









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, and most suitable age groups determined by curriculum alignment.

Why not use this checklist alongside the **What habitats do we have?** worksheet to involve learners in the planning process?

This will ensure that the larger areas of habitat 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 age group	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>	KS2 KS3	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>	KS1 KS2 KS3	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>	KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4	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>	KS2 KS3	4		

Habitat category	Suggested age group	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>	KS2 KS3	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>	KS1 KS2 KS3	6		
 <p>Trees (This includes any tree, any size, including single trees, lines, and clusters)</p>	KS2 KS3	7		
 <p>Microhabitats (This includes features installed to support wildlife or improve sustainability such as bird feeders, compost bins, and log piles)</p>	KS1 KS2 KS3	8		

Next steps

- Which classes or groups will you deliver each habitat mapping activity with?
- Plan when and how to deliver the sessions – see **Habitat Mapping: A Nature Park Guide** for more guidance
- Gather necessary equipment and printed worksheets for each habitat category that you have
- Practise using the Habitat Mapper tool