

Woodlands



Woodlands are a habitat with trees, flowers and animals. They have a canopy made from tall trees. Beneath the high canopy there are tall shrubs. The woodland floor is covered by shade-loving plants. Birds and animals feed from the trees and plants. The woodland soil is rich with insects decomposing dead wood and leaves. Woodlands are managed for timber and food whilst others are grazed with livestock.

Grassland & meadows



Grasslands and meadows are open habitats dominated by grass and wildflowers. An important aspect is there are virtually no woody plants or trees present. They are largely maintained through grazing and mowing so are considered semi-natural habitats. They are a great habitat for butterflies, bees, spiders, reptiles and birds.

Wetlands & marshes



Marshes and wetlands are habitats that are frequently or permanently waterlogged. The level of water often changes making them very dynamic ecosystems. They have damp or saturated soils that support water-loving plants such as Yellow flag iris, Bog myrtle and Bogbean. These plants have made special adaptations to live in such wet places. You are likely to see frogs, newts and lots of insects in these habitats.

Ponds and streams



Ponds and streams are freshwater habitats. The main differences are that the water flows along a stream whereas in a pond there is no flow. The bottom of ponds are thick with mud and detritus (dead plants and animals). In streams the flowing water removes much of the mud and they are more gravelly and stoney. Plants and animals have adapted to live in water. There are many beetles, fly larvae and small fish which provide great amounts of food for predators such as heron and kingfisher, not to mention otters.