

Information for Lead Adult

Around Arnhall Moss are 8 interpretive posts which have metal plate fitted with the species below. Information is provided below for the adult supporting the group followed by possible activity sheets for you to use.

1. Blaeberry

In Europe, Blaeberries are an important plant in both coniferous and deciduous forests, and it is found in greatest abundance in the northern and western parts of the continent. In southern Europe, it only occurs on mountains. In Britain there are a number of common names, including Blaeberry, Bilberry, Whortleberry and Whinberry. In Scotland, Blaeberries grow throughout the country, but it is most abundant in the Highlands, particularly in the north and west. It occurs in heathland, moorland and woodland, and grows at elevations from sea level up to 1,250 metres. Blaeberries are more intensely flavoured than other berries and they are very soft and juicy making them difficult to transport.

2. Ladybird

Ladybirds can be found living in different habitats. Around the world there are about 5000 species, however in the U.K. there are over 40 species. Farmers love ladybirds as they eat insects and aphids from their crops - a natural insect repellent. Ladybirds are beetles and the larvae stage are quite similar with 3 pairs of legs and a mainly black or dark grey body, with some bright colouring. Over winter, adult ladybirds' shelter in groups, some groups can be quite big. In spring, they emerge and move away from the group to mate and lay eggs.

3. Chaffinch

Chaffinches are one of the most widespread and abundant birds in the U.K and can be seen all year round. The male has bright red colouring and the female is duller browns. The chaffinch has a distinctive white marking on its wings and tail that you can see when they fly. Chaffinches can be seen all year round. They eat a mixed diet of insects and seeds.

4. Roe Deer

A roe deer which is native to the British Isles is small and their coat changes colour from reddish brown in summer to grey in winter. It looks like it has no tail but does have a distinctive white rump patch which can be more obvious when it is alarmed. Roe deer are widespread across Scotland and also live in other parts of the U.K. They are normally found in woodland, particularly round the edges. They live on their own or in smaller groups. During the mating seasons, the males become quite aggressive in defending their territories. Males can be identified by very small antlers.

5. Bat

There are about 20 different species of bats in the U.K. The most common species in Arnhall Moss is the Pipistrelle both Common and Soprano which is a very small bat. Daubenton and Brown Long Eared bats have also been detected in the Moss. All bats in the U.K. eat insects and are particularly fond on midges. Bats use echolocation to track and find prey. They produce an ultrasonic noise which is reflected back from any object it hits. Different species of bats produce different frequencies of ultrasonic emissions. Bats hibernate in winter making themselves into a state which preserves as much energy as possible, they reduce their heart rates to as little as 4 beats per minute. During active months, bats heart rates can reach up to 1000 beats per minute.

6. Pond Skater

Pond skaters are insects which can be seen skating across ponds or slow running water. They have thin bodies, small heads, large eyes and long legs. Their legs work to move them across the surface of water. The middle legs use a rowing action to propel the pond skater across the pond with the back legs acting as rudders. The front legs catch any small insects in the way to eat. Pond skaters are very agile and can move quickly to avoid predators. They are good flyers and in winter fly away from the ponds to hibernate.

7. Birch Polypore

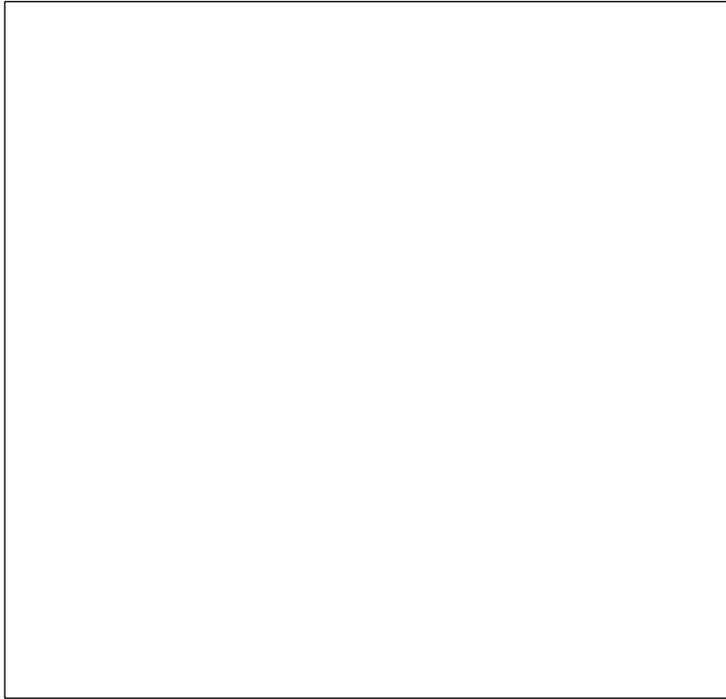
Birch polypore is a horse hoof shaped fungus which grows on dead birch trees. It is evident all year round. It has a milky coffee colour on top with white pores underneath. This common white bracket fungus has many uses and has been used by humans for thousands of years. It has a lot of medicinal properties and can also be used as a tinder for fire lighting.

8. Birch tree

Birch trees are the most abundant native trees in Scottish woodland. Birch trees have a silvery bark with green leaves which turn yellow in autumn. Birch trees are an important part of the Caledonian forest. Birch fruits male and female flowers on the same tree, male catkins are long and yellow/brown in colour, female catkins are green in colour. Birch trees have a light and open canopy which is ideal for grasses, mosses and flowers to grow under. The Birch tree provides food for insects such as ladybirds and caterpillars. Birch bark can be used as a tinder and the sap as a drink.

Who am I?

I have roots, lose my leaves in winter and have silvery bark.



Who am I?

I am a fungus and some people think I look like the shape of a horse hoof



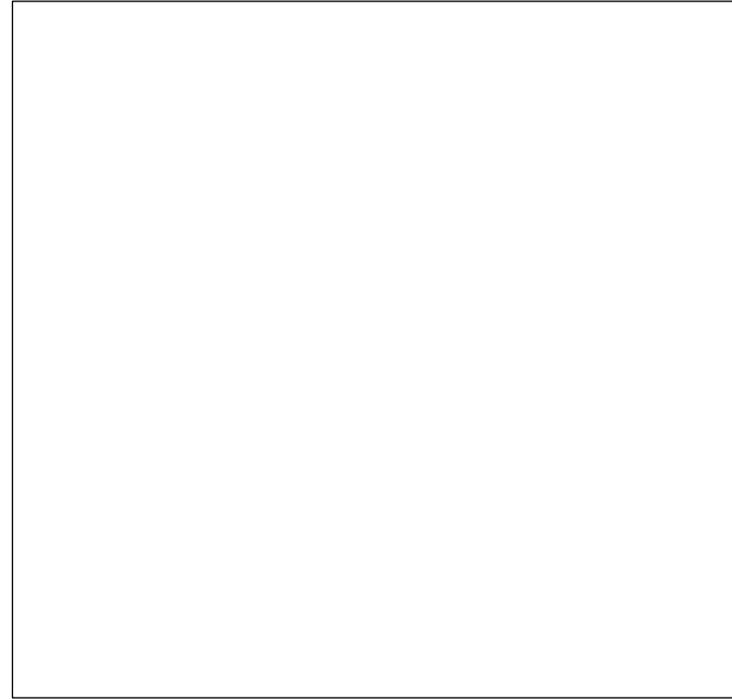
Who am I?

I love to skate round the surface of a pond and have 6 legs.



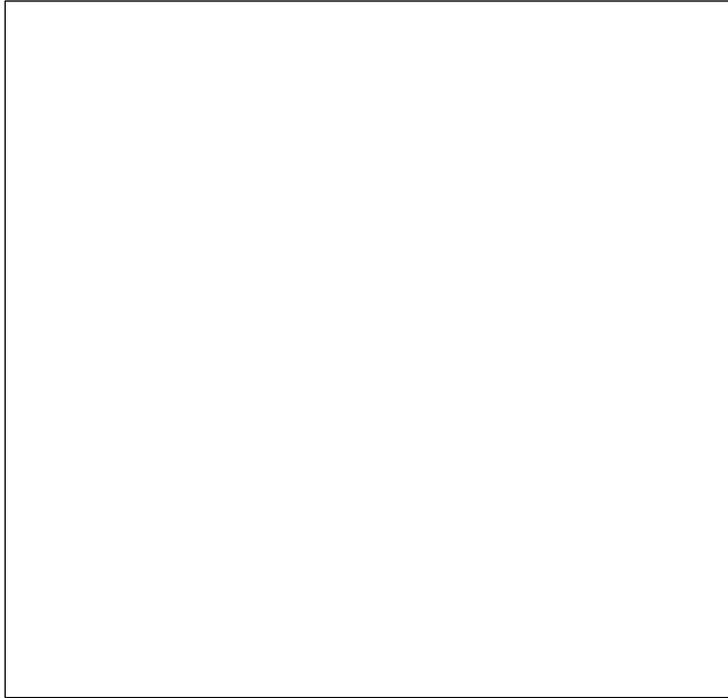
Who am I?

I like to fly around as it gets dark and eat small insects like midges.



Who am I?

I have 4 legs, am very shy and my coat changes from reddish brown to grey in winter.



Who am I?

I have feathers and fly.



Who am I?

I am an insect and have spots.



Who am I?

I am small and round and good to eat.

