



Man made features in woodlands



For Teachers

Age: All

Minimum time needed: This activity is best suited to a visit to a local woodland.

Curriculum links

History KS1&2

- Local history studies/significant historical people and places in their own locality.

History KS1

- Understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past.

Find out how we can spot evidence of local history in woodlands.



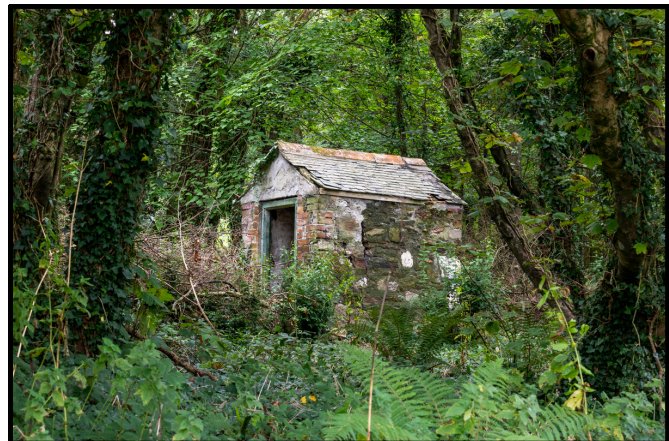
Get Ready

You will need:

- Spotter sheet
- Pencils
- Clipboards

Optional:

Cameras or Ipads to take photos of the features you find.



An abandoned woodland store



Get Set

Share the spotter sheets and discuss some of the things to look out for on your walk.

This lesson is a good opportunity to ask children to risk assess their own visit to the woodland.

- Should they go in abandoned buildings?
- Why not?
- Is it safe to touch abandoned machinery?
- What hazards might there be in the undergrowth?

Explain:

Explain to the pupils that you can often find evidence of how woodlands were managed or used in the past and the present day.

This may be physical landscape features, old buildings or remnants of industrial machinery.



Hedge laying - an ancient form of livestock control still used today.



Hundreds of single species plantations were created after WW1 for more timber.



Non native tree species such as Redwoods were introduced by plant hunters.



Rhododendrons were introduced in the 18th Century and can spread tree diseases.



Pollarded trees allow a renewable source of timber to grow back at a height where can't be eaten by animals.



Coppiced trees are cut back to the ground every few years. A renewable harvesting technique in use for over 2,000 years.

What other man made features did you see?



Abandoned buildings



Evidence of industry



Abandoned quarries



Burial Mounds



Ancient tracks



Former railway lines

What other man made features did you see?