


Parish Pollinator Pledge

Habitat survey

Before you start thinking about how you may be able to help pollinators, you'll need to complete a basic habitat survey. This is a chance to have a look around your local green spaces and note the habitats and features.

How to complete a habitat survey

- Get a map of your local area and plan a route of all the places you'll need to visit. Don't forget to include rights of way and roadsides.
- Familiarise yourself with the habitats/features we have listed on the following pages – you don't need any expert knowledge as these are just broad categories e.g. 'flowering hedges'.
- As you go through your local area, we suggest you take photos, and annotate a map so it's easy to locate and identify different habitats or potential habitats later on. It's also a good idea to take some notes, and we've given you some space to do this under each of the category headings on the following pages.



If you need a map to annotate visit:
<https://maps.hants.gov.uk/rightsofway/efinitivemap/>

We've completed our survey, what next?

- If you haven't already, we recommend you complete a species survey to help you understand what pollinators already inhabit your parish. This can also be used to compare with future surveys so that the impact of your pollinator actions can be assessed over time. A species survey form is available in the [toolkit](#).
- It's now time to start thinking about how you can improve your parish for pollinators. See the local action plan guidance in the [toolkit](#) for more information.
 - *Those involved in the pilot will be invited to a workshop so we can guide you in preparing your local action plan (please bring your notes, photos and map). If you are not involved in the pilot but would like some guidance please [contact us](#).*

Parish/Town Council:

Survey completed by:

Date of survey:

Below is a list of the key features to look out for as part of your survey. When you find one of these features, mark it on your map and write any notes on the following pages. There is also an empty key below to help you reference your map (e.g. if you choose to mark all flowering hedges red on your map, you can add red into the empty box next to the 'Flowering hedges' title below).

Key

Flowering hedges – hedgerow flowers such as blackthorn, hawthorn and dog rose provide nectar and pollen. Hedges also provide shelter from the wind.

Flower rich habitat & borders - a great supply of nectar and pollen. With a diverse plant community, it can support pollinators throughout the year and their lifecycles.

Long grass – can be a great source of nectar and pollen. Diversity is generally a good thing with a mix of short and long vegetation.

Exposed soil & short grass – great for burrowing bees and wasps, particularly where there is short grass and small bare patches that allow the sun to warm the soil.

"Scruffy" verges – if cut less often verges to paths, tracks and roads can be valuable sources of nectar and pollen.

Natural ponds - many species need water and use ponds for breeding (e.g. many species of hoverfly breed in the bulbs and stems of wetland plants and even in stagnant water).

Bramble patches - as well as providing nectar and pollen for many butterflies, beetles and hoverflies, some bees and wasps nest in bramble stems.

Sandy banks - exposed soil in sunny banks provides a warm, sheltered nesting site for many species.

Deadwood in the sun or shade (e.g. standing timber and dead branches, stacked deadwood, or old fence posts) - an important nesting place.

Structures in trees (e.g. nest or rot holes, sap runs) - mature and ancient trees can provide many breeding sites for pollinators.

Composting material/rotten vegetation - breeding sites for many hoverflies and soldier flies. Grass cuttings and other vegetation can be placed in a semi-shaded location.

Habitat survey - notes

Flowering hedges



Flower rich habitat & borders

Habitat survey - notes

Long grass



Exposed soil & short grass

Habitat survey - notes

"Scruffy" verges



Natural ponds

Habitat survey - notes

Bramble patches



Sandy banks

Habitat survey - notes

Deadwood in the sun or shade (e.g. standing timber and dead branches, stacked deadwood, or old fence posts)



Structures in trees (e.g. nest or rot holes, sap runs)

Habitat survey - notes

Composting material/rotten vegetation



Other notes
