

WHARF

# BIRCH TRAIL

## YOU WILL NEED...

- a pen and pencils in a range of colours

THIS TRAIL IS  
**1.5KM**

## CONIFEROUS TREES

### FACT!

Trees that don't shed their leaves are known as coniferous.

We have several species of coniferous trees here on the Birch Trail. Coniferous trees create woody fruit called cones to protect their seeds.

## BE A NATURE DETECTIVE!!

Search underneath the trees and try to find some pine cones.

Are they tightly shut, or have they opened out to release the seeds? See if you can find more than one type of cone? Are any of the cones nibbled? Which woodland creatures can you see who might eat the seeds?

## CHALLENGE!

**Wake up your senses!**  
Stand still next to the trunk of a pine tree and close your eyes.

**What can you hear?** Does it sound louder now your eyes are shut?

**What can you smell?** Take a big sniff. Is it a familiar smell or a strange smell?

**How does it feel?** Finally run your finger trips over the bark of the tree, explore slowly - Rough, smooth, scratchy, warm or maybe cool?

Well-done you have used four of your five senses to really explore this tree!



Follow the **yellow** route...  
...and look out for the **LANDMARKS** along the way



Pillbox



A Natural Partnership

grainger plc

the Land Trust

Blackwater Valley  
Countryside Partnership

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# BIRCH TRAIL

## SQUIRRELS

### CHALLENGE!

In the autumn squirrels bury nuts in the ground – but they don't find them all and some will sprout as seedlings in the spring.

Imagine you are a squirrel burying a stash of nuts, pick a spot on the ground then use the squared paper grid to draw a map to help you find the nuts when you need them! Remember – if something could move (like a fallen branch or a pile of leaves) it might not be there when you come back searching!

#### FACT!

The woodland creature you're most likely to spot today is a **grey squirrel**.

These fluffy, acrobatic rodents use their front paws to hold food (just like hamsters and rats) and just like us, they can be left or right handed.

## SOLVE IT!

Squirrels eat a wide range of foods, not just nuts and seeds.

One of the Rangers has written a list of foods she knows squirrels eat, but it's got mixed up with her shopping list!

Can you cross off the foods that wild squirrels should not eat!

### Squirrel's shopping list!

Biscuits	Bread
Nuts	Cheese
Seeds	Shoots & leaves
Bird food	Flower bulbs
Eggs	



Grey squirrel



Squirrel drey



## BE A NATURE DETECTIVE!!

Look up, can you spot any squirrels?

They live in the trees, building dreys – which are large balls of twigs and leaves high up in trees – or find convenient holes to nest in. Can you see any dreys?