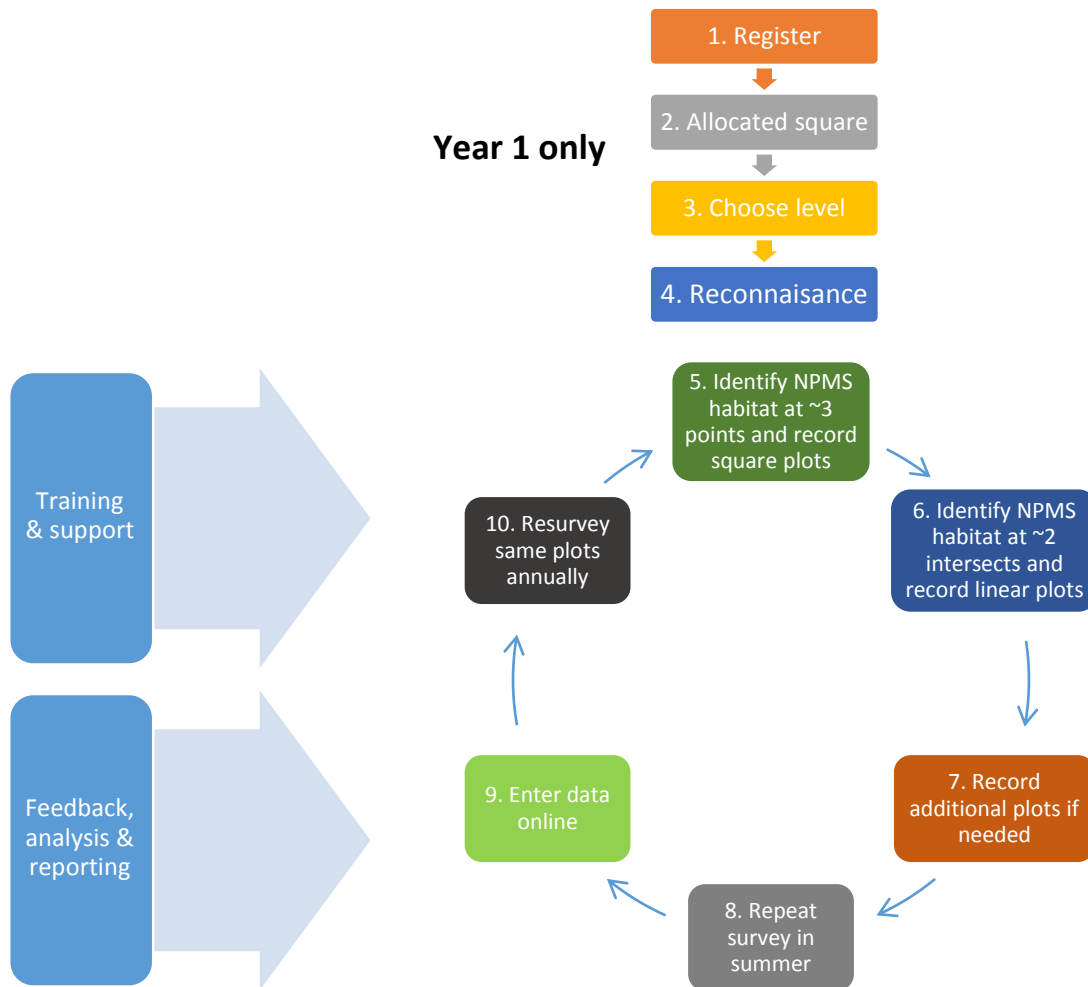


NPMS survey flow diagram

Steps for volunteers recording an NPMS square. Note that steps 1-4 are only completed when a square is first allocated to a volunteer.



Procedure

1. Register at www.npms.org.uk.
2. Square allocated within a preferred region (e.g. near to home or holiday residence); map shows 25 pre-selected points and areas shaded to identify likely areas of NPMS Broad Habitats.
3. Choose whether to record all vascular plant species (Inventory level) or species on the Wildflower or Indicator level lists.
4. Reconnaissance of the square in spring, visiting accessible points marked on the map.
5. During late spring/early summer, identify at least 3 points that coincide with an NPMS habitat, and record 5 x 5 m square plots (10 x 10 m in woodlands).
6. During the same visit identify at least 2 locations where a linear habitat crosses the grid on the map, and record 25 x 1 m linear plots (12.5 x 2 m plot is used for rock outcrops and screes).
7. If there are fewer than 3 accessible points with NPMS habitat then the surveyor either: (a) self-selects plots in NPMS habitats closest to these; (b) self-selects plots in habitats covering very small areas (e.g. flushes, and springs) or (c) records more linear plots.
8. Repeat the survey later in summer.
9. Enters records online at www.npms.org.uk.
10. Resurvey the same plots annually.

See Walker, K.J. *et al.* 2015. Making Plants Count. *British Wildlife*, **26**(4): 243-250, or the [survey guidance notes](#) for more information.