



**Activity 2:** Spend **10 minutes searching** for New Zealand Flatworms in your local outdoor space. Look in dark, damp places such as under wood, stones and plastic, or on soil. Please answer the questions below, whether you found a flatworm or not.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

*Map available online to select location.*

Which best describes your survey area?

garden    school grounds    parkland    woodland    heath  
 open grassy field    arable field    industrial site    other

Did you see any earthworms (flatworm prey) or beetles (flatworm predators) in your survey area?

Earthworms  yes  no      Beetles  yes  no

Are there any molehills (moles eat earthworms) in your survey area?  yes  no

Did you find New Zealand Flatworms?  yes  no

If yes then please answer the following questions...



Please take a photo of any flatworms that you see (alongside the ruler on this card)

What did you find the New Zealand Flatworms under?

wood    stones    plastic    other

If *other* please specify \_\_\_\_\_

How long was the flatworm?

small (1cm or less)    medium (1-5cm)    large (5cm or more)

Were there any egg capsules?  yes  no

## What now?

Visit [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org) to:

- **Submit your results** even if you did not find any flatworms.
- **Find out more** information on the New Zealand Flatworm.
- **Download the OPAL Soil and Earthworm Survey** to help us investigate the relationship between earthworms and the New Zealand Flatworm at this location.

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# The OPAL New Zealand Flatworm Survey



The New Zealand Flatworm was introduced into the UK in the 1960s and feeds on earthworms. We need your help to find out how far this flatworm has spread and what influence it is having on the environment.



- Flat and ribbon-like
- Dark purple-brown on top, pale underneath and along the sides
- Adults usually 0.3-1cm wide and 5-15cm long
- Pointed at both ends and covered in sticky mucus
- Egg capsules look like blackcurrants but smaller
- Found in dark, damp places such as under wood, stones and plastic, or on soil
- Leave slime circles where they've been resting



- Only handle if you are wearing gloves
- Don't try to turn over any heavy stones or logs



Flatworm and egg capsule  
image x2 life size

## We need your help!



**Activity 1:** If you find a New Zealand Flatworm, please **take a photo** (alongside the ruler on this card) and submit this together with its **location** to [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org)



**Activity 2:** If you have 10 minutes to spare, please turn over for activity 2, even if you have not found a flatworm.

Scan the QR code to go  
straight to the OPAL website

