




Instructions

Welcome to the new Buzz Club project focusing on **nocturnal pollinators**, and helping participants get to know the insects that are active around their outside space at night. You don't need to invest in special equipment or have a big garden to take part (the minimum is a window).


The aim is to do a Polli-Nightors count **once a week** during spring and summer (May – September). Don't worry if you can't do *every* week: as many as you can is fantastic. Choose **at least one** of the places / methods listed below, and do a count when it has gone dark where you live.

Make a note of what you see, either using a notebook or a printed recording sheet. Since it will be dark and the insects might be moving quickly, we've included quite general categories (e.g. 'large moth' or 'midge-like fly'). If you can be more specific – **or even better, take photos** – then that's great, but don't worry if you can't!


Places to look




On a **window** (ideally garden-facing, or at least where it is darker outside than inside; so not right underneath a street lamp). Leave a curtain open and a light on, and see what lands on the window, attracted by the light. Since this is the most passive search, we suggest checking the window every **10 min** over the course of **an hour**.



By an **outside light**. Insects will be attracted to and around outside lamps (e.g. security lights), so you can stand nearby and observe visitors. We suggest doing this for **10 minutes**.



On a **garden walk**. Take a torch and walk slowly around the garden, passing the light over plants to either side of you, and see what insects you can spot. We suggest doing this for **10 minutes**, although understand that big gardens might take longer.



On a **focal plant**. Pick a plant that should be attractive to night insects. Pale flowers and strong scent are good characteristics (e.g. jasmine or honeysuckle), or if you don't have one like that, see what still has open flowers at night. Using a torch, observe that plant for **10 minutes** and see what insects you find visiting the flowers.

If you want to do **more than one place** (e.g. on a window **and** a garden walk), then please print a **separate recording sheet** for each. If both places are lit differently (e.g. a front and back garden), please fill in the following 'How Light Is Your Night' questionnaire for **both** places. This will make the data handling at our end much easier!

This project is intended to get an idea of abundances, and get members familiar with their visitors. We aren't aiming for a detailed species-level survey. There is excellent UK-wide work being done by specialist recorders that cover night-flying insects – particularly Butterfly Conservation's "Moth Count" – and we don't want to double up effort; so if you would like to try identifying your moths in particular in more detail, we recommend checking out <http://www.mothscount.org>.





How light is your night?

A new addition to this year's project: we would like you to characterise **how much artificial light your garden receives**. This will let us see if there are patterns in the types of insects you see at night, compared to what sort of light sources they are exposed to in that space.

Please tick all that apply to your garden

Outdoor lights (that you *don't* control)

- 1. Street lights ☐
- 2. Security lights (e.g. from commercial or community premises) ☐
- 3. Floodlights (e.g. on sports fields) ☐

Outdoor lights (that you *do* control)

- 4. Security lights; **always on** at night ☐
- 5. Security lights; **intermittent** at night (e.g. motion activated) ☐
- 6. Safety lights (e.g. lighting steps or paths) ☐
- 7. Patio light (e.g. lighting an outdoor social space) ☐

Decorative lights

- 8. Feature lights; that are **always on** at night (e.g. lighting for a specific plant, or feature) ☐
- 9. Feature lights; that are **intermittent** at night. ☐
- 10. Hanging lights / fairy lights; that are **always on** ☐
- 11. Hanging lights / fairy lights; that are **intermittent** ☐
- 12. Small solar lights ☐

How do *you* find your garden at night? *Please tick one*



Well-lit. I can walk around easily, see details and features clearly.

☐

Dim. I can navigate, but would need torch for e.g. taking steps safely.

☐

Moderate. I can walk around without a torch, but details / colours are not clear.

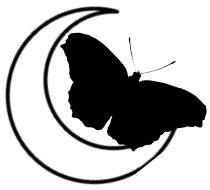
☐

Dark. I would need a torch to see anything or navigate.

☐

If you can download a **light meter app**, please take a light level recording when you do your Polli-Nightors observations. Example are Lux Lightmeter Pro (iOS) and Lux Meter (Android). Please note these are third party apps not connected to the Buzz Club; always use Google Play or the Apple App store to download verified apps safely.

This is not essential, so if you can't / aren't comfortable with finding an app, don't worry about it!



Polli-Nightors

Recording sheet



Recording site (*tick*)

On a window

☐

On a focal plant

☐

By an outside light

☐

Garden walk

☐

Month:

Date of each recording (<i>write</i>)	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Weather during recording (<i>circle</i>)	Clear / cloudy	Clear / cloudy	Clear / cloudy	Clear / cloudy
Light meter reading (if taken)				

Insects seen (*in counts / tallies*). Please take photographs if you can!

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Moth Large Medium Small				
Fly (Bluebottle / hoverfly- shaped)				
Fly (mosquito / midge- shaped)				
Beetle / weevil				
Wasp				
Other / unknown				