

HABITAT TRAIL

There are lots of different habitats in the Swiss Garden. See how many of these you can find, and try and see what wildlife you can observe in them. Remember this trail is just for fun so don't worry if you can't find them all!

Stone Wall



Found some!

Key Features:

Wild Grass



Found some!

Key Features:

Flowers



Found some!

Key Features:

Cut Grass



Found some!

Key Features:

Leaf Litter



Found some!

Key Features:

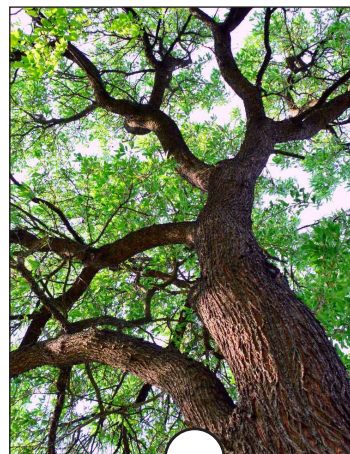
Oak Tree



Found some!

Key Features:

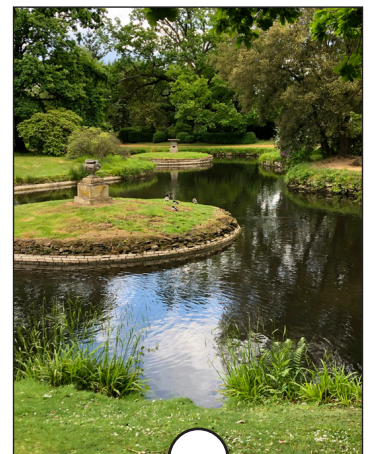
Tree Canopy



Found some!

Key Features:

Pond



Found some!

Key Features:

Stone Walls provide a great habitat for cold blooded creatures, such as insects and reptiles like the *Common Lizard* (right), as the stones collect and store heat from the sun, allowing them to bask (sun bathe) and build up energy before hunting for food. Can you spot any basking today?



Wild Grass is a vital habitat as it contains many varied plants, providing lots of different opportunities for a variety of wildlife. You will find various species preferring different layers – from insects and voles at ground level, to butterflies like the *Ringlet* (left) sunning themselves on tall grass stems.

Flowers are very good at attracting pollinators like *Bees*, as they need them to carry pollen between flowers so they can fruit. To encourage bees to visit them, flowers have colourful petals and an attractive scent. Some flowers give the bees a sugary reward called nectar too. Our fruit and vegetables come from plants that are pollinated by bees.



Cut Grass is not a very good habitat as it is a monoculture – this means that only one plant is growing, and so it only supports creatures that use that one plant as part of their life cycle. This is very different to Wild Grass, in which many different plants provide many opportunities. *Ants* (left) are one of the few creatures that like a mown lawn.

Leaf Litter is a wonderful habitat for creepy crawlies like this *Centipede* (right). It also serves as great nest material, hiding places and protected spots for animals. This dead organic material provides the perfect habitat for a plethora of organisms, including beetles, snails, spiders, worms and microscopic decomposers like fungi and bacteria.



An **Oak Tree** is the most amazing thing – It provides habitat for over a thousand different species – from birds of prey like the *Little Owl* (left), through small mammals (like the Tree Shrew), to insects large (like the enormous Stag Beetle) and small (like the teeny tiny Fairy Wasp – the smallest known insects in the world!). What creatures can you see?

Tree Canopy is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of trees. As well as the fruit and nuts of the trees providing food for birds and animals such as the *Squirrel* (right), the surfaces of leaves and branches are home for insects and hunting grounds for their predators. What animals can you see in the tree canopy here?



Pond dwelling creatures, such as the *Great Crested Newt* (left), are proof of the incredible biodiversity in the Swiss Garden. Creating a new pond in your garden is just about the best thing you can do for wildlife. You don't even have to put anything in it – nature will quickly colonise it and encourage animals and plants that weren't there before.