

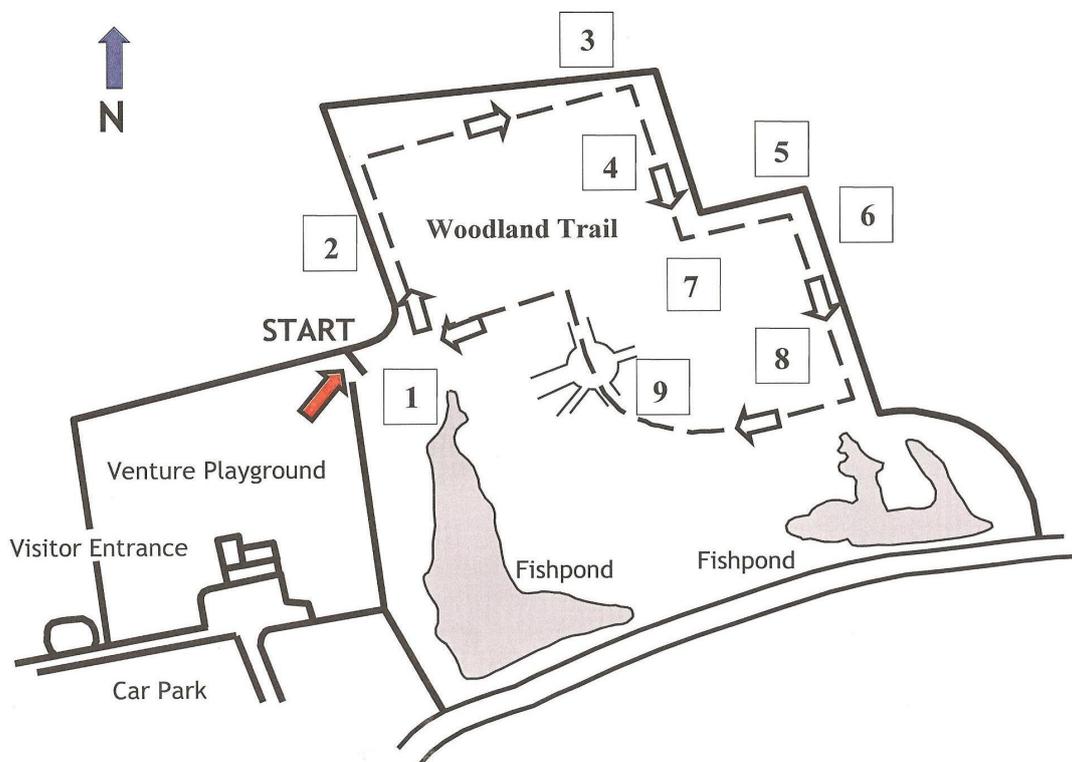


PENSHURST PLACE
AND GARDENS

WOODLAND TRAIL



The Woodland Trail is designed to stimulate awareness of the woodland environment, its plants and animals, and how to protect this habitat.



**The Trail is approximately a third of a mile in length.
Please note: the walking surfaces can be uneven, there is deep water in places
and the Trail may be muddy.**

POINT 5

THE BUSY OAK TREE & ANIMALS OF THE WOODLAND



This oak tree is over 200 years old - quite young in comparison to many of the oaks in Penshurst Park. The famous Sidney Oak is believed to be 1,000 years old.

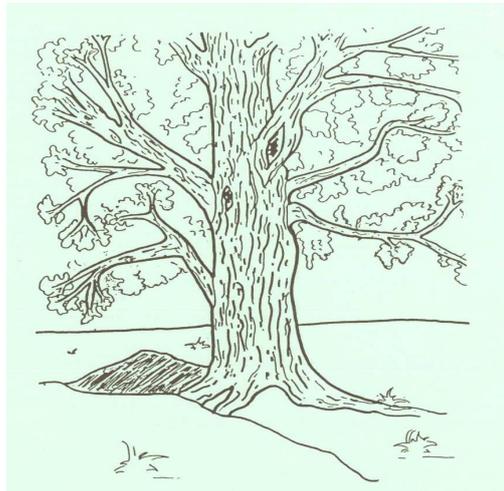
How many different signs can you find of animals that have lived around the busy oak?

Draw a line from the animal to where it may live in the oak tree.

Leafhopper

Rabbit

Woodpecker



Beetle

Squirrel

Owl

POINT 6

The chestnut tree was introduced to this country in Roman times. The nuts were crushed to produce meal (like porridge) to feed the Roman legions.



Next to the busy oak there are 5 different kinds of fences made with chestnut (left to right)

1. Chestnut pale 2. Angled spile 3. Post and rail fence 4. Split rail 5. Hog stoppers

See also the peeling apparatus at the end. This is used to peel the chestnut bark off. The bark should be peeled off soon after it has been felled to stop the wood from rotting.

POINT 7

Coppiced Woodland Panel



COPPICED WOOD

Periodically the coppiced wood in this clearing is cut which leaves stumps where new slender stems grow. These stems produce numerous trunks rather than just one main stem.



The wood from these coppiced trees has many uses.

a) Name three objects made of wood that we use today

1.

2.

3.

b) Can you see which animals, flowers and insects like living in this spot?

Follow the white arrows and see where else along the Trail you can find coppiced wood

POINT 8

Animals of the Woodland Panel

The difference between evergreen and deciduous trees

There are many different types of evergreen—including conifers, which have needle-like leaves. They lose/replace leaves throughout the year.

Deciduous trees have broad leaves which they shed in the autumn and re-grow in Spring.

Can you point out some evergreen and then some deciduous trees in the wood?

Carry along the path out of the woodland, towards the **ARBORETUM**. As you pass some more carp ponds to your left, what type of fencing has been used? (Clue: see point 6).

POINT 9

Hedgerows Panel

An **ARBORETUM** is a collection of trees. Species native to England were planted in 1992 to commemorate the life of 1st Viscount De L'Isle, VC, KG who lived at Penshurst Place. Look at the different blossoms, foliage, fruits, colours and textures that change throughout the seasons.

At the start of the Arboretum notice the **HEDGEROWS** ahead that are mixed foliage, then read the interpretation panel on the right, to help answer the following questions.



a) Why are hedgerows important?

b) What can you see at the bottom of the hedgerows?

Be careful in case you disturb anything that may be sleeping...

Carry on straight ahead through the centre of the Arboretum and then down and left, heading back towards the Adventure Playground.

Final questions:

What was my favourite thing about the Woodland Trail?

What did I collect along the way?

What did I notice that I have not seen before?

You have now completed the Woodland Trail. We hope you have enjoyed your visit.

Please do wash your hands straight away if you have touched anything during your walk and after cleaning your shoes.

- The Country Code -

1. Guard against all risks of fire
2. Fasten all gates
3. Keep dogs under proper control
4. Keep to paths across farmland
5. Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls
6. Leave no litter
7. Safeguard water supplies
8. Protect wild life, wild plants and trees
9. Go carefully on country roads
10. Respect the life of the countryside

Answers: Point 1 a) Dragonflies, damselflies, water beetles/mayflies b) Young insects that live in water. Point 7 a) chairs, tables, doors—or your choice! b) badgers, hedgehogs, bluebells, primroses, butterflies, moths—it's endless! Point 9 a) They give small animals shelter. b) What can you see today!