





Habitat mapping: Your habitat checklist

Use this habitat checklist to determine which of the eight habitat categories you have on site, and how many separate areas. We've also provided suggestions of the order to map each category, to ensure that larger areas of habitat (for example car parks and fields) are layered on the bottom of your map in the Habitat Mapper tool with the smaller areas on top, so that all of your habitat features will be visible.

Habitat category	Suggested order	Tick if you have this habitat category	How many separate patches of this habitat do you have?
 <p>Ground without plants (This includes tarmac, asphalt, gravel or soil – any area of bare ground, although it may have a small number of plants sprouting)</p>	1		
 <p>Grass and wildflowers (This includes all mown or long grass areas, any meadowy areas, or areas where you have sown wildflowers into the soil. Also, the 'wild' edges and corners that might be classed as 'weeds' with tall plants including nettles and brambles)</p>	2		
 <p>Water (This includes any areas of your site that have water in them for at least two months of the year, or when there has been lots of heavy rain, such as ponds, streams, and ditches (both natural and man-made))</p>	3		
 <p>Flowers and food (This includes any food growing areas including fruit trees, and any planted flower beds or containers including sensory gardens and rockeries)</p>	4		

Habitat category	Suggested order	Tick if you have this habitat category	How many separate patches of this habitat do you have?
 <p>Hedges and bushes (This includes any type of hedge, or areas of bushes and short multibranched shrubs that are shorter than the first floor of a house)</p>	5		
 <p>Vertical features (This includes all boundary features like fences and walls, but not the main walls of your building unless it has climbing plants. It also includes structures with climbing plants like trellis or pergolas. Green roofs are included in this category)</p>	6		
 <p>Trees (This includes any tree, any size, including single trees, lines, and clusters)</p>	7		
 <p>Microhabitats (This includes features installed to support wildlife or improve sustainability such as bird feeders, compost bins, and log piles)</p>	8		

Next steps

- Make sure you've created your site boundary on the Nature Park map
- Practise using the Habitat Mapper tool on a tablet or computer
- Use the flowchart resources for each habitat type to help you identify the exact habitat you have, before adding to your site's map using the tool