

WILD WOODS!

Badgers by Night

Badgers live in family groups in burrows known as 'setts'; some setts may be several hundred years old!

Badgers are mainly nocturnal, leaving their setts to forage for food at dusk and returning before dawn. The bulk of the badger's diet consists of earthworms. A badger may eat up to 200 worms per day! They also eat hedgehogs!!



Did you know? ...An old local word for a badger is... 'brock'. At Little Ropers Woodland Camping you can camp among bluebells and maybe find a 'sett' or even spot a Badger! www.littleroperswoodlandcamping.co.uk To find out more about badgers in this area contact Essex or Suffolk Wildlife Trusts www.essexwt.org.uk or www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org



Beautiful Bluebells

Unlike the imported Spanish bluebell, our native bluebells tend to be dark blue-violet in colour, with the flowers on one side of the stem, causing it to droop or 'nod'.

In Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale, the bluebells form carpets of blue under the trees and you can smell their sweet scent.

Did you know? Bluebells are also known as 'fairy flowers' and it was said that the ringing bells summoned the fairies who enchanted those that wandered unwittingly into their ring.



Tasty garlic!

Wild garlic or Ramsons is found in wetter woodland in the Stour Valley, often in similar places to bluebells.

Look out for clusters of spiky white flowers in spring, then breathe in and you will catch the distinctive garlic smell.



Recipe Tip! Try adding the young leaves to a salad or you can even make wild garlic mayonnaise or wild garlic bread! Make sure to wash them thoroughly first.



STOUR VALLEY Discovery Fact Sheet



WILDLIFE

EXPLORE the WILDLIFE of the Stour Valley

The Stour River Valley is home to many fascinating plants and animals. You can learn how to recognise them and help them to survive.

FIGHTING BEETLES!

The Greater Stag Beetle is the largest (35-75 cms) and one of the fiercest looking insects in Britain.

BLACK POPLAR - the leaning tree

Found by rivers or ponds, the black poplar is Britain's most endangered native timber tree.

There is a project in the Stour Valley to grow new Black Poplar trees by breaking off a 'cutting' and planting it in a damp area. Its wood was used for making planks and floorboards; a cart called a Haywain in Constable's famous painting was probably made from this tree.

Learn more about trees by joining the Dedham Vale Youth Rangers (for ages 13-18) www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/get-involved/dedham-vale-youth-rangers/ or by going to a family or community open day at Daws Hall www.dawshallnature.co.uk



Search in log piles and tree stumps for stag beetles from May to August. If you come across a smaller one it could be the Lesser Stag Beetle! The difference besides size is that it is black all over whereas the Greater has maroon or brown wing cases. Report your sightings to Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service www.suffolkbis.org.uk or Essex Wildlife Trust www.essexwt.org.uk



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