



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust

TAKE THE
WILDER

SCHOOL SURVEY



How to use this resource:

In order to make your school wilder, you need to know how wild your school already is. This pack contains several surveys and questionnaires to get you and your pupils thinking about the different ways your school can go wild.

Other resources and information:

Further resources and information can be found on the below websites.

- hiwwt.org.uk/wilder-schools
- hiwwt.org.uk/team-wilder/team-wilder-resources-and-toolkits
- hiwwt.org.uk/actions/how-help-wildlife-school

How wild is your school?

Pages 5-11 of this pack include some simple animal spotter and plant identification sheets that your students can use to determine how wildlife friendly your school is. There are plenty more wildlife sheets online at: wildlifewatch.org.uk.

The more variety of life an environment sustains, the more inter-relationships there are and thus the ecosystem is a lot more resilient to change. By taking a look at your pupil's results, you can start to see what groups of animals your school grounds support and what animals you think you might want to see more of. If you can provide the desired food source and shelter for these animals, they will come to you.

CLASS ACTIVITY:

Look out for wildlife from your windows, or take the class outside and go looking for wildlife.

If you would like to have more thorough ecological surveys conducted on your school grounds, you; can book the Wild Learners package at £180 which includes grounds advice, assembly and workshop. please email:

Wilder.Schools@hiwwt.org.uk



What is your school currently doing to help nature's recovery?

From bird houses to bug hotels, from wildlife ponds to wild flower meadows, there are so many ways to give nature a home.

CLASS ACTIVITY: Walk around your school grounds and look at different habitats and elements in those habitats that enable wildlife to survive eg. food and shelter.

Page 11 has a checklist of actions you can look out for. Once you have completed your walk, tally up the number of ticks you've got.

5 ticks or less: think about what other easy and simple actions your school could take to make more space for nature.

6-10 ticks: You're doing pretty well - were you inspired by some actions on the list that you would like to do?

More than 10 ticks: That's awesome! Have a think about how you might want to expand some of the projects you're already doing. Could you make a bigger impact?

How connected are students and staff to nature?

Having an appreciation for nature and the outdoors has many benefits to people's physical and mental wellbeing; not to mention that the more you love nature, the more you're going to take action to protect it.

On page 12, you'll find a short questionnaire that you can print and distribute to your students. The questionnaire assesses how connected the students feel to nature. The students can say how much they agree with each statement.

Once completed, collate all their answers and tally how many students agreed and disagreed with the statements. The more times something was "agreed" with the better connected your students are to nature. Use this as a way to engage in discussions about nature with your class.

CLASS ACTIVITY: Ask your students to fill out a short questionnaire to assess how they feel about nature.

This second activity can be done interactively. Either outside or in the classroom, divide the space into two and choose one side to be the "agreeable" and the other "disagreeable." Read out the statements provided and ask your students to stand on either side of the classroom depending on how much they agree with the statement. Then ask your students to explain why they chose that side.



WILDER
SCHOOL

Pages 13 and 14 are for teachers to read through and make some short term goals. Write down the current answer to the questions and think about a goal you'd like for the school to set to change your ways. Write down a review date and put that date in your diary so you can check back later to see if you've achieved your goals and what to do next. Setting short term goals and changing them regularly is more effective than long term ones.



Go take the Wilder Schools Pledge!

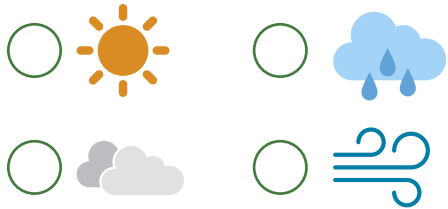
If you've completed all the surveys you should now have a better understanding of how wild your school is and you're in a great place to start thinking about how your school can go wilder. Remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint, so set several short term goals every year over 5 years rather than one huge overarching goal for 5 years time.

For a wilder Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Window wildlife spotter



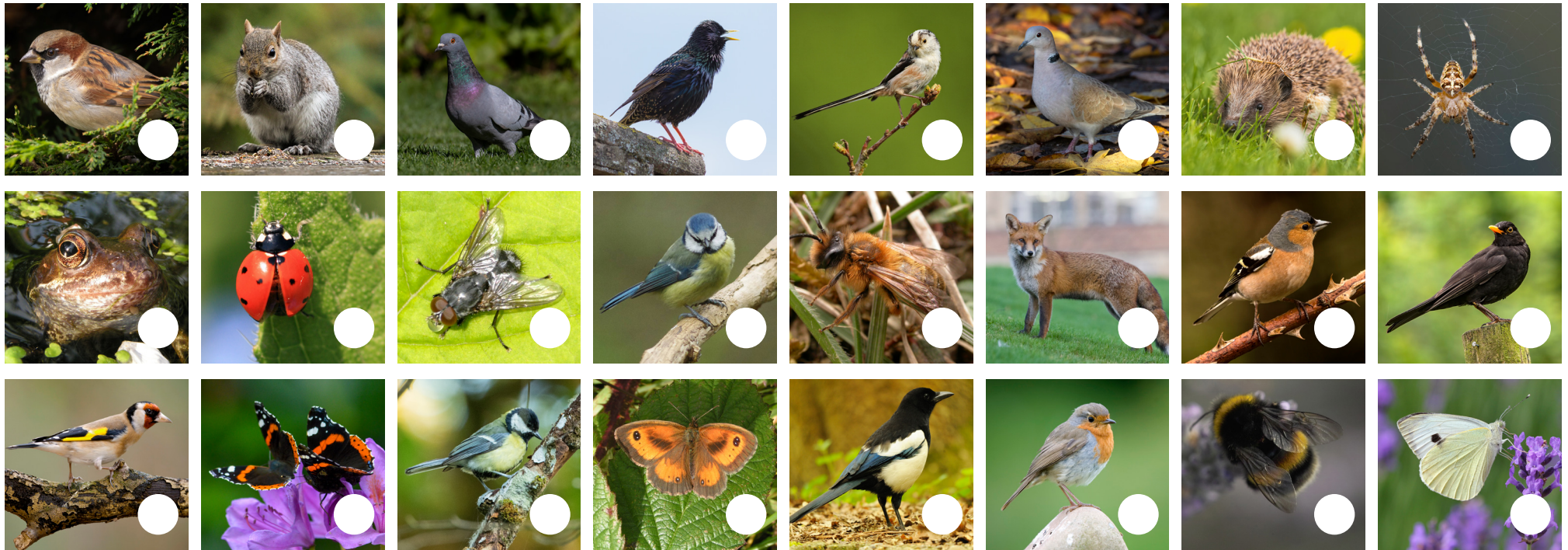
What's the weather like?



Location:

Date of survey:

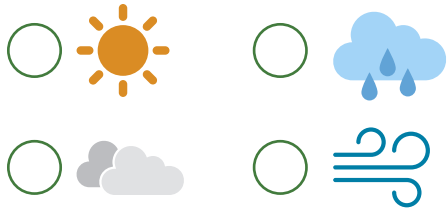
Number of participants in taking survey:



Invertebrate Insights



What's the weather like?



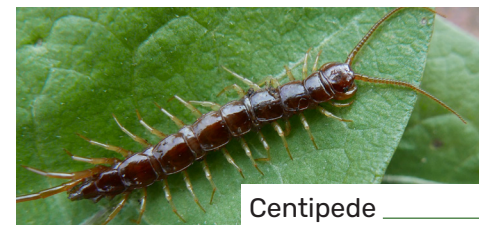
Location: _____

Date of survey: _____

Number of participants in taking survey: _____

Count and record the number of the invertebrates you see in your school grounds

If you know the name of a specific species within one of these groups, tell us about it when you submit your results online



To help you identify the species use our guide - hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/other-insects

Plant survey



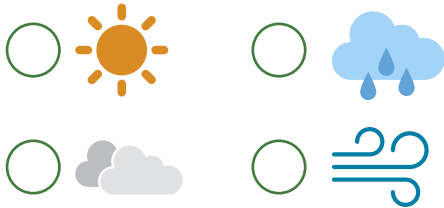
Where are you doing this survey?

Location:

Date of survey:

Number of participants in taking survey:

What's the weather like?



Step one: Measure a meter square in the space you have

Step two: Write or draw a bird's eye view of everything you can see growing in your meter square. Imagine you are looking down from above and mark where each of the plants are, include trees, grass and flowers (make sure to label your drawing)

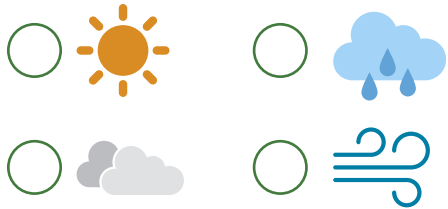
A large rectangular area outlined with a dotted teal border, intended for drawing or writing a bird's eye view of a meter square.

Useful resource: Useful identification guide to use for school playing fields is the Field Studies Council:
www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/playing-field-plants-guide/

Nightlife survey: Garden moths



What's the weather like?



Location:

Date of survey:

Number of participants in taking survey:

Have you seen any of these?

Tick the ones you see below. Observe moths by only looking at them. A moth trap at night can help you observe what moths are using your outdoor space.



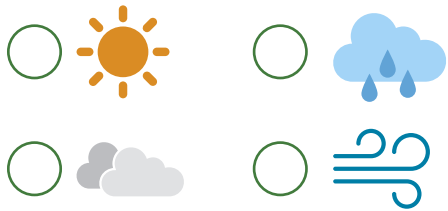
To help you identify the species use our guide - hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/other-insects

Keep an eye out for caterpillars too.
Record them here _____

Nightlife survey: Mammal signs and tracks



What's the weather like?



Location:

Date of survey:

Number of participants in taking survey:

Have you seen any of these?

Tick the ones you see below.

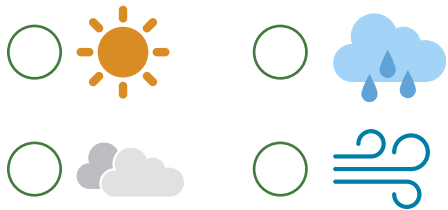


Badgers can eat several hundred earthworms a night!



Pondlife survey

What's the weather like?



Where are you doing this survey?



Have you seen any of these?

Tick the ones you see below.



Common pond skaters have water-repellent hairs on the bottom of their feet enabling them to walk on the surface film of the water

Submit your results online: hiwwt.org.uk/how-wild-are-we

Wilder schools survey



What is your school currently doing to make space for nature's recovery?

Take your class on a walk around your school grounds and see if you can spot the following:

You may need to ask your teacher to explain a few things.



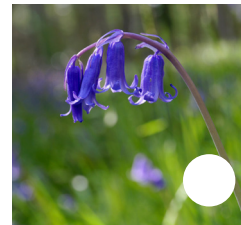
Bird feeding station



Pollinator plants



Plants for seed-eating birds



Nectar sources for night time insects



Shrubs & bushes with berries



Herb garden



Bird bath



Water butt



Boggy area



Wildlife pond (no fish)



Bird box/ shelter



Pile of logs or insect shelter



Native hedges



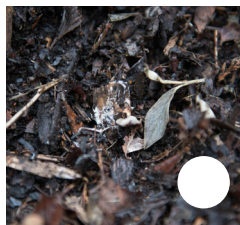
Wildflower area



Unmown areas of long grass



Water with watering can



Compost



Pesticide-free pest control



Peat-free compost



Bike storage



Bike / walk to school scheme



Recycling bin



Using less single-use plastic



Green roofs

Now count how many ticks you've got. If you have 3 ticks or less, think about what other easy and simple actions your school could take to make more space for nature. If you have between 4 and 10 ticks, you're doing pretty well and anything over 10 ticks is awesome! Have a think about how you might want to expand some of the projects you're already doing. Could you make a bigger impact?

Wilder schools survey



How connected are you to nature?

	Disagree completely	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly	Agree completely
I always find beauty in nature							
I always treat nature with respect							
Being in nature makes me very happy							
Spending time in nature is very important to me							
I find being in nature really amazing							
I feel part of nature							
I volunteer with a conservation / environmental organisation							
I participate in organised clean-up events							
When I see litter, I pick it up							
I watch nature documentaries / read books about nature							
I am concerned about environmental issues across the world							
I attend school council meetings about sustainability and nature conservation issues							
I sign petitions supporting nature conservation efforts							
I talk with my teachers, parents, and clubs about nature conservation issues							



How connected are students and staff to nature?

Answer the questions below.

What percentage of students experience at least one hour a week of outdoor learning?

Outdoor learning encompasses the entire range of learning experiences that children gain from playing in and discovering the natural world around them. A 2019 study conducted by the Wildlife Trusts and University College London revealed that after participating in outdoor learning, 79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves, 81% agreed that they had better relationships with their teachers, and 79% reported better relationships with their class-mates.

Current:
Goal:
Review date:

What percentage of your teaching staff are specifically trained in outdoor learning?

Providing people with the opportunity to connect with the natural world is at the heart of what we do. We believe that equipping teachers and leaders with the skills and confidence to take groups outside is a key way this can be achieved. Find out more about our outdoor learning programmes at: hiwwt.org.uk/Schools-groups/training.

Current:
Goal:
Review date:

For a wilder Hampshire & Isle of Wight



How connected are students and staff to nature?

Answer the questions below.

Are the students and staff involved in committees?

It doesn't have to be an eco-focused committee or even a committee at all. Including staff and students who represent all parts of the school community in decision making of some of the school's operations is key to creating a space for nature that everyone will respect and feel a sense of ownership over. Community action is a very powerful tool in creating meaningful change and can be leveraged in a number of ways.

<p>Current:</p>
<p>Goal:</p>
<p>Review date:</p>

To what extent are the school's every day practices sustainable?

Caring for the environment comes in many different forms, but as the ecological crisis worsens, more and more people are absorbing sustainable practices in their everyday lives. In answering this question think about:

Are teachers thinking twice about printing lots of paper?

Are students being taught how to recycle and why it matters?

<p>Current:</p>
<p>Goal:</p>
<p>Review date:</p>



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