

KS1 Plant Hunt

Lower Nature Trail (Map no. 9)

30-45 minutes

Top tip:

Not all plants pictured will be growing at all times of year! Try looking for your own examples, too.

Accessibility:

- The Lower Nature Trail runs from just beyond the Village Green Stores to the Ranger Bridge (10). From here you can continue walking towards to the Greenwood Village (18) or the De Witt Kilns (21).
- There are 75-90 steps in total, depending on which way you go. You will need to cross the railway line twice: first at a marked gravel crossing point with gates on both sides, and a second time over a tall bridge.
- There is a composting toilet and handwash facility halfway around: please supervise children to use this correctly (instructions provided).
- The trail follows a dirt pathway, sometimes overlaid with mixed sizes of stone. This can be a little muddy and slippery when wet so please wear appropriate footwear. In very wet or windy conditions the trail is likely to be partially or totally closed. Please ask at the Office for up-to-date information.

Etiquette: We advise you adhere to the motto, 'no pick, no lick'. Why? Certain berries, mushrooms and leaves on the Nature Trail are poisonous (this is not unusual). Amberley Museum is also a Local Wildlife Site and a haven for many special plant species that like chalky soils and feed a variety of insects. Please help us to preserve this wild space by taking photographs only.

Environment: From the mid-1800s to 1960s, this site wasn't a museum at all: it was a busy chalk quarry carved into the side of the South Downs. Since the quarry closed, nature has grown back of its own accord and is now thriving. This new growth is called 'secondary woodland'. You will find dense and less dense tree cover, clearings and scrub along the route. It is also a peaceful space in which to enjoy nature connection and wellbeing activities.

Can you find a flower that...



...is green?

*(Twayblade
orchid)*

...has five
petals?

(Wild strawberry)



...grows in a group?

(Hawthorn)

...grows by itself?

(Violet)



Can you see any insects on the flowers?
What do you think they're looking for?

Can you find a leaf that...



...is hairy?

(Beech)



...is prickly?

(Holm oak)



...is multicoloured?

(Ivy)



...is curly?

(Hartstongue)

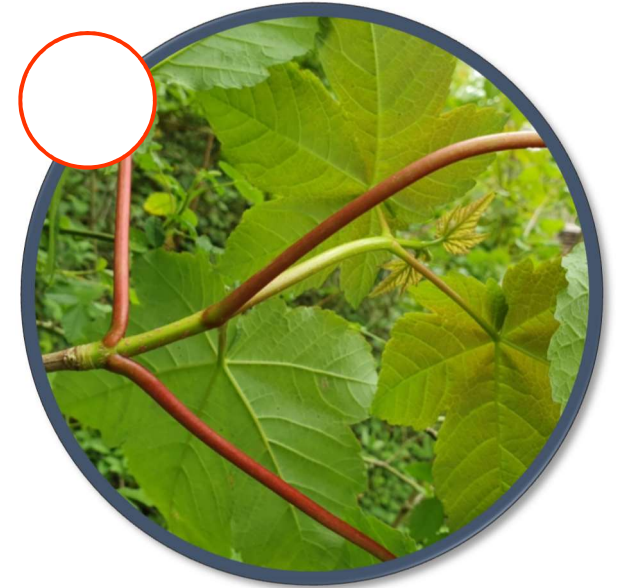
Veins transport water to the roots to the leaves: can you see where they go?

Can you find a stem that...



...is flat?

(Everlasting pea)



...is red?

(Sycamore)



...climbs?

(Ivy)



...has thorns?

(Hawthorn)

Stems don't have to be stiff to be strong: look out for flexible ones, too!



Can you find a root that...

...is mossy?

(Silver birch)



...has thick bark?



...is tangled up?

(Ivy)

...is strong
and straight?



Follow the roots:
can you see which tree they belong to?