



Ashdown Art

A Key Stage 2 Field Studies Pack



Purpose

This Field Studies Pack has been designed to help a class of Key Stage 2 pupils use the habitats and locality of Ashdown Forest as inspiration for creative and artistic activities. Following the Broadstone Amble, a way marked route from the Ashdown Forest Centre Car Park, children can use the equipment included in the 'Ashdown Art' box (available to hire from the Ashdown Forest Centre), to complete simple activities and discover more about the unique local landscape. For more information about the route you'll be following please see the Broadstone Amble walk leaflet.

Pack Contents

There are 6 main activities to complete, based at each of the Broadstone Amble way markers. The route is approximately 3km long. The equipment for all activities (enough for approximately 30 pupils) is in separate, labelled, packs within the main 'Ashdown Art' box. *However, children will need to bring their own pencils and paper/sketchbooks.* Maps, additional activities for time filling and various information leaflets are also included for your interest.

Curriculum Links

The activities in this Field Studies Pack cover various parts of the current National Curriculum Programme of Study (see next page) – but these links are not exhaustive. The activities have also been designed to embrace the Every Child Matters agenda and Key Aspects of Learning. Further support in learning about the local environment is available from the High Weald AONB Unit. See: www.highweald.org for more details.

Furthermore, local artists regularly display their work in the Information Barn at the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre. Contact the Ashdown Forest Centre to find out details of current or forthcoming exhibitions.

Please ensure you have read the site risk assessment – available on www.ashdownforest.org



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Curriculum Links – continued

Activity	Curriculum Links	
Secret Sketching (Broadstone Amble – 1)	Art & Design: 1ac, 2bc, 5abc Literacy: En1 2abce	Geography: 1b, 3bg, 6a, 7 PE: 11ac
Natural Textures (Broadstone Amble – 2)	Art & Design: 1abc, 2abc, 5abc	Geography: 1b, 3de, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7 PE: 11ac
Ready, Steady, Draw! (Broadstone Amble – 3)	Art & Design: 1abc, 2abc, 3b, 5abc	Geography: 1b, 6a, 7 PE: 11a
Artist’s Palette (Broadstone Amble – 4)	Art & Design: 1abc, 2a, 5a	Geography: 1b, 3e, 6a, 7 PE: 11a
Expanding Circles (Broadstone Amble – 5)	Art & Design: 1abc, 2abc, 5abc Literacy: En1 2abc	Geography: 1b, 3ad, 6a, 7 PE: 11a
Photo Trail (Broadstone Amble – 6)	Art & Design: 1abc, 2c, 5abc	Geography: 2d, 6a, 7 PE: 11abc

The production of this resource has been supported by:



The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme is involving people with the unique heritage in one of England’s Finest Landscapes. www.highweald.org



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Background Information for Teachers



Ashdown Forest: Key facts

- In Norman times, Ashdown was established as a deer hunting forest.
- Ashdown has always been common land, allowing commoners the right to graze animals on the land.
- The word “forest” is derived from the Latin “foris”, meaning “outside” and in medieval England came to mean land outside common law and belonging to the Crown.
- Ashdown Forest looks different to its immediate surroundings because of its distinctive land-use over the last nine centuries. The Forest hasn’t been farmed but has been heavily exploited for grazing, military training, deer hunting and for its extensive wood, bracken, stone and iron resources.
- Ashdown Forest has national and international importance as it a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), an SPA (Special Protection Area) and is part of the European Natura 2000 Network as it hosts some of Europe’s most threatened species and habitats.
- The two main ecological habitats that make up Ashdown Forest are heathland and woodland, each of which provides a very different environment for animals to live in.
- Ashdown Forest is the largest area of lowland heath in the South-East, covering approximately 2,396 hectares (10 square miles).
- Ashdown Forest is at the heart of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – one of the England’s 60 Finest Landscapes.
- Nearly two thirds of its 6,500 acres (2,500 hectares) are heathland, amounting to 2.5% of the UK’s extent of this rare habitat.
- Despite its name, woodland makes up less than 40% of the total area of Ashdown Forest.





Ashdown Art Field Studies Pack

Secret Sketching

Broadstone Amble - 1



Head out of the Education Barn towards the Ashdown Forest Centre Car Park. Go through the wooden gate from the Forest Centre site and turn left at the first way marker. Move a safe distance away from the car park, further down the woodland path, to complete this activity.



1

Equipment: Children's own sketchbooks/paper and pencils, collected natural materials

Location: Broadstone Amble - first way marker

Time: 30 minutes

A listening activity that promotes detailed observation

Activity Description: Direct the children to each pick up an interesting object from the woodland floor (not a creature!), asking them to try and keep their object a secret from everyone else. Now put the children in pairs and invite them to sit back to back with their partner. Partner 'A' has to describe their object carefully to Partner B (without telling them what it is). Meanwhile, Partner B must draw what is being described. Emphasise that Partner B must use their listening skills to draw exactly what they are told, not just what they think the object is. Encourage Partner A to look closely at their object and describe shape, pattern, texture and size of what they have found. When finished, compare the drawing with the real thing and then swap roles.

High Weald Teaching Point: This activity is taking place on Ashdown Forest which is in the middle of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The High Weald is a continually changing landscape that has been shaped by humans for thousands of years. How might the woods today change over the next century? **TIP:** Consider climate change, human impact, disease and animals - for example squirrel or deer.



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org



Ashdown Art Field Studies Pack

Natural Textures

Broadstone Amble - 2



From the first way marker continue downhill along the wooded path. After approximately 150m you will find the second way marker.



2

Equipment: Children's own sketchbooks/paper, wax crayons, leaf identification guide, collection of natural objects.

Location: Broadstone Amble - second way marker

Time: 20 minutes

An activity looking at patterns and texture

Activity Description: Take a moment to look at the trees where you are standing. Encourage the children to feel their trunks, leaves and branches - what do they feel like? Which is the roughest? Which is the smoothest? How would they describe the different textures? Ask the children to use their sketch books to collect 'natural textures' from their environment and take a rubbing of them - place leaves, bark, grasses etc underneath the paper and then rub over it with a wax crayon. Some leaves and bark will work much better than others. Ask the children to investigate which objects work best and, if possible, to identify the trees and leaves they have found.

Before you move on from point 2 the children may wish to find their natural object to help them complete activity 3.

High Weald Teaching Point: Trees and woodland are a particularly distinctive feature of the High Weald landscape. More than a quarter of the High Weald is woodland and over 70% of this is classed as ancient - having been continually wooded since at least 1600AD. Having existed for hundreds of years, ancient woodlands are very important habitats for certain woodland plants that can only colonise very slowly. Ancient woodlands also contain a wealth of archaeological features - for example the remains of iron workings.



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Ashdown Art Field Studies Pack

Ready, Steady, Draw!

Broadstone Amble - 3



From the second way marker turn right and follow the path as it emerges from the trees onto the open heath. Encourage the children to look for a natural object that they can draw whilst on the way to the third way marker.



3

Equipment: Children's own sketchbooks/paper & pencils, stop watch.

Location: Broadstone Amble - third way marker

Time: 10 minutes

A rapid drawing activity

Activity Description: Ask the children to divide their paper into 4 equal sections. In the corner of one section they need to write 1, in another write 30, in another write 15 and in the last one write 10. Ask everyone to find something to draw - a particular object e.g. a leaf or stone, rather than something more general, will work best. Explain that they will need to draw their object in the space with 1 in it, and that they will have one minute to do it. The children don't need to focus on shading or little details, but should concentrate on shape and pattern, and *fill the whole of the box they are drawing in*. No-one is to start until you say **READY, STEADY, DRAW!** Start the timer and do a countdown for the last 10 seconds, when everyone must put their pencil down. Move to the second box, where children will repeat the exercise (same object) with only 30 seconds to complete their drawing. Then the third in 15 seconds, and finally the fourth in only 10 seconds (don't forget the countdown from 10 to 0). Now look at the 4 drawings - which is their favourite? Surprisingly, it often isn't the one that took the longest. If time, repeat the activity but challenge the children to draw with their other hand!

High Weald Teaching Point: This activity is taking place on heathland, the most characteristic habitat on the Forest. Think about which plants and animals might value this habitat. Heathland supports up to 5000 types of invertebrate, 27 out of all 39 British dragonflies, more than 500 species of spider, all British amphibians and reptiles as well as endangered birds such as the Nightjar and Woodlark.

Activity included by kind permission of Same Sky



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org



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Artist's Palette

Broadstone Amble - 4



From the third way marker head all the way downhill . At the bottom, just before a stream, the path turns right at the fourth way marker.



4

Equipment: Palette templates, children's own sketchbooks/paper & pencils

Time: 20 minutes

Location: Broadstone Amble - fourth way marker. Take care, close to water's edge.

An observational activity to appreciate the detail of surroundings

Activity Description: Explain that painters often use a palette to mix their colours when creating a masterpiece. What colours can be seen at Ashdown Forest? How many different colours can the children count from where they are sitting or, looking more closely, different shades of the same colour? Share the palette templates with the children and allow time for the children to match up the colours on the palette to what can be found nearby. Children could collect items of various colours (NB: Avoid picking any plants), note down which colours they can see or perhaps draw or write about the items that they find. Encourage them to continue looking for different colours and shades as they continue on the route:

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald can be enjoyed at all times of year - each season adds its own special colour. In early spring, the orchards are awash with pink and white blossom and heathlands are perfumed with the coconut scent of yellow gorse flowers. Late spring sees Bluebells in the ancient woodland and wildflowers - pink Orchids, white Daisies and purple Knapweed appear along the verges of ancient routeways. In summer, sunken lanes become green tunnels as the tree canopy closes, the landscape takes on a yellow hue as crops ripen, and flowering heather turns heaths and woodland glades purple. In autumn, the orchards are heavy with fruit, the hedges bear berries and nuts - blackberries, sloes, rosehips and hazelnuts and the area's abundant woodland gradually develops its autumn colours. In winter, valley mists emphasise the High Weald's rolling hills and the form of its native trees - Oak, Ash and Sweet Chestnut.



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org



Ashdown Art Field Studies Pack

Expanding Circles

Broadstone Amble - 5



From the fourth way marker continue along the woodland path across two streams. Follow the path as it climbs uphill through more heathland. Keep going until the path bears left to reach a bench and then bears right through the trees at the fifth way marker.



5

Equipment: A place with a panoramic view and interesting foreground, picture frame templates, Children's own sketchbooks/paper and pencils.

Location: Broadstone Amble - fifth way marker.

Time: 30 minutes

An activity to encourage appreciation of the landscape at different scales

Activity Description: Sit children down in a row ensuring that everyone has a good view. Ask everyone to close their eyes. Begin by saying, "open your eyes and look at the grass you're sitting on. Run your fingers through it and look at the patterns. Now look further down the hill and to the heathland below...". Gradually lead the viewers out in stages until you reach the distant ridges on the horizon and eventually to the sky. Look at different colours, shapes and patterns at each stage. Encourage children to think about the beauty at their fingertips, as well as further out to the horizon. Spend time admiring the surroundings, using the picture frames to 'capture' different scenes. Ask the children to make some sketches of what they can see through their frames - on both a large and small scale.

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald gets its rolling countryside from bands of sandstone and clay. The hard sandstone forms the high ridges, running east-west. The softer clay is easily worn away; it forms the low valleys in between. As you look out across the landscape can you spot rolling hills, ancient woodland or irregular shaped fields? These are some of the features that make the High Weald a unique and special place.





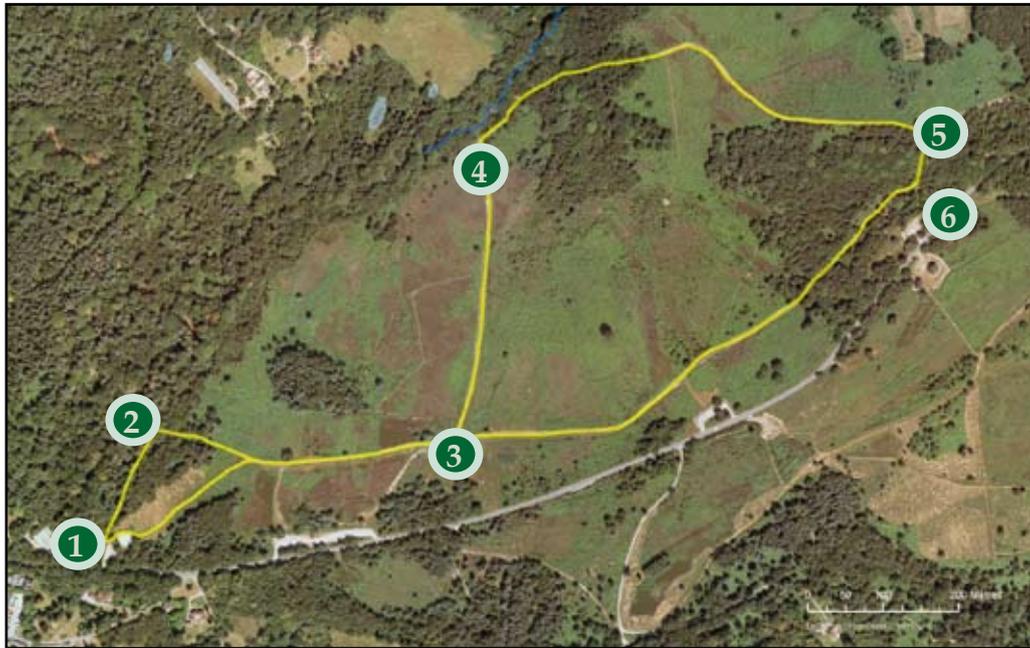
Ashdown Art Field Studies Pack

Photo Trail

Broadstone Amble - 6



From the fifth way marker bear right through the trees. Ahead of you is Townsend's car park and the main road. Bear right to find the sixth way marker.



6

Equipment: Collection of laminated photos, digital cameras (optional)

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Broadstone Amble - sixth way marker. The children will start their photo trail here, but will need to keep looking for things along the main path until back at the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre.

Practical observations - thinking outside the box!

Activity Description: Explain that this final challenge is to be completed by the time the children get back to the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre. Hand out the laminated photos (3 sets of 15 different images). These photos are of items or viewpoints that can be found along the path. However, some of the photos are deliberately abstract and have been taken from unusual viewpoints (and a couple from places slightly away from the main track..). Either individually or in pairs the children must try and locate the items in the photos. When they think they have found one, ask the pupils to verify each others finds, do they all agree that this is where the photo was taken? Why? Why not? NB: Consider seasonal changes when locating some of the items. As an extension activity, children could photograph their own abstract or interesting images of the Forest - ready for display and further discussion back in the classroom.

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers an area of 146,170 hectares (1,461 square kilometres), supporting a range of habitats and many different plants and animals - including rare and protected species. Whether in the extensive ancient woodland, the wildflower meadows, patches of heathland, irregular shaped fields, ponds or rivers, many plants and animals depend on these rich habitats to survive.



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org



Ashdown Art

True or False? Additional Activity



True or False?

Read the following statements to the children. Ask them to vote on whether they think it is 'true' or 'false'. Reveal the answers. Were they correct? What surprises them?

Statements for teacher to read:

- "Some forests have no trees."
TRUE - e.g. deer forests in Scotland; Ashdown Forest in the last century.
- "On heathland you can find 1,000 types of invertebrate."
FALSE - you can find 5,000!
- "Cutting a tree down can keep it alive for centuries."
TRUE e.g. the coppicing technique encourages re-growth.
- "Ashdown Forest is home to a carnivorous plant called the sundew."
TRUE - In folklore, the sundew had a reputation for preserving long life.
- "1 species of deer can be found on the Forest."
FALSE - 4 species. Roe, Muntjac, Fallow (most common) and Sika Deer all live on the Forest.
- "Forests were originally used for hunting."
TRUE - forests were deer hunting grounds often owned by nobility.
- "Ashdown Forest is home to Winnie-the-Pooh."
TRUE - many of the places mentioned in A.A. Milne's books are on the Forest - including the Enchanted Place, Kanga and Roo's Sandy Pit and Eeyore's Gloomy Place. A.A. Milne (the author) lived in Hartfield, a village close to the Forest.
- "Ashdown Forest was very important for the production of iron in Roman and Tudor times."
TRUE - in fact, iron ore was extracted from the Forest since before Roman times where it was processed in bloomeries. In 1496, Britain's second blast furnace was built at Newbridge (on the Forest) which was a huge technological advance and allowed even greater production of iron.
- "Parts of the Ashdown Forest are used for farming."
FALSE - The Forest hasn't been farmed but has been heavily exploited for grazing, military training and for its extensive wood, bracken, stone and iron resources.
- "Spiders cannot survive in heathland."
FALSE - Heathland is the best habitat for spiders; more than 500 species can be found among heath, all of which are carnivorous!



Which of these can you see?

Once you've found these, how about finding something:

- Delicate
- Rough
- Old
- You've never seen before



Bell Heather



Ling



Yellow Gorse



Scots Pine



Bracken