

Creating Areas for Nature

8. Glossary

Amphibian: A cold-blooded animal such as a frog, that characteristically hatches as an aquatic larva with gills. The larva then transforms into an adult having air-breathing lungs that is capable of living both on land and in water.

Biodiversity: The diversity, or variety, of plants, animals and other living things in a particular area or region. It encompasses habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. Biodiversity is of value in its own right and has social and economic value for human society.

Biodiversity Action Plan: A plan that sets objectives and actions for the conservation of biodiversity, with measurable targets.

Coach bolt: A bolt with a square collar under the domed head which locks into the wood when the nut is tightened.

Conservation: Protection, management and promotion for the benefit of wild species and habitats, as well as the human communities that use and enjoy them.

Crowbar: A heavy iron lever with one end forged into a wedge shape.

Dibber: a pointed wooden stick for making holes in the ground so that seeds, seedlings or small bulbs can be planted.

Ecosystem: A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

Fauna: Animal life.

Flora: Plant life.

FSC: Forest Stewardship Council.

Habitats: The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.

Hibernation: The unmoving or resting state in which some animals pass the winter, stopping or slowing of activity during the winter, especially slowing of metabolism in some animals.

Invertebrate: An animal, such as an insect or mollusc that lacks a backbone or spinal column.

Larvae: The newly hatched, wingless, often worm-like form of many insects before metamorphosis.

Mammal: A warm-blooded animal that usually has body hair, gives birth to live babies and feeds them with milk.

Mattock: A hand tool similar to a pickaxe and particularly suitable for digging or breaking up moderately hard ground.

Mell: A long handled tool with a cast iron head, used for driving wooden posts into the ground.

Metamorphosis: A stage in the life cycle of certain animals during which time larva transforms into an adult. Examples are the changes from a tadpole to a frog, or from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Monitoring: To keep track systematically with a view to collect information; e.g. monitor the rabbit population of a park. To test or sample, especially on a regular or ongoing basis.

Mulch: A protective covering of rotting vegetable matter spread around base of plants to reduce evaporation and soil erosion, regulate soil temperature and enrich the soil.

Native: Originating, growing, or produced in a certain place or region; indigenous.

Pesticide: A chemical used to kill pests, especially insects.

Reptile: Air-breathing, cold-blooded animal that has skin covered in scales and whose young hatch from eggs.

Scrub: A community of trees and shrub species colonising open ground, particularly grassland.

Shuv-holers: Scissor-shaped tool that is used to remove soil from holes that are too deep for spades or shovels.

Spirit level: A tool used to establish true vertical and horizontal lines by looking at a bubble in a small chamber filled with liquid.

Stob: A short, straight stick of wood.

Tamper: Metallic tool used to compact ground.

Trowel: a hand tool used for digging, and moving around small amounts of soil.

Wetland: Lowland areas, such as marshes and swamps that are saturated with moisture.