

## FIT Count field recording form

A Flower-Insect-Timed (FIT) Count can be carried out between 7am and 6pm all year around, as long as the weather is dry and warm (not raining or with very strong winds – see <https://www.rmets.org/resource/beaufort-scale> for wind measurements):

- If sky is clear (less than half cloud) the minimum temperature for a count is 13°C
- If sky is cloudy (half cloud or more) the minimum temperature for a count is 15°C
  - Do not record if it is more than 30°C as it will be too hot for the insects and you!

### 1. About you

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am new to identifying wildlife
- I am familiar with identifying some wildlife (e.g. birds or butterflies) but not most pollinating insects
- I am familiar with recognising the main **groups** of pollinating insect
- I am confident in identifying the commonly-occurring pollinating insects **to species level**

### 2. Date and location of count

Date of count: \_\_\_\_\_

Location name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grid ref if known (or select from online map later): \_\_\_\_\_

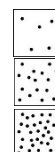
Habitat (tick one box that is the best match):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment centre grounds            | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside habitat                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks / other recreational area   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citrus / olive grove                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmland                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland / plantation                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural flower area / grassy area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry scrub                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Acacia scrub                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal scrub                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal dunes                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Marsh                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marsh                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other habitat type (please describe): |  |

### 3. Target flower (please take a photo)

Which target flower have you chosen (check the target flower guide)? \_\_\_\_\_

- Target flowers cover less than half of 50x50cm patch
- Target flowers cover about half of patch
- Target flowers cover more than half of patch







Number of flowers in patch:  
 1-5    6-20    21-50    >50

- Is your 50x50cm patch of target flowers:
- Growing in a larger patch of the same flower
  - Growing in a larger patch of many different flowers
  - More or less isolated

*Counting the flowers*

Depending on the plant species you will record the flowers using different units as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> individual flowers		<input type="checkbox"/> flower heads	
<input type="checkbox"/> flower umbels		<input type="checkbox"/> flower spikes	

#### 4. FIT Count

Once you are ready, start counting the insects and other invertebrates you see inside the quadrat for a total of **ten minutes**. Please record whether the insect is seen on a target flower (‘On the flower’) or whether it is seen in the quadrat, but not ever in contact with a flower of your target species (‘Not on the flower’) - this also includes when an insect visits a flower in your quadrat that is not the target flower species. Please count **EVERY** insect that you see (if you’re not sure what type it is just add it to the “Other insects” category). Please try to count each individual insect just once, and try not to lean over the flowers you are watching, as this can cast shadows and prevent insects approaching. If an insect is recorded visiting a target flower do not record it a second time as ‘not on the flower’ – each insect should only have an entry in one column.

Time of count start: \_\_\_\_\_

Insect group (see insect ID guide)	Number counted (Tally): ###    = 7, etc.	
	On the flower	Not on the flower
Bumblebees		
Honeybees		
Solitary bees		
Wasps (including ichneumon wasps)		
Hoverflies (including ‘non-typical’ hoverflies)		
Other flies		
Butterflies and moths		
Beetles		
Small insects (e.g. pollen beetles) less than 3mm long		
Other insects or invertebrates (known). Please write down the type of insects (e.g Bugs) or invertebrates (e.g. Spiders)		
Other insects or invertebrates (unknown)		

#### 5. Weather conditions

Sky above your location:

- All or mostly blue
- Half blue and half cloud
- All or mostly cloud

During the 10-minute count, was your 50x50cm patch:

- Entirely in sunshine
- Partly in sun and partly shaded
- Entirely shaded

Wind strength (for all plants in area, not just target flowers):

- Leaves still/moving occasionally
- Leaves moving gently all the time
- Leaves moving strongly

Don’t forget to **take a photo** of your target flower species, and **add your counts** to the online form ([www.ris-ky.info/poms-ky](http://www.ris-ky.info/poms-ky))! And you can add photos of examples of the insects you have seen, but this is optional (please don’t take photos during the count as this may disturb the visiting insects).