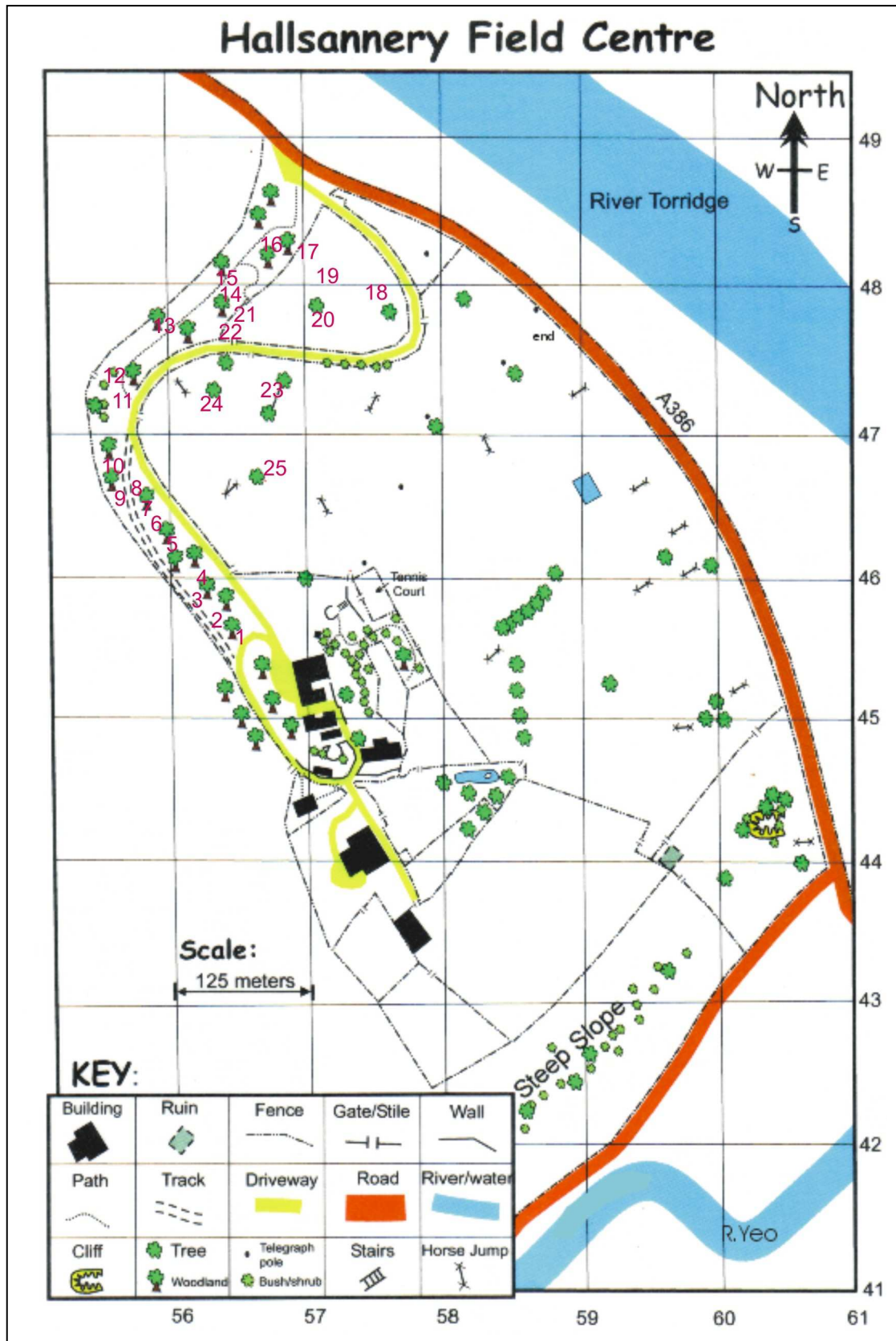


Hallsannery Nature Trail

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Stop 1	Bird boxes/habitats
Stop 2	Tree leaves and woodland stratification
Stop 3	Bird boxes
Stop 4	Habitat piles
Stop 5	Tree age
Stop 6	Camouflages
Stop 7	Oak food pyramid
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Stop 21	Butterflies and Bees
Stop 22	Tree nursery
Stop 23	Telescopes
Stop 24	Tree age
Stop 25	Tree Height

Nature Trail information for group leaders

Stop 1 Bird boxes/ habitats

You will need to look hard around each stop to spot them. They all have a number (either 28 or 32), which is the size of the hole in mm, (except for the open fronted ones and the woodpecker box at stop 9)

4mm difference in the size of the hole means that different bird species will use the box. Are birds really that fussy?

Stop 3, stop 8 and between stop 11 and 12 also have bird boxes

Stop 2 Tree leaves and woodland stratification

Evergreen: Laurel

Deciduous: Beech, Oak and Sycamore

Stop 3 More bird boxes

- spot the different types – what nests in them? 2 different types here

Stop 4 Habitat piles

Also look around the area under stones and old pieces of wood

Why do minibeasts like living in these places? (damp, dark, good hiding place from predators)

Stop 5 Tree age

There are other cut pieces on the ground with visible tree rings- compare the ages. In a good growing year when it is warm and wet the tree rings are wider than in a cold, dry year

Stop 6 Camouflage

There are 25 pieces of wool of each colour.

The yellow colour on a wasp colour is a warning to predators that it can sting
Ladybirds are red to warn predators that they have a foul taste – they also secrete small amounts of yellow, foul smelling blood from their legs when they are disturbed

Stop 7 Oak food pyramid

An oak tree produces a wide range of food materials :

sap, leaves, buds, catkins, pollen, acorns and bark for animal CONSUMERS to eat.
e.g. moths, aphids, weevils, caterpillars, spiders, earwigs, ladybirds

Dead material is broken down by DECOMPOSERS

e.g. beetles, woodlice, millipedes,

Another example of a food chain would be

Oak leaves - Aphids - Ladybird - Robin - Sparrowhawk

Other plants also live on the oak tree – look for lichens and mosses

Stop 8 Sounds

What natural and human generated sounds can the children hear?

Stop 9 Ferns

Ferns are a group of plants that have no flowers or seeds but produce spores. If you look underneath their leaves you will see little round or kidney shaped structures which contain the spores. There are many different kinds of ferns in this country.

Stop 10 Woodpecker box and woodpecker tree

Woodpeckers climb using the sharp claws on their feet and their stiff tail for balance. There are 3 different types of woodpecker in this country. There are 180 species worldwide.

What food are the woodpeckers looking for? (wood boring insect larvae, mainly beetles). They get them out of the wood using their tongues which

Holes may be up to 10cm deep.

Woodpeckers will also eat eggs and whole young House Martins and Tits which they take from nests.

The drumming noise made by woodpeckers is made by rapid blows of the bill on a branch – about 20 blows per second - it can be heard up to 1km away and is used for marking out their territories, as well as locating and digging out insect larvae in the wood.

Why doesn't the woodpecker get a headache when it is hammering on the tree? It has a very thick skull and a cushioning of spongy bone around its brain – it also has a very small brain!

Stop 11 Cuckoo Spit

The froth is created to help protect the developing nymphs of froghoppers. The nymphs drink more plant sap than they need for growth and health. The undigested excess is then blown out of the back end, producing the froth. The froth hides them from predators.

The name "froghopper" comes from the appearance of the insect when viewed from above, which is quite frog-like. The similarity is enhanced by the insect's ability to jump incredible distances.

Stop 12 Unnature Trail

Look for numerous large and small man-made objects

Stop 13 Decay boxes

Leaves will break down first and add nutrients to the soil, then the newspaper and cardboard. Plastics will last for hundreds of years.

An average family buys about 400 plastic bottles every year and throws away more than 320 of them and recycles only about 80 of them.

What do you do with your plastic bottles?

Paper and cardboard

Recycling paper reduces pressure on natural resources and uses 30-70% less energy than producing paper from virgin materials. There should be a paper bank near you - make sure you deposit the right type of paper in the right recycling bank.

The energy saved when one aluminium can is recycled would power a television for three hours.

The energy savings are sufficient to power a 60W lightbulb for six hours but an energy saving light bulb (11W) for over 30 hours, for each plastic bottle recycled!

What are they recycled into?

The bottles that are taken to Recycling Centres for recycling are stored and sorted for delivery to various local outlets.

Each plastic has different properties which lends itself to different end products.

Milk bottles (HDPE)

Firstly, the bottles are washed and all labels are removed. The paper from the labels is eventually dried and this is then recycled into low grade cardboard for packaging.

The washed bottles are then chopped into small pieces and fed into the melting vessel. During the melting process, all the plastic is coloured black. This is done by mixing the plastic with the residues from recycled printer cartridges.

The black molten plastic then falls through a sieve and is rapidly cooled. The plastic has now taken to appearance of small black beads. Some of this material is bagged and sold on to other plastic factories, where it may be turned into such diverse items as plant pots, car parts and toys.

The remaining plastic beads are melted again and made into black drainage pipes used for land drains and highway drains.

Soft drinks bottles (PETE)

The PETE bottles are subject to the same initial process. However, the molten material is not coloured and is either formed into the beads, which may then be used for more bottles or it is made into very fine thread like material. This may eventually find its way into carpets and fleeces. It can also be spun into a very fine fibre with an appearance like candy floss. This is used as a filling for quilts or jackets, since it has very good insulation properties.

Stop 14 Wood Chimes

Get the children to bang the wood gently with the sticks on the ground to see what sounds the wood makes. Make sure the other children stand back!

Find a small piece of wood on the ground and use it to hit the chimes.

Stop 15 Rhododendron and holly

There should be many fewer holes in the rhododendron leaves than the holly. Rhododendron is a non-native species and few insects feed on it.

Stop 16 Bird Sounds

This area is nearer the road so a lot of the noise will be traffic. Overhead in the trees is a rookery so you may hear a lot of bird sound from this.

Stop 17 Food from trees

Squirrels and some birds, such as jays will eat beech masts. They are edible and we can eat them. Containing a high fat content, oil extracted from the masts was used for cooking and lighting in the past. Many birds feed on hawthorn berries in the autumn as well as mice and voles

Stop 18 Moss

There is a marker for East on the side of the tree facing the R.Torrige.

Where is North?

On this tree the moss is mainly on the west.

Moss grows better in moist shady areas which is why it is found on the west or north of trees.

Could you use this method to navigate your way out of a wood?

Stop 19 Dead tree in field

Stop 20 Lichens

Stop 21 Butterflies and Bees

Blackberries are an important source of food for birds and some animals in autumn

Stop 22 Tree nursery

Why do we need to plant trees? - old ones fall down when they are old or are blown down by the wind, new woodlands are planted to create new habitats

Stop 23 “Telescopes”

These are viewing tubes rather than magnifying telescopes- use to discuss what effect we have on the landscape in North Devon –e.g. is there anything natural? (the river Torrige, natural oak woodland on the steep slopes above the Torrige, the salt marsh on the banks of the Torrige)

The woodland remains as the land is too steep for farming.

The Torrige starts near Hartland, heads south east towards Hatherleigh and then turns back North, towards Bideford and the sea.

The sea is to your left.

The Iron Bridge used to be a railway bridge – now part of the Tarka Trail

Stop 24 Tree age

This tree is approximately 180 years old

Stop 25 Tree height

This is a very approximate way to estimate tree height, this one is roughly 65 metres tall