



Beauty and the Beasts

A Key Stage 1 Field Studies Pack



Purpose

This Field Studies Pack has been designed to help a class of Key Stage 1 pupils learn more about minibeasts, habitats and the locality of Ashdown Forest. Following the Broadstone Amble, a way marked route from the Ashdown Forest Centre Car Park, children can use the equipment included in the 'Beauty and the Beasts' 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 4 main activities to complete. These are based at the first, second and third way markers on the Broadstone Amble, plus a final activity as you head back to the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre. The route is approximately 1km long. The equipment for all activities (enough for approximately 30 pupils) is in separate, labelled, packs within the main 'Beauty and the Beasts' box. 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 overleaf) – 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.

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



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Curriculum Links - continued

Activity	Curriculum Links
Minibeast Sculptures (Broadstone Amble - 1)	Literacy: En 1 3 Science: Sc1 2abfhi, Sc2 1c, 2e, 5a Geography: 1ab, 2b, 3a, 7ab Art & Design: 2a PE: 4a
Minibeast Journeys (Broadstone Amble - 2 & 3)	Numeracy: Ma2 2a Science: Sc1 2abfhi, Sc2 1c, 2e, 5ab Geography: 1ab, 2b, 3ad, 7ab PE: 4a
Sort Me Out! (Broadstone Amble - on route back to Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre)	Literacy: En 1 3 Numeracy: Ma2 1h Science: Sc1 2abfhi, Sc2 1ac, 2e, 4b, 5a, Sc3 1abc Geography: 1ab, 2b, 7ab PE: 4a

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.





Beauty and the Beasts Field Studies Pack

Minibeast Sculptures

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: Magnifying pots, plastic cutlery, minibeast identification guide

Location: Broadstone Amble - first way marker

Time: 30 minutes

An activity that encourages minibeast identification

Activity Description: Allow children to have a good rummage around the woodland floor, for example under leaves, logs, stones and inside bark crevices on trees, to see what minibeasts can be found. Allow lots of time for finding and examining them. In small groups, children choose a minibeast and create a sculpture of it from natural materials, taking note of the number of legs, body segments, antennae, etc. Give it an imaginative name - then use a simple minibeast identification guide to determine its proper name. Ensure that minibeasts are safely released at the end of the activity.

High Weald Teaching Point: Almost a third of the High Weald is woodland and over 70% of this is classed as 'ancient' - having existed continuously since 1600AD. (Nationally, only about 19% of woodland is ancient). Ancient woods are important habitats for certain woodland plants that can only colonise very slowly. They also contain many archaeological features - for example the remains of iron workings. This is one of the characteristics that makes the High Weald a unique landscape.



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org



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Minibeast Journeys

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: 1m lengths of string, magnifying glasses,
Location: Broadstone Amble - second way marker

Time: 30 minutes

An activity that encourages a close and detailed look at minibeasts and their habitats

Activity Description: Give each child a 1m length of string. Get them to lay it on the woodland floor and position themselves close to it, e.g. kneeling by the side of their string. Ask the children to follow the string with their magnifying glass, examining in close detail the journey from a minibeast's point of view. Encourage them to think about what the minibeast would have to walk on to get from one end of the string to the other. What will it see? Can they count how many leaves or twigs the minibeast will have to cross, or the number of different plants it will see on its journey along the string?

Allow the children to use magnifying glasses, digital cameras, etc to enhance observations and make appropriate comments. The children could pick up unusual/frequently occurring objects along the length of the string and use these as inspiration for oral or written story telling to describe the minibeast's journey. Once observations have been completed, ask the children to pick up their string and hold onto it for the next waymarker...

High Weald Teaching Point: The children are exploring Ashdown Forest - which is in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The word 'Weald' means wilderness or forest, but a closer look at the landscape reveals that it is more than just woodland. Heathland, meadows, sandstone outcrops and irregular shaped fields are also integral to the High Weald landscape.



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Minibeast Journeys

Broadstone Amble - 3



From the second way marker, turn right and follow the path as it emerges from the trees onto the open heath. Continue for approximately 400m until you reach the third way marker.



3

Equipment: 1m lengths of string, magnifying glasses, Heathland Hunting sheets

Location: Broadstone Amble - third way marker

Time: 30 minutes

An activity that encourages a comparison between habitats on Ashdown Forest

Activity Description: As at the second way marker, repeat the Minibeast Journeys activity. However, you are now standing in heathland, rather than in woodland, so this presents a good opportunity to compare and contrast two habitats. Once children have spread out their strings and investigated what a minibeast might find here, encourage them to think about how different or similar the journey is on heathland, than in the woods. Where would they prefer to live and why? Explain to the children that heathland is a different habitat, a different place for animals and plants to live. Like the woods, it is special and important - can the children think of any other habitats?

Extension: Ask the children to look closely at the heathland - can they find some prickly yellow gorse or some purple heather? Use the Heathland Hunting sheet to help them explore this habitat further.

High Weald Teaching Point: Heathland is the most characteristic habitat on Ashdown Forest. 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. On heathland you can find 5,000 types of invertebrate, 27 out of all 39 British dragonflies, more than 500 species of spider (all of which are carnivorous), all British amphibians and reptiles (including adders!) as well as endangered birds such as Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler.



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Sort Me Out!

Broadstone Amble - 4



From the third way marker retrace your steps and head back towards the Ashdown Forest Centre. Choose a suitable location to complete the following activity.



Equipment: Magnifying pots, collecting bags if desired

Location: Broadstone Amble, on route back to the Visitor Centre

Time: 30 minutes

A sorting and describing activity

Activity Description: Sort the children into small groups. Give them time to collect various things that are of interest - leaves, twigs, minibeasts, stones etc. You may wish for them to collect items from the woodland as well as heathland. When each group has a collection of objects, ask them to sort their objects using whatever system they prefer, e.g. colours, size, material. Ask them to explain how the objects have been sorted - children often come up with unusual and insightful classifications. Allow time for discussion about anything interesting they notice about the objects - do the children know what each object is?

Now ask the children to put their objects into 3 groups: alive, dead and never been alive. This can promote lots of debate as children present reasons and opinions as to why something is living or dead and is a good introduction to life processes. At the end of the activity, ensure that all objects are safely and properly disposed of/returned to their habitats.

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Discuss with the children what they think is beautiful. Look around where you are walking or sitting - can they understand why the High Weald has been given this special title?





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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!

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Heathland Hunting

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