

GROUND DWELLERS

Biodiversity is the variety in type and number of different plant and animal species in an area. Ground dwelling species perform lots of important jobs, such as breaking down leaves, so that all the nutrients they contain are given to the soil.

Identifying ground dwelling invertebrates to a particular species requires specialist knowledge, but your observations of the numbers of easily recognised groups will give us a good idea of how the forest and soil biodiversity are developing.

EQUIPMENT PER GROUP:

- 1 x Ground dwellers ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/field sheet

WHEN TO SURVEY

Any time of day, any time of year.

N.B. each biodiversity tile can only be looked underneath once per day.

Otherwise, the organisms will be disturbed and the data won't be reliable.

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1 :

- Locate one of the biodiversity tiles within the forest.
- Record the number written on the tile.
If the tile is not labelled record 'Not numbered'.
- Record the tile condition. See diagrams to right for help with this.
- Record how far from the closest edge your tile is located. Edges include formal paths and classrooms.

STEP 2:

- Record your level of identification experience, then look at the ground dweller ID before you lift the tile. This will help you to know what to look for, as some of the creatures living under the tile may run away.
- Record the organisms beneath the tile. Lift up the tile and record the total number of each group living beneath it. Don't forget to check the underside of the tile as well.
- Record whether your tile is lying on the soil, before carefully replacing your tile exactly where it was. If you spot your tile is lying on top of mulch or vegetation, please clear the area underneath the tile and lay it back down on the soil. This will improve the biodiversity you find.



Intact



Corners broken but tile mostly intact



Broken and can't be lifted as a whole

