

Parish Pollinator Pledge

Mapping your habitats

Before you start thinking about how you may be able to help pollinators, you'll need to familiarize yourself with and map your existing habitats. This is a chance to have a look around your land or your local green spaces and note the habitats and features. You can then use this as a starting point to plan your surveys and improvements.

How to create a habitat map

- Print a map that you can annotate and plan a route of all the areas you'll need to visit.
- Familiarize yourself with the habitats and features we have listed on the following pages – you don't need any expert knowledge as these are just broad categories.
- As you walk your route, 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 on the following pages. If you are able to make notes of the condition of the habitats that would be helpful later on. However, don't worry if you don't have the expertise to do this. You can use your map and notes as a starting point to plan what surveys you will need to help you assess the condition of your land, habitats and pollinator features.

We've completed our habitats map, what next?

- If you haven't already, we recommend you complete some surveys to help you understand the quality of your habitats and what pollinators are already present.
- The next step will be to start planning how you can improve your land for pollinators.
- You will want to consider how you can enhance the condition and extent of existing habitats and how to create new habitats.
- Refer back to the website for our step-by-step guides

Name of group/ council:

Survey completed by:

Date of survey:

#POLLINATOR PLEDGE

Below is a list of important pollinator resources to look out for. When you find one of these features, mark it on your map and write any notes on the following pages. You can also consider where there is space to create these features if you don't presently have them in a location.

There is an empty key 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).

Pollinator resources

- 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.



