



Herefordshire
Wildlife Trust

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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Birches Farm Trail

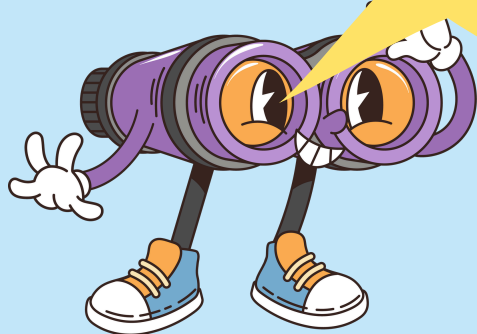
FIELD 1

Great meadow

This field is full of orchids in spring and early summer and has now been cut for hay



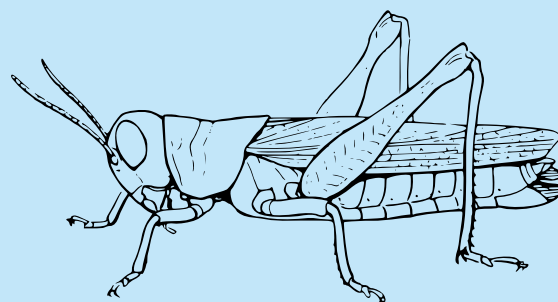
Look out for plants and flowers regrowing after the hay cut



Can you find the secret hedge tunnel by the gate into the next field?

 Ideas

Listen out for the grasshoppers





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FIELD 3

Middle Piece

This field is pasture land. Once the wild flowers make seeds cattle are allowed to graze it. They are moved around the fields so they are only lightly grazed

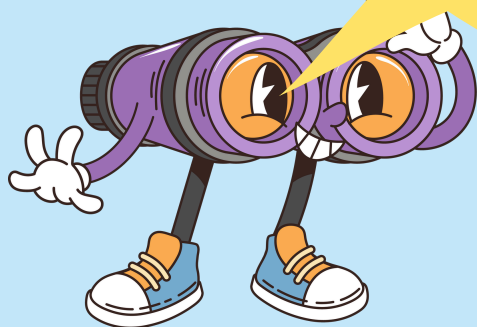


If there have recently been cattle in this field....

How many cowpats can you spot?

How many cowpats can you splot?

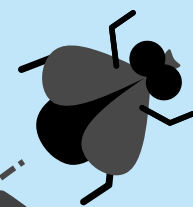
You may have to save this activity for another field with fresher cowpats



How many different flies and beetles do you think are living on the poo. Who is then eating them?

ideas

Can you hear the buzzing of busy dung flies?





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FIELD 2

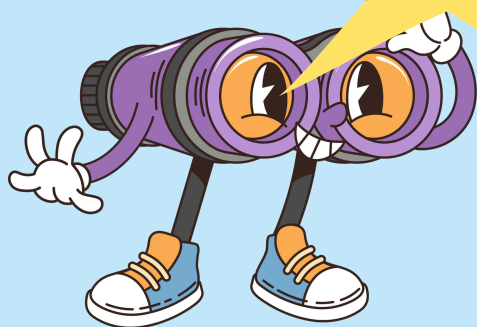
Wood Field

**This meadow not only
has orchids and
bluebells in spring but
also meadow saffron in
autumn**



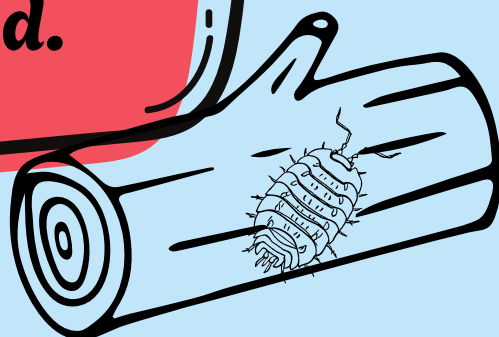
**Look at the giant oak tree. It is
over 300 years old. Can you
see a nest in a hole? Can you
see where a giant branch has
snapped off?**

**Look for baby oak trees
growing at the edge of the
canopy**



**Have a look in the pile
of logs for minibeasts.
Make sure to put the
logs back so their home
is not damaged.**

 Ideas



**How loud do you
think that falling
branch was?**





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FIELD 4

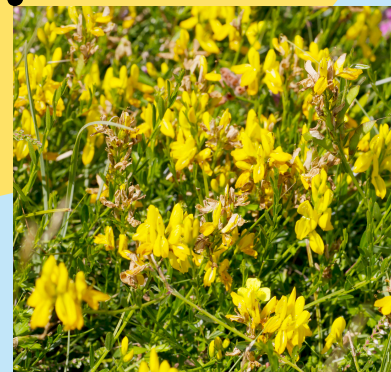
Crossway

This field is not going to be grazed until late August to allow the plant dyer's greenweed to make seeds. As the name suggests this plant can be used to dye fabric, it produces lovely shades of yellow



You should be able spot many different seed heads, late flowers, day flying moths and butterflies And can you find the dyer's greenweed?

A clue...its on the far side of the field



As this field is not going to be cut for hay you can explore all through the wavy plants.

when the wind blows can you hear the seeds of the yellow rattle plant rattling?



 Ideas



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FIELD 5

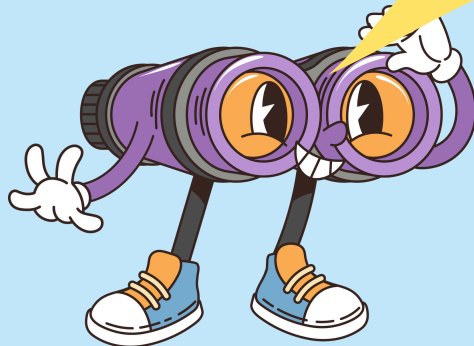
Little Bank

This is another pasture so there may be cattle and cowpats. Can you see which plants the cattle are less keen to eat?

The bench at the top of the hill is a good place for a snack while enjoying the view



Look out for the giant ash trees guarding the gate. At the top of the hill try and name all the hills around. Can you see Hay Bluff, Hergest Ridge and Bradnor Hill?



When you stand at the top of the hill can you work out which direction your house is in? Would you make a good homing pigeon?


ideas

Listen out for the scream of a buzzard or red kite





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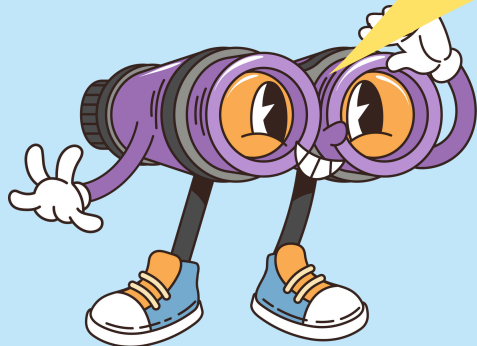
FIELD 7

Allens Wood

The names of fields can sometimes tell a story of how farmers in the past used them or described them. We don't know who the Allens were, but once upon a time they had a wood....



As you walk through this field have a good hunt along the hedge for insects and other mini beasts



What natural thing would you like to have named after you? A wood? A beetle? A hill?

 Ideas

This field is furthest from the road. Can you hear more birdsong and less noise from cars?





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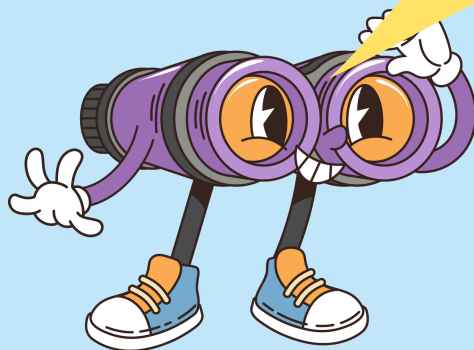
FIELD 8

Lawns

This field doesn't look like a lawn. The name probably tells us that this field has been cut for hay for many years.



There is another giant oak tree. Stand underneath and look up. Using your finger trace a path from the trunk along a branch to a leaf on the tip of a twig



You are getting towards the end of the walk now. If you have energy that needs using up you can have a race around the field.

Have you finished your scavenger hunt?


ideas

Can you hear the wind in the tree? Is it rustling the leaves?





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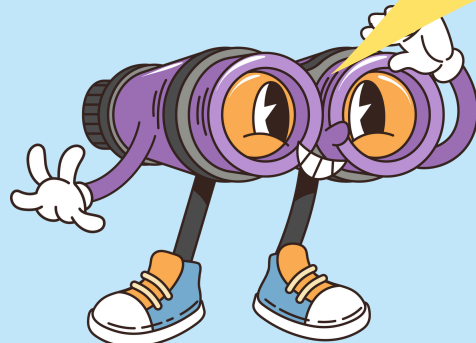
FIELD 6

Cockshoot

The field name might mean that this was once an area where woodcocks were found. They are now increasingly rare

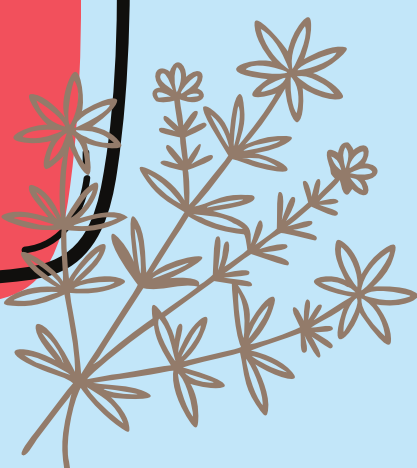


Hedgerows were not only used as field boundaries, they also provided food for people and animals, and wood for fuel and building. What edible fruits can you see?



We can make use of lots of plants, not just for eating, building and burning but also to make material, medicine, dyes and many other things

Also weapons! can you find any goose grass seeds to use as sticky ammunition?



How many different birds can you hear?



 Ideas



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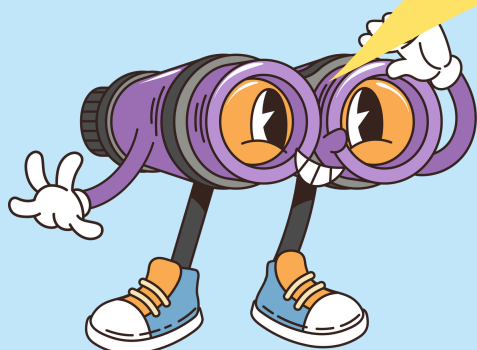
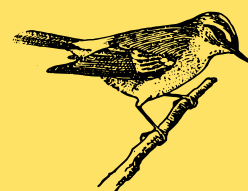
FIELD 9

Pool Field

The hedge along this meadow is very old, it contains some big old trees. We don't cut our hedges with machines, we manage them by 'laying' them which involves almost cutting through the trunk of young trees and lying them down, from where they continue to grow and shoot. You may see some old horizontal trunks from hedge laying carried out many years ago.



A hedgerow managed traditionally is a haven for wildlife. This hedgerow is full of birds, stand quietly and see how many you can see.



Look at the holes in the giant dead tree. which do you think are nest holes and which are woodpecker feeding holes

 Ideas

Listen to the birds singing in this field. Can you hear any new birdsongs?





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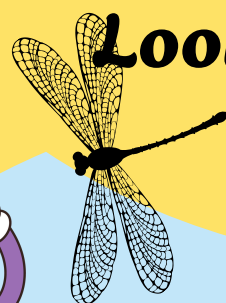
FIELD 10

The Pool

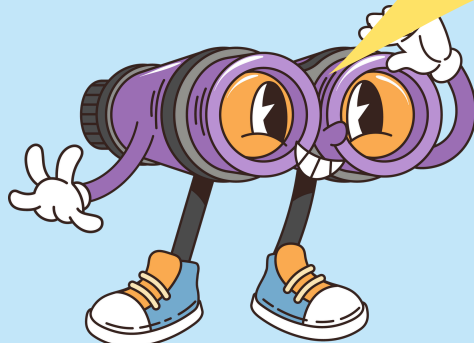
This pool was formed during the last ice age and because it is so old it is full of life and has some rare plants and animals. We have cut back a lot of trees that shaded the pond. You can see their big stumps



Look out for the moorhen, but you'll have to be quiet, she's very shy. Can you see anything living in the tree on the island?



Look out for hunting dragonflies



What kind of ice age creatures may have drunk at this pond. Woolly Mammoths? Could their bones be buried deep in the mud? What evidence of ice age humans might we find?



If you are lucky enough to see a dragonfly listen out for the rattle of its wings as it flies past



 Ideas