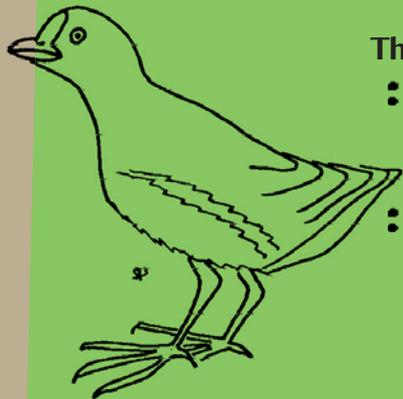


## Look out for different birds

Many of Belton's birds are very shy, so it's best to let them come to you. One of the best places to see birds in the gardens is near the lake, but do remember to stay on the paths.

Even if you don't see the birds you may be able to hear them.



### The golden rules for bird watching are:

-  Listen! Be as quiet as you can so that you can listen to the birds singing.
-  Freeze! Be as still as possible while you watch.

## Explore a tree

The Brownlow family started to plant trees here in the 1690s. This means that some of the trees are over 300 years old and as old as Belton House. Over the centuries each member of the family replaced or planted more trees.

-  Find a comfortable spot under a big tree, lie down underneath the canopy and look up at the tree.
-  Can you see any animals, birds and insects or signs that they have been there?
-  Look at the leaves - do they tell you what type of tree it is?
-  Look around the bottom of the tree. Can you see any animal droppings or homes?
-  Examine the bark looking for signs of animal life like spider cocoons or wedged nuts and seeds
-  What words can you use to describe it? Think about how it feels, looks, sounds and smells.

## How tall is it?

-  One way to measure a tree is to turn your back on the tree and walk away.
-  Every now and then stop, bend over and look at the tree between your legs.
-  Keep walking until you can see the top of the tree between your legs.
-  The distance between you and the tree should equal the height of the tree.
-  How many paces does it take for you to walk back to the tree?

If you have a calculator on your mobile phone you can also find out how old it is.

Measure the girth (how fat it is) in cms about 1.5m from the ground.  
For most trees you can use this simple formula:  $\text{Age} = (\text{Girth} \times 4) \div 10$   
For oak trees:  $\text{Age} = \text{girth} \div 1.88$   
For pine trees:  $\text{Age} = \text{girth} \div 3.13$

## Go on a sound walk

As you walk around stop every now and then to listen carefully. Try out some of the games below.

### Sounding out

-  Listen for the number of sounds you can hear.
-  Hold up one fist. Every time you hear a sound, raise a finger.
-  Afterwards recall the sounds you heard.

### Sound map

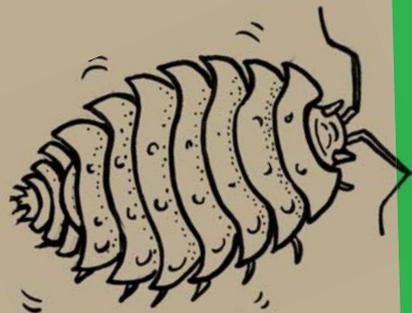
-  Hand out paper and pencil/crayons to each member of the group.
-  Ask them to sit quietly for about 10 minutes, without talking!
-  While they are listening they might want to draw or write about what they see and hear.

## Hunt for Bugs

Mini-beasts come in many different shapes and sizes, some live on and in the ground, some on branches and leaves.

When looking for mini-beasts please remember:

-  Always handle them with care.
-  Always put them back where you found them.



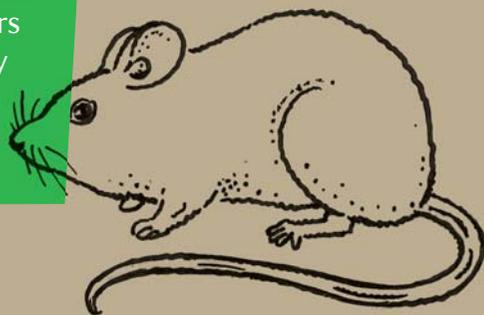
Look through the leaves on the ground or turn over some logs or stones in a wooded area. Be ready to look quickly to see which creatures scuttle away.

Always put stones or logs back exactly where they were.

## Make a Home

All woodland creatures need somewhere to live that needs to be warm, safe and comfortable. Find a small and interesting part of the pleasure gardens and, in small groups, build homes for the following creatures: a ground beetle, a butterfly, a robin and a wood mouse.

Once they have built their homes ask each group to tell the others how they built them, what they used and what special features they have included.



# Belton House

## Woodland Habitats

The Pleasure Garden at Belton House is full of deciduous and evergreen trees. This garden is home to lots of different birds, animals and plants.

-  Don't climb on any walls- they could be damaged.
-  Stay on the paths and be aware of uneven ground and sloping areas.
-  Don't step on the raised beds.
-  Don't approach any of the animals or birds - this is their home and you might frighten them.
-  Please don't pick the flowers.
-  Please don't climb on any of the trees.
-  Be aware of ponds, lakes and streams.

