



# The OPAL Bugs Count Survey

Upload your results to the OPAL website [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org)  
or send recording sheets to:

**Freeport RSCH-CKYJ-HYYC, OPAL, Centre for Environmental  
Policy, Imperial College London, London, SW7 2AZ**

1. Date of survey \_\_\_\_\_

2. Time of survey \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would you describe the weather today?        

4. Who are you doing the Bugs Count Survey with today?

Primary school       Secondary school       Friends or family       College / university  
 Youth group       Adult volunteer group       Other

5. How many people are in your Bugs Count survey team?

6. Have you identified bugs before?

7. Record the location of your site (postcode / OS grid reference / GPS reading).

Further help is available on the OPAL website if you are unsure of the exact location.

8. Which of these best describes your survey area? (please tick one)

Garden     School / university grounds     Street     Waste ground     Woodland     Farmland     Grassland     Park

9. Which of these micro-habitats can you see within your survey area? (tick all those that apply)

### (a) Soft ground surfaces

- Soil (e.g. flower bed, vegetable patch)
- Short grass (shorter than 12cm)
- Fallen or rotting leaves (leaf litter) or woodchip
- Plant pots, large stones or rocks standing on soft ground surfaces
- Dead branches or logs on the ground
- Open compost heap

### (b) Human-made hard surfaces

- Building (brick, wood, glass)
- Brick or stone wall (e.g. garden wall)
- Wooden fence
- Paving
- Wooden decking
- Tarmac or concrete (e.g. pavement, playground)
- Plant pots standing on hard surfaces
- Play equipment

### (c) Plants

- Long grass (taller than 12cm)
- Planted flower bed, pot or windowbox
- Wild flowers or weeds (a wild patch)
- Hedges
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Climbing plants (e.g. ivy)

10. How much of your survey area is covered by hard surfaces?

## Timed challenges

Search for 15 minutes (a) on soft ground surfaces, (b) on hard ground surfaces and (c) on plants

Use the Invertebrate Identification Guide to help you.

Record the number of each type of bug you find in the table below.

Number of legs	Type of bug	How many did you see?		
		on soft ground surfaces	on hard ground surfaces	on plants
0	Snails			
0	Slugs			
0	Earthworms			
6	Beetles			
6	True bugs			
6	True flies			
6	Bees / wasps			
6	Ants			
6	Butterflies / moths			
6	Crickets / grasshoppers			
6	Earwigs			
6	Unidentified Flying Insects			
8	Spiders / harvestmen			
> 8	Woodlice			
> 8	Centipedes			
> 8	Millipedes			
Hard to see	Insect larvae			
n/a	Other invertebrates			
<b>Total number of bugs found</b>				
<b>How many spider webs did you see?</b>				
<b>Did you use a dustpan and brush?</b>				
<p><b>Did you see any of the Species Quest bugs?</b></p> <p>Use the Species Quest Identification Guide to help you identify them</p> <p>Please take a photo if you see any of the Species Quest bugs.</p>		<input type="text"/> how many 2-spot Ladybird <input type="text"/> how many Devil's Coach Horse <input type="text"/> how many Small Tortoiseshell <input type="text"/> how many Green shieldbug <input type="text"/> how many Leopard Slug <input type="text"/> how many Tree Bumblebee	<input type="text"/> how many 2-spot Ladybird <input type="text"/> how many Devil's Coach Horse <input type="text"/> how many Small Tortoiseshell <input type="text"/> how many Green shieldbug <input type="text"/> how many Leopard Slug <input type="text"/> how many Tree Bumblebee	<input type="text"/> how many 2-spot Ladybird <input type="text"/> how many Devil's Coach Horse <input type="text"/> how many Small Tortoiseshell <input type="text"/> how many Green shieldbug <input type="text"/> how many Leopard Slug <input type="text"/> how many Tree Bumblebee