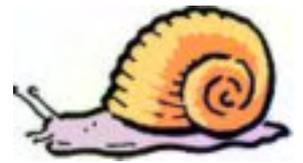




Minibeast Trail



How many of these minibeasts can you spot at Wildwood?



Butterfly

Hint: This is buddleia. It is sometimes called the butterfly bush because they like it so much. See if you can see any of its purple flowers near the shop.



Chewed leaves



Caterpillar

Even if you can't see any caterpillars, keep a look out for leaves that they have been nibbling on.



Damselfly

Is it a dragonfly or a damselfly? Damselflies rest with their wings folded down by their sides. Dragonflies rest with their wings sticking out.



Dragonfly

Hint: Keep a lookout near all our ponds - dragonflies are often found resting or hunting near water.



Honey bee

Honey bees are social bees that live together in hives and make honey. They look smooth. Bumblebees are larger and fuzzier. They live in small colonies, often in underground burrows. They don't make honey but you will still see them buzzing around flowers looking for nectar to sip. All kinds of bees spread pollen from one flower to another.



Bumblebee



Wood ant

Wood ants build huge nests. Look out for these beside the paths as you walk around.

You may also see the ants following their trails around the woods as they look for food.



Wood ant nest



Fly

Did you know that the weather on the day of your visit may affect which minibeasts you see?

If you visit on a warm sunny day, you may see wasps and flies buzzing around, especially if you are eating a picnic!

If the day is wet, you may see slugs and snails slithering about.



Slug

Lots of minibeasts only fly when the weather is dry. Water can damage their wings.

Slugs and snails can move more easily on wet surfaces.



Wasp



Snail



Spider



Even if you can't see a spider, look out for their webs on twigs, log piles and in corners of buildings.

7-spot ladybirds are the most commonly seen ones in Britain.

Harlequin ladybirds are increasingly common foreign visitors. They have been seen at Wildwood.



7-spot ladybird



Harlequin ladybird