



# The Watercress Way Childrens Trail

*A ladybird is not just for Christmas!!*



## Do you know the answers to these questions?

Where did ladybirds get their name from? Why won't you see ladybirds at Christmas? Why are ladybirds called The Gardeners Friend? How long do they live?

## An outdoor quiz/treasure trail

The answers to these questions will be found by the latest online quiz which can be downloaded from The Watercress Way's website and completed by anyone in their own time out in our beautiful countryside just NE of Winchester.

The trustees have devised a trail especially for families around the 27 miles of The Watercress Way starting in time for Christmas holidays. Initially, 13 ladybird lodges are to be hunted down at Christmas. 27 will eventually be installed, to reflect the length of the trail and the number of common native UK ladybird species plus the invasive brightly coloured Harlequin.

The lodges were inspired by The Natural History Museum's template and will carry on as a lasting project. They will be tucked away discreetly in the undergrowth next to the old railway track beds, next to sparkling chalk rivers, in some of the housing estates and recreation parks along the Way. Groups of lodges will be sited within an easy walk from a carpark or bus stop, and most will be suitable for buggies and disabled vehicles.

## The serious part

The trustees hope to raise awareness of the Watercress Way's **ecological diversity**, so the ladybird species to be found at each lodge are characteristic of that habitat. The lodges are made from recycled materials: old tiles, and fallen fir cones, twigs and leaves

Perhaps people will be inspired to make their own for their garden! A happy but useful **conservation project** for the winter holidays, even if the lodges may not get new residents until next autumn.

## Hence the strapline: A ladybird is not just for Christmas!

To find out where they are, download the pdf of sites and identification chart from the website. A small donation online would help the charity's projects for 2021, which include improving disabled access to the old Watercress Line at Martyr Worthy.

The charity is delighted at the support shown by all the landowners contacted including HCC, The Forestry Commission, Gratton Trust, Kings Worthy PC and Alresford TC, The Watercress Line and The Bush pub. A big thanks to other organisations and many individuals helping source the materials for the ladybird lodges including Winchester Magazine and Hilliers Arboretum

- Perhaps make your own ladybird house in your garden: [How to make a bug hotel: a ladybird lodge | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/learn/primary-school/1-6/animals/invertebrates/ladybirds/how-to-make-a-bug-hotel-a-ladybird-lodge)
- An identification chart chart The Wildlife Trust. [Ladybird identification for kids – Nature Detectives \(treetoolsforschools.org.uk\)](https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/)
- For more details see [UK Ladybird Survey | UK Beetle Recording \(coleoptera.org.uk\)](https://www.coleoptera.org.uk/)



Do sign up to become a **Friend of The Watercress Way** to receive updates on the charity's progress. For more information on the trail, shorter walks, history, ecology, special events, how to volunteer, sponsor us: [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk) Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter