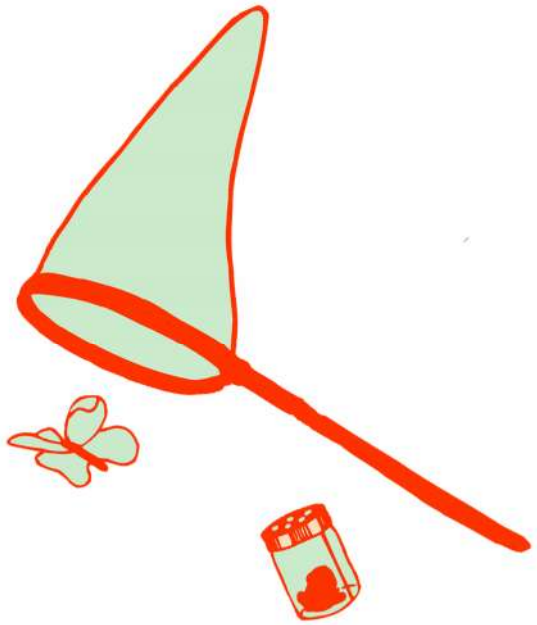
Greenspace Discovery Booklet

Find out more about the valuable habitat
in your school grounds / local greenspace



Surveyor Name .....

Greenspace Name .....

Habitat Discovery Activities

There are several different activities you can do to learn more about your local greenspace or even your school grounds. Below are the questions we want to answer and the activities we can do to answer them.

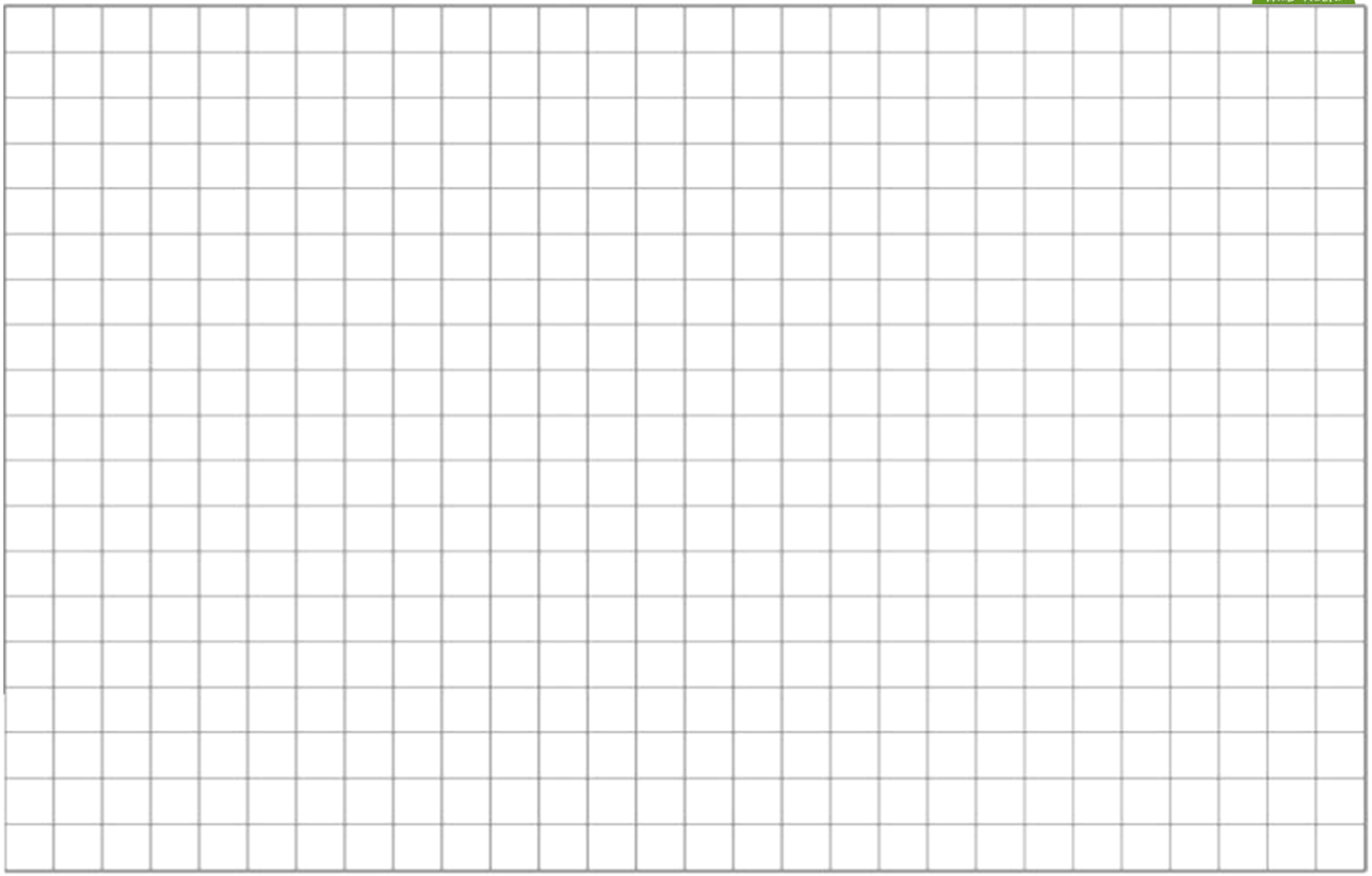
Questions	Activity	Equipment / Notes
How many different types of habitats are there?	Create a **habitat map** using the **habitat categories** and the grid provided. Start by drawing out the shape of the area you are mapping. If you are using the sizes given to you by your group leader you might be able to create a scale drawing. Note: Outside, use letters to show which habitat is which and then add	This booklet Clip boards (possible to make your own from old cereal boxes) Drawing Pencil and Rubber Ruler
How many different types of flowering plants can we find?	Depending on how large your area is you may want to do a small route round each habitat type on your map. If the area is small you may be able to check the whole of each habitat type. For each different habitat type on the map use the F**lowering Plants Survey Table** to record all the different types of plants in flower.	You'll need all the equipment above. You could use some plant ID charts if you want to have a go at identifying some of the plants. You don't need to do this for the survey so don't worry if you can't identify something you find.
How many different types of invertebrates can we find in the different habitats?	Explore each of the different habitats on your map (if they are large areas you could choose several points to explore in the area and mark them on your map). Use your **Invertebrates Survey Table** to record what you find. In each area use different techniques to survey invertebrates. Some live in the soil, some live in the leaf layer, some will be found on flowers and in	You'll need all the equipment above. If you have a Wild Weeks Discovery Kit you will be able to use lots of the equipment in here to survey the areas. You could also use ID charts and take photographs to help you identify if you would like to learn more.
How many different types of trees are there? How many of each type?	If you have lots of trees in the area you may only be able to do this survey by choosing some of the largest. Whichever trees you do survey add them to your habitat map and give them a number on your table so you other groups can revisited he same trees.	You'll need all the equipment above. A measuring tape and meter ruler If you have a wild weeks discovery kit you could use the tree ID guide in there.

Habitat Categories and Map Key

Here are the different habitats we're going to add to our habitat map. When you colour your map you can fill in the key box with different colours or patterns for each habitat on your map.

Deciduous Woodland – An area with at least 60% cover of deciduous trees (trees which lose their leaves in winter)	**Coniferous Woodland** – An area with at least 60% cover of coniferous trees (trees which have needle like leaves and most keep their leaves all year round)	**Mixed Woodland** – An area with at least 60% cover of both coniferous and deciduous trees
Scrub – 60% covered area of small (up to 4m high) woody plants e.g. brambles or other woody bushes	**Managed Grassland** – Grassland that is mown regularly to be kept short for recreation (e.g. playing field)	**Less Managed / Unmanaged Grassland** – Grassland that is mown less often or not at all, grass is left longer and more different plants are found here than in managed grassland.
Marshy / Boggy Ground – Any area of plants/ soil where water is very close to the surface (you might be able to see the water or it could just feel boggy)	**Tall Herb** – An area of tall non-woody plants such as nettle	**Open Water (Standing)** – This could be a lake/ pond and may have an area of marshy/boggy ground around the edge
Open Water (Running) – A river, stream or even a ditch with water running in it	**Bare Rock** – Gravel, rock piles — not covered with soil	**Simple Hedge** – Woody plants planted in a line as a barrier, only one or two types of plant
Fence – You could say what the fence is made of on your map—wood panels, wire etc.	**Wall** – You could say what the wall is made of on your map—brick/ drystone wall etc.	**Diverse Hedge** – Woody plants planted in a line as a barrier, three or more different plants make up the hedge
Managed Garden (ornamental or food plants) ornamental and food plants may be non-native (not naturally found in the UK)	**Individual Tree** – Mark these on your map as a circle inside whatever habitat they are growing in	**Bare Ground** – Area of bare soil with less than 20% of plant covering it

Habitat Map



Number of different habitats found .....

Flowering Plants Survey Table

Date of survey …….

How many different species (types) of plants can you find in flower? The number of different species is called species richness. More species means a better variation of food plants and a bigger variety of other species, such as insects and birds. Set a walking route to complete this survey and draw it onto your habitat map and add it to your key for “plant survey route”.

Flower sketch	Flower colour(s)	Number of petals	Average height of flower (cm)	Flower habitat—<u>from your map labels</u>	Identification—have you found out what species this is?

Flower sketch	Flower colour(s)	Number of petals	Average height of flower (cm)	Flower habitat—describe where it is growing	Identification—have you found out what species this is?

Flower sketch	Flower colour(s)	Number of petals	Average height of flower (cm)	Flower habitat—describe where it is growing	Identification—have you found out what species this is?

Invertebrate Survey Table

Date of survey ……

Use this table to record the different invertebrates you find in the different habitats labelled on your map. The information on number of legs might help you classify what you have found.

Number	**Number of legs (circle from the options)**	**How many segments is the main body divided into?**	**Classification of the invertebrate** (use one of the FSC guides or other charts to help)	**Habitat you found it and method used**	**Sketch here or notes on interesting features including colour / patterns**
	6 legs 8 legs 14 legs Too many to count!	1 2 3 I can't see any segments Too many to count			
	6 legs 8 legs 14 legs Too many to count!	1 2 3 I can't see any segments Too many to count			
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Number	**Number of legs (circle from the options)**	**How many segments is the main body divided into?**	**Classification of the invertebrate** (use one of the FSC guides or other charts to help)	**Habitat you found it and method used**	**Sketch here or notes on interesting features including colour / patterns**
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Trees Survey Table

Date of survey ……

Trees can be so important for supporting all sorts of local wildlife species including animals, other plants and fungi. How many trees are there on your site? Can you identify any of them using the guides available? You can also add any large trees on site to your habitat map.

What does the tree have on it now? Circle what you can see	If the tree has leaves carefully sketch one of them	Estimated height of tree (m)	Girth (Circumference) of tree at 1.3m above ground level (m)	Signs of wildlife using the tree (webs, burrowing holes from insects, birds nests etc.) Notes on tree species if you know it.
Leaves Flowers Catkins Fruit/Berries Cones				
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