



THE  
ROYAL  
PARKS

# LADYBIRD TRAIL

**L** 15 – 30  
minutes With sculptures to  
play on along the way.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Italian Gardens water planting
- 2 Spangled water beetle sculpture
- 3 Detritivore sculpture
- 4 Pollinator lawn
- 5 Pollinator bench
- 6 Wildflower meadow
- 7 Loggery
- 8 Centipede balance beam
- 9 Fruit trees



# A short trail for little legs, discovering marvellous minibeasts and their habitats.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



### 1. Italian Gardens water planting

Dragonflies and damselflies rest on aquatic plants, and lay their eggs in the water. When in flower, the plants encourage pollinating insects, which dragonflies and damselflies like to eat, catching them on the wing.



### 2. Spangled water beetle sculpture

Spangled water beetles are one of the rarest invertebrates in the UK. During a 2017 survey they were discovered in the Long Water. The small beetle is about 1.5cm long, 50 times smaller than this sculpture.



### 3. Detritivore sculpture

This sculpture includes a hister beetle, longhorn beetle, stag beetle and many woodlice. Detritivores recycle deadwood, leaves and organic matter, eating it and returning nutrients into the soil to help plants grow.



### 4. Pollinator lawn

Short grass is great to walk, play and picnic on, but it does not have many flowers for pollinators. We have sown low-growing wildflowers in this flowering lawn like common cat's ear, bird's-foot trefoil and lady's bedstraw to help insects like bees, butterflies and hoverflies.



### 5. Pollinator bench

This bench is carved with different species of bees and the plants they feed on. There are 270 different bee species in the UK, including bumblebees, mason bees and mining bees. Honeybees are a domesticated species, rather like cows or sheep.



### 6. Wildflower meadow

Wildflowers provide food for pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles and flies. This meadow contains wildflowers that produce nectar and pollen from spring to autumn. In winter tall grass and flowerheads are left to provide shelter for invertebrates and food for birds.



### 7. Loggery

Cracks and holes in deadwood are perfect for woodlice, centipedes, spiders and slugs to hide from predators who might eat them, like birds. They are also excellent hunting grounds for smaller invertebrate predators.



### 8. Centipede balance beam

Centipedes and millipedes get their name because of their many legs. Centipedes have one pair of legs for every segment of their body, millipedes have two pairs. This helps them move smoothly through cracks in the soil during the day. They venture out at night to hunt.



### 9. Fruit trees

The beautiful spring cherry blossom is loved by pollinating insects who drink its sweet nectar. In autumn the trees have the most colourful leaves, turning to shades of red, orange and brown before falling to the ground to be recycled by detritivores.

We would love to see photographs of your walks  
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