

Are you HARDY enough?

Help the Grey Squirrel find the acorns!

1. **H**

2. **O**

3. **L**

4. **L**

5. **Y**

6. **B**

7. **L**

8. **U**

9. **E**

There is more life in dead wood than in living wood! It is estimated that 40% of woodland life depends on dead wood. Next time you spot a rotting log, have a look - it could be home to hundreds of mini beasts, fungi, lichens and mosses.

Have you spotted bundles of twigs at the end of branches? No, they're not bird nests but **Witches Brooms** caused by a fungus growing lots of shoots from a single point.

Rumoured to be home to **pixies and fairies**, Holly trees provide the leaves used in Christmas wreaths. Make sure you hang yours on the outside of your home - you don't want those naughty pixies and fairies getting inside and causing chaos!

Mini beasts and creatures without a backbone, called **invertebrates**, represent a whopping 98% of the world's living creatures. That leaves only 2% for all other animals like mammals, reptiles, fish and birds!

In Britain we have about **60 different butterflies**. Sound like a lot? Not really when you compare that to a mammoth **2000 species of moth!** Ever wondered what moths and butterflies have in common? Their wings are coated with tiny scales that give them their colouring.

Bracken and ferns are thought to be magical. They don't spread by seeds like most plants but by stems that creep underground. Witches use ferns to turn invisible, just like their hidden stems. Don't believe us? Well, have you ever seen a witch in the wood?

Bring me to life by joining the dots and colouring me in.

Find the leaves falling over the page to discover the name of this mini beast

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
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We'd love you to:

- Explore the landscape with your **eyes, ears, nose and hands**. Watch out for prickles!
- Hunt** for nature's diamonds and gold - feathers, pinecones, interestingly shaped sticks and fallen leaves are the woodland's hidden treasures.
- Ouch!** Don't pick plants, leaves and flowers - we all need them to grow and so does the wildlife!
- Shhh!** Our wildlife might be sleeping or hiding. This is **their home** so watch your step and choose your path carefully.
- Show the woodland wildlife that you love where they live by **taking your litter home**.

We hope you've enjoyed your adventure in Hardy's landscape. We would love to hear about your favourite spots and wildlife finds.

Why not drop by the Visitor Centre and share your favourite moments with the team?

Dorset County Council and the National Trust.

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There was my playground when I was a child

Follow in his footsteps and have some fun in the landscape. We've chosen some of our favourite things to do in the wood and on the heath. Use your **imagination** to make the countryside into a playground.

Imagine if you were lucky outside your door, just as Thomas Hardy did as a young boy.



Discovery Trail

Discover Hardy's Landscape

A world ready for adventure is waiting for you. Go on a scavenger hunt and try to find the objects we've listed on the leaves.

1. Time to explore

Deer and stags are very shy, and even with their large antlers, they can move through the wood without being seen or heard. Why not climb the path, collect some sticks to use as antlers, and play hide and seek in the wood? Are you as good at being undetected as the deer are?

2. Roman Road

Coastal Redwoods and Douglas Firs line the Roman Road like Centurions. These giants of the woodland create pinecones that hold the pollen and seeds of the tree. Each species has its own pinecone. How many types can you find? Why don't you use the cones to create a critter? Leaves can be turned into wings or tails, and twigs make great pins to hold your little creature together.

7. Time for trees

Discover the trees with your senses! Blindfold a member of your troop, spin them around and count to 5. Now lead them to a tree and ask them to say what they can feel, hear and smell and then lead them away. With their blindfold off get them to find their tree! Will they get it right?

3. Hazel coppice

As you head to the coppice look out for fallen timber and logs. Lots of mini beasts make them into their homes. Delve in deep to discover what is living in all the nooks and crannies. Deadwood is very important to the woodland, so while it's fun to look at there are animals living there, make sure you don't disturb them. The next explorer will want to take a look too!

6. Hardy's Cottage

When you're on an adventure sometimes it's hard to remember everything you discovered when you get home. Hardy had the answer! He would write his ideas down on a dead leaf or a piece of bark. Try it yourself using nature's own pen and paper. What will you write on and what will you write with?

5. Black Heath and Rushy Pond

It's time to slow down, sit back and take a minute or two to relax and be quiet. Although you can't always see it, wildlife can be very noisy! Lots of animals have big ears to help them listen, so make your ears bigger by cupping them with your hands. What can you hear? Can you whistle or hum along with your favourite bird song?

4. Swallet holes

Watch out! Don't fall in! These great big dents in the ground are swallet holes formed when the chalk in the soil gets washed away by rain, and the ground sinks. Smugglers used swallet holes as hiding places for themselves and their treasure. Imagine you're a smuggler. Play hide and seek, or explore these magical caverns to see what you can find.

'To dwellers in a wood, almost every species of tree has its voice'

'a long low cottage with a pitched roof of thatch'

'the holly whistles as it battles with itself'

'the subtle beauties of the heath'

'the beech rustles while its flat boughs rise and fall'

'the tangled bine-stems scored the sky'

something soft

something spiky

your favourite find

a feather

a seed

a sun trap

animal tracks

'the fir trees sob and moan'