

# The Watercress Way Childrens Trail

***A ladybird is not just for Christmas!!***



**Hunt the ladybird lodges located in clusters along the Watercress Way!**

- Each **lodge** has a picture of the one of most common types of ladybirds. **13 lodges** have been built to hunt by **Christmas 2020**, part of 27 by 2021.
- They are all within 0.5-1 mile from a carpark (map page 2.). They are grouped in clusters.
- **You need** a smart phone with the free app 'What3words' plus the Woodland Trust identification chart below [Ladybird identification for kids – Nature Detectives \(treetoolsforschools.org.uk\)](http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk)
- **Your task:** Decide which **habitat** each ladybird likes best along the Watercress Way. (Table page2.)
- Check your answers, & get your Watercress Way **certificate**: [competitionwatercressway@gmail.com](mailto:competitionwatercressway@gmail.com)
- **Extra:** send us a **photo** of your ladybird hunt, or of a page from a **nature journal**, or a **drawing, story or poem** of a ladybird for our website -don't forget to tell us your first name and age!

There are 46 species of ladybirds in the UK. Only 27 look like ladybirds, the same number as the length of our trail in miles!

Some (**specialists**) like specific places to live (**habitats**), some live anywhere (**generalists**).



**7-spot ladybird**

The most common British ladybird loves munching on aphids. It's one of the largest too - measuring 6-8mm long!



**2-spot ladybird**

Look for this small ladybird in towns and cities. It's usually red with two black spots, but can be black with four or six red patches.



**Water ladybird**

Look for these ladybirds next time you're by a pond or river – they like to eat the aphids that live on rushes. And they can change colour – in autumn, they turn from red to yellowy-brown.



**Adonis' ladybird**

Living on wasteland, this ladybird loves warm areas where there's lots of sand and gravel. It has six spots towards the bottom of its wing cases, and black legs that turn brown at the ends.



**10-spot ladybird**

You'll find 10-spots in trees, so keep your eyes peeled for their pale legs and tummies. They also have a lot of white on their pronotum (the bit between their head and wing cases), and sometimes only have 2 spots.



**Kidney-spot ladybird**

You're most likely to find these ladybirds on trees, where they prey on scale insects (limpet-like insects that suck sap from plants). These ladybird's wing cases flare out at the bottom, making them look a bit like a tortoise!



**Cream-spot ladybird**

This chestnut-brown ladybird eats aphids and lives on ash trees, hemlock and cow parsley. It's similar to the 18-spot, but lacks the star-shaped marking on its scutellum (a shield-like part on the front of its wing cases).



**Eyed ladybird**

At 8-9mm long, this is the largest British ladybird. You'll only find it on pine trees as it eats pine aphids. It's named after the yellow marks round its spots, though you can't always see them.



**Larch ladybird**

You'll find this ladybird on larch trees, as well as other conifers. It usually has stripes down the middle of its wing cases, but not always, and some individuals have between 2 and 6 spots.



**Orange ladybird**

This ladybird's favourite food is mildew, and it makes its home on different kinds of trees - especially conifers and sycamores. These ladybirds sometimes spend winter as pupae.



**22-spot ladybird**

This ladybird is bright yellow and always has 22 spots, though they can be different sizes and sometimes join up. It loves to munch mildew on the soil and on low-growing plants.



**24-spot ladybird**

Though the number of spots can vary, this hairy ladybird always has a red pronotum (the bit between its head and wing cases). It's vegetarian, and eats grass and some weeds.



## Harlequins

Introduced 2004 to control pests but escaped! Often very bright with orange legs & bigger than our

atives.

Harlequin ladybird (non-native species)  
*Harmonia axyridis*



Length: 6 – 8mm

**?** What is a ladybird?

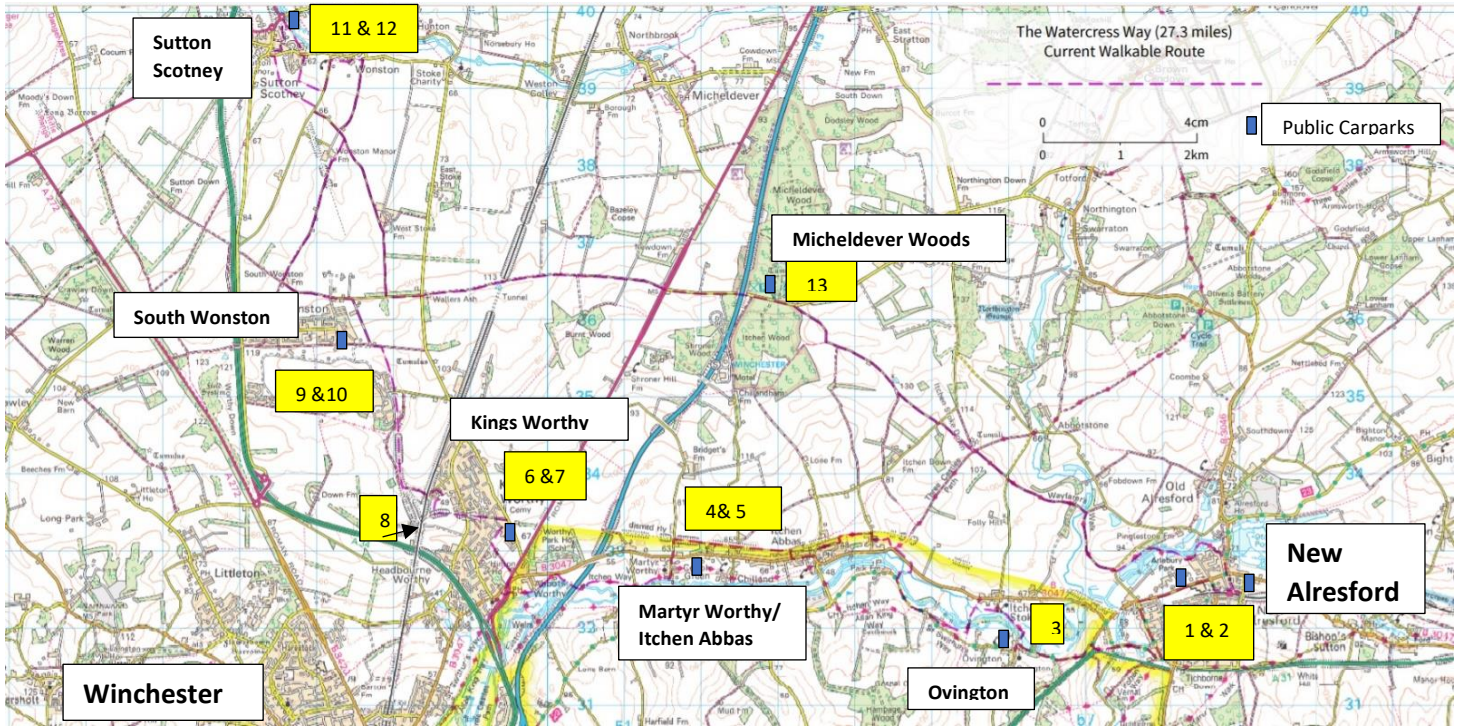
Why are they called ladybirds?

Why are they a gardener's best friend?

Why won't you see ladybirds at Christmas?

How long do ladybirds live?





Map adapted from The O.S.

Location Public Car Parks ■	WHAT3WORDS for a Grid Reference convert the words on <a href="#">Grid Reference Finder</a>	Description of location along Watercress Way (WW) All are on waymarked trail unless stated. DNSR = Didcot-Newbury-Southampton Railway	NAME OF THE LADYBIRD SPECIES
<b>Alresford Station SO24 9JQ</b> Arlebury Recreation ground SO249EP	1. <b>reclaim.rewarding.cakewalk</b>	St Johns Churchyard, Alresford, just east of WW	
<b>Ovington Bush pub SO24 ORE</b>	2. <b>rats.chatting.cubic</b>	Arlebury Recreation Ground wilded area by skateboard Park, just south of WW IN PARK	
<b>Martyr Worthy King George V Recreation Ground SO211EA</b>	3. <b>drop.awoke.expect</b>	Bush pub garden, near entrance to pub by the interpretation board by River Itchen	
<b>Kings Worthy Eversley Recreation Ground SO23 7TF</b> <i>NB Woodhams Farm is private road, access No 8 from old railway only</i>	4. <b>sifts.matter.proved</b>	Martyr Worthy Watercress Line track bed bench & interpretation board,	
	5. <b>delays.unheated.rehearsal</b>	Itchen Abbas Watercress Line track bed Martyr Worthy, Bridget's Lane end, near ramp.	
	6. <b>lamp.fattening.stables</b>	Eversley Recreation ground, at Hinton Lane	
<b>South Wonston Recreation Ground SO2113HP</b>	7. <b>delighted.shutting.pouch</b>	Kings Worthy Watercress Line infilled cutting, Broadview, Wesley Rd, south of Mosaic	
	8. <b>prude.handbag.booms</b>	DNSR track bed, northside Woodhams Farm bridge	
<b>Sutton Scotney Gratton Recreation Ground SO213LG</b>	9. <b>degree.harder.increases</b>	DNSR track bed south of Worthy Down Halt	
	10. <b>directly.paddocks.rewriting</b>	DNSR track bed ramp/ Oxdrove opposite interpretation board	
<b>Micheldever Woods Main Rd SO24 9TZ</b>	11. <b>negotiators.offstage.generally</b>	DNSR track bed outside railway bridge, Station Drive	
	12. <b>contoured.kept.novels</b>	DNSR, along River Dever bank near zipwire	
	13. <b>passages.blink.trip</b> <i>NB poor mobile reception. Satnav may suggest M3 services!</i>	Just off the WW section along the Oxdrove: <b>Forestry England carpark</b> in treeline just north of interpretation boards	

**Make your own ladybird lodge?** [How to make a bug hotel: a ladybird lodge | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)

For more serious nature detectives, be part of a bigger survey: [UK Ladybird Survey | UK Beetle Recording \(coleoptera.org.uk\)](#) and for more fold out sheets, courses and even holidays on wildlife: [Wildlife Shop – Field Studies Council \(field-studies-council.org\)](#)



**Adults: Please consider a donation to use this trail- every little helps!**

Perhaps become a **Friend of The Watercress Way** for updates on the charity's progress, and for information on the trail, shorter walks, history, ecology, special events, how to volunteer and sponsor us see: [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk)

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Registered Charity No: 1167675