if not)		

How was your experience recording butterflies today?

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



WHITE BUTTERFLIES



OPTIONAL - BRING ALONG
A RULER TO GET
AN IDEA OF BUTTERFLY SPECIES SIZES



Green-veined white

Average wingspan: 50mm

Pronounced markings along veins on their undersides – on their forewings, they have broken patches of black.



Large white

Average wingspan: 67mm

Black marks at the wing tips, with black colour continuing along the outer edge of the wings.



Marbled white

Average wingspan:

55mm Black and white checked pattern across the wings.

Small white

Average wingspan:

48mm Less grey or black marks at the wing tips, with colour only extending slightly along the outer edge of the wing.



Orange-tip

Average wingspan:

47mm Males are white with bold orange patches on the forewings and light grey wingtips. Females are white with grey-black wingtips.

YELLOW/GREEN BUTTERFLIES



Brimstone

Average wingspan: 60mm

Large butterfly with a greyish body and veined leaf-like pointed wings. Males are lemon-yellow, while females are greenish-white with orange spots in the middle of each wing.

BLUE BUTTERFLIES



Holly blue

Average wingspan: 35mm

Chequered fringe on the wing edge (white with black stripes on the upper wing).



Common blue

Average wingspan:

35mm A plain white fringe on the edges of the wings.

BROWN BUTTERFLIES



Meadow brown

Average wingspan: 53mm

Brown with orange stains and a single black eyespot on forewings.



Gatekeeper

Average wingspan: 44mm

Brown with distinct orange patches and black eyespots with white dots on each forewing.



Wall brown

Average wingspan: 45mm

Mainly pale orange with greyish-brown markings and multiple black eyespots.

Ringlet

Average wingspan: 50mm

Multiple small circles on the underwings which vary in number, size and shape. Sometimes they are just white spots without the black ring.



Speckled wood

Average wingspan: 49mm

Dark brown with creamy yellow spots. Three small, cream-ringed eyespots on each hindwing and one on each forewing.

ORANGE BUTTERFLIES



Small tortoiseshell

Average wingspan: male 55mm, female 62mm

Orange with black and yellow markings on the forewings and blue marks on the wing edges.



Red admiral

Average wingspan: 64-78mm

Black with broad, red stripes on the hindwings and forewings, and white spots near the tips of the forewings.



Comma

Average wingspan: 50-64mm

Orange with black spots and scalloped wing edges.



Peacock

Average wingspan: 66mm

Deep red with black marks and blue eye spots on the forewings and hindwings.



Painted lady

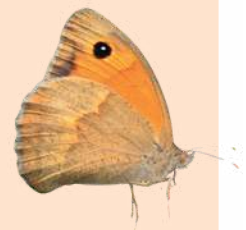
Average wingspan: 58-74mm

Orange with black and white tips on forewings and black spots on both forewings and hindwings.

Small heath

Average wingspan: 36mm

Small, light orange with one eyespot on each forewing. The underside of hindwings are brown-grey. Always rests with wings closed.



Skipper species

Average wingspan: 28-34mm

Skippers hold their forewings angled above the hind wings. They have a triangular shape.



Small copper

Average wingspan: 34mm

Orange with dark brown spots and a thick brown edge on forewings, and dark brown hindwings with orange bands.

GROUND DWELLERS SURVEY

Biodiversity is the variety in type and number of different plant and animal species in an area. Ground dwelling species perform lots of important jobs, such as breaking down leaves, so that all the nutrients they contain are given to the soil.

Identifying ground dwelling invertebrates to a particular species requires specialist knowledge, but your observations of the numbers of easily recognised groups will give us a good idea of how the forest and soil biodiversity are developing.

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Ground dwellers ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

Any time of day.

N.B. each biodiversity tile can only be looked underneath once per day. Otherwise the organisms living beneath it will be disturbed and the data won't be representative.



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

- **Locate one of the biodiversity tiles within the forest.**
- **Record the number written on the tile.**

STEP 2

- **Record your level of identification experience,** then look at the ground dweller ID guide before you lift the tile. This will help you to know what to look for, as some of the creatures living under the tile may run away.
- **Record the organisms beneath the tile.** Lift up the tile and record the total number of each group living beneath it. Don't forget to check the underside of the tile as well
- **Carefully replace the tile.** Once you have finished with the identification and counting, gently place the tile back exactly where it was.



STAY IN TOUCH

GROUP	ABUNDANCE										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
Other											
Solitary bees											
Bumblebees											
Honeybees											
Wasps											
Lizards											
Snakes											
Slow worms											
Newts											
Frogs											
Toads											
Rodents											

How was your experience recording ground dwellers today?

Ground Dweller Identification Guide

Ground dwellers are the slugs, insects, centipedes and worms that live underground. They all play an important role in keeping the soil healthy so plants, like the trees in your Tiny Forest, can grow. Lift up the tiles and record all the ground dwellers you see in the ground and on the bottom of the tile. You have to be ready and get up close with the soil as some of these ground dwellers will move quickly when you lift up the tile and others are very small!

A quick way to identify which types of ground dwellers you might be looking at are the numbers of legs.



Something else?

Here are other species you might encounter under your tiles...

FLYING INVERTEBRATES

SOLITARY BEES



- Hairy, but less hairy than bumblebees
- Elongated shape
- Colours more muted than bumblebees

BUMBLEBEES



- Tail will be either white, red or ginger
- Very hairy!

HONEYBEES



- Wide and flattened hind leg often with pollen in it
- Colour varies from bright orange striped to nearly all black

WASPS



- Some wasps are very dark or very small
- Narrow waist
- Legs are narrow all the way along

NON-INVERTEBRATES



LIZARDS

Lizards are small, terrestrial reptiles with scaly skin and usually four legs. They can range in size from a few centimetres to over a metre, depending on the species.



Slender and elongated body shape, with a tail. Smooth and often slimy skin, due to their aquatic nature. Four limbs, usually of equal size.

Long and cylindrical body shape, without limbs. Smooth or keeled scales, with a shiny appearance. Eyes: often have vertical slit pupils (though some species have round pupils).



SNAKES



SLOW WORM

Elongated and cylindrical body shape, similar to snakes. Legless lizard, but distinguishable from snakes by the presence of vestigial limbs (hardly visible). Smooth and shiny skin. More blunt head and less fluid movement than snakes.

Telling frogs & toads apart

Toads have dry, warty skin and tend to live in drier environments. Frogs typically have smooth skin and are more often found in wet, aquatic environments.



Stocky and squat with short legs. Rough and warty skin, usually in shades of brown, green, or grey. Often more prominent eyes than frogs.



FROGS

Short, squat body with a broad head. Long, powerful hind legs designed for jumping. Smooth or slightly warty skin, usually green, brown, or grey.



RODENTS

Small to medium-sized body shape, with a rounded hairy body and long tail. Prominent, large, and sharp incisor teeth.