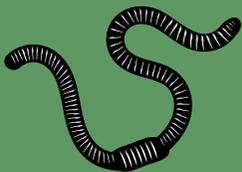


7



Earthworms

Worms are important for gardens, they help to keep the soil full of air. They make tunnels as they move through it. Air helps the soil sustain life.

Worms eat their own weight in soil every day. To be able to breathe properly, worms have to make sure they stay moist at all times. When it rains there are always lots at the surface. When it's very dry worms bury deep down into the depths of the soil.

It's very important worms keep the soil healthy so that all the plants grown in it can thrive and grow.

8



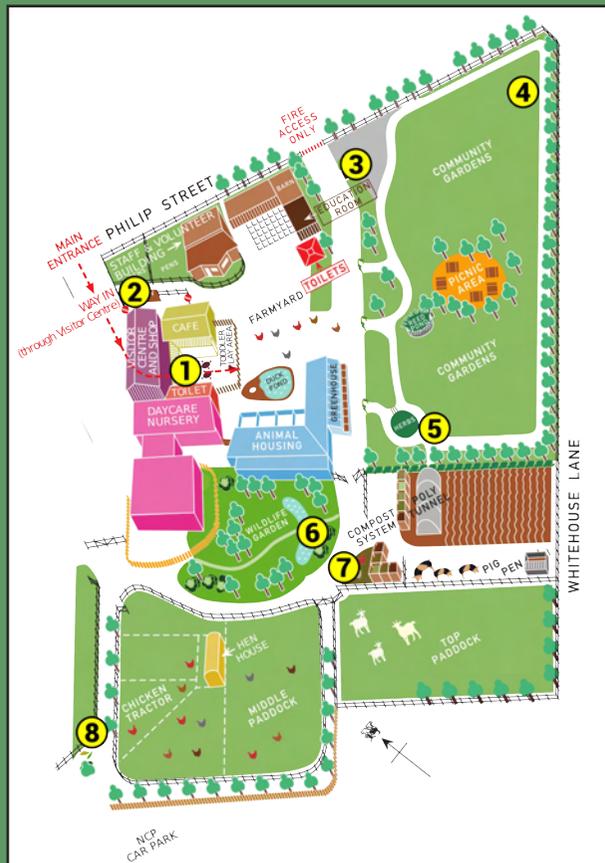
Bumblebees

There are 24 different species of bumblebees in the UK. Bumblebees can be distinguished from their cousins, the honey bees, by sight they are much larger and hairier.

On an early spring day bumblebees can be seen foraging for nectar. Gardeners can help their bee friends by making sure there is something flowering for as much of the year as possible.

Bumblebees have quite small nests and do not store much honey. They need to forage for pollen most of the year.

Bumblebees have smelly feet, the stink left behind tells other Bumblebees that a flower has recently been fed upon. This tells them their time would be better spent with a different more pollen filled flower.



Contact Us

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The National Lottery
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The Garden Friends Trail

On our 'garden friends' trail you will meet eight different species that are friends of the gardener. All of them help to keep the garden healthy and pest free.

Please be a gardeners' friend as you explore the trail.

Please leave any fruit or vegetables you find.

Please stay on the paths.

Please talk to the animals.

Enjoy your time here at the farm.

See if you can find all the animals on the trail, take a rubbing from the brass plaque of each animal as you find them.

1

Sparrows



Sparrows are wonderful for gardeners as their chicks eat aphids and other sap sucking insects. Sparrow adults are mainly seed eaters.

Sparrows have had a challenge to find suitable places to live over the past few years. One of the main reasons for their decline is likely to be lack of habitat, particularly in towns and cities.

They like to live in large numbers in hedges and thick foliage. This is why places such as city farms and parks are great for them. Sparrows have been fond of Windmill Hill City farm and like nesting in the roof around the cafe.

2

Ladybirds



Ladybirds are a great friend of the gardener because they like to eat aphids. Aphids are tiny insects that suck the sap out of plants and cause moulds to grow on the leaves.

The ladybirds come along, both as their larval form and as grown up ladybirds, and can eat up to 5,000 aphids each during their lifetime.

Ladybirds like to lay their eggs on nettles. It's always a good idea to leave a small patch of nettles in your garden for them to use as a maternity unit.

3

The Butterfly



Butterflies help plants to pollinate themselves, and to reproduce.

They drink nectar from the flowers and transfer the pollen on their bodies as they move from flower to flower.

Butterfly babies are caterpillars and although some of them are seen as pests, many caterpillars actually live on weeds. Painted Lady caterpillars love to live on nettles, another reason to keep a patch in your garden.

Creating a garden with plants such as buddleia (as we have here at the farm), will invite them into your garden and make it that little bit extra beautiful.

4

Centipedes



Centipedes are hunters and carnivores. While they are wriggling around in the soil they eat lots of insects that might be eating the roots of the plants that are in the soil.

Instead of eating the soil like worms do, they wriggle through it using all their legs.

Centipedes are also one of the favourite foods of baby birds, like Robins, who need live insects to eat when they are first born. If you have centipedes in the garden they will attract birds, which helps make the garden a very healthy habitat.

5

The Hoverfly



Hoverflies are important, like ladybirds; aphids are part of their diet and so they help in the fight against blackfly, greenfly and also red spider mite which affect greenhouse plants.

Hoverflies also are important pollinators and they need both nectar and pollen for their own eggs to ripen. They take pollen from one plant to the next and this means that the plants are pollinated and can produce seed so that they can reproduce themselves.

Hoverflies can fly at up to 40km per hour-very fast for a little insect!

6

Frogs



All gardeners love to see a frog or two in their gardens and it's not necessary to have a pond to have frogs. They will very happily live in a moist shaded site under logs and will only need to find water to spawn. The pond here at the farm has loads of frogs visiting.

The reason gardeners love frogs is that frogs eat slugs, those slimy creatures that love nothing better than to eat the fresh shoots of prized delphiniums or newly emerging lettuce.

With this in mind it's definitely worthwhile making them an area to live in by leaving a few rotting logs in a shady corner and just adding a log or two per year to replace any that have rotted away.