

TEDDY'S WILDLIFE ADVENTURES AT... HILTON GRAVEL PITS

TEDDY WALKS

(Limited parking off Willowpit Lane entrance. No dogs are allowed on this walk)

1 Teddy is going to see what wildlife he can see today. He sets off along the track and soon comes to a wooden wall with holes in. **2** This is a viewing screen so he can look out and see the birds but they can't see him.

LOOK THROUGH THE HOLES. WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Lots of different types of birds visit the gravel pits including common terns, kingfishers, herons and geese. **3** When Teddy has finished looking at the birds he carries on along the track and passes a large bird table on the left. If you have bird seed or an apple you can put some on the table and watch who comes to eat it. Teddy sees a squirrel and some blue tits.

(Turn right and go through the gate. Remember to close the gate as there are sometimes sheep grazing here)

Teddy looks into the trees to see if he can see any birds here. He sees some nesting boxes and wonders what birds live in them.

Teddy keeps following the path and gets more excited as he has brought his net and a jar so he can go pond dipping. If you are here in the autumn you might see some fantastic fungi but don't touch it.



4 He walks carefully along the boardwalks near the water until he gets to the pond dipping area. Teddy dips his net into the water and has a little swish round then pulls his net out to see what he has caught. Some things he is not sure about so he looks at the information board to help him out. He sees lots of dragon flies dancing around the water.

After a little while pond dipping Teddy sets off again and soon notices some unusual trees with very strange bark. These are black poplar trees which are very rare.

Teddy follows the boardwalk to the right to have a look across the water – he sees ducks and geese today. Be very careful if you want to look out here.

5 Teddy strolls on by the side of the water until he gets to an open space, in the summer this area is covered in different types of flowers called orchids. The ground here is different to the rest of the walk and is very sandy; this is where the old gravel lagoons were.

THE ORCHIDS LIKE IT HERE, HOW MANY TYPES CAN YOU SEE?

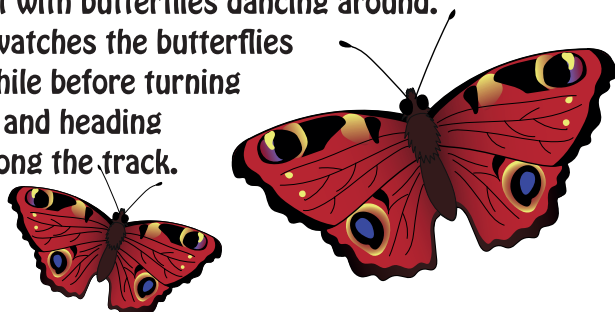
(Turn left and go through the gate – please make sure you close it behind you)

Walking through the trees Teddy notices that there are a few trees lying on the ground. These are trees that have fallen down and are left for creepy crawlies to live in and enjoy. If you listen very carefully you may even hear a woodpecker pecking on the dead wood.

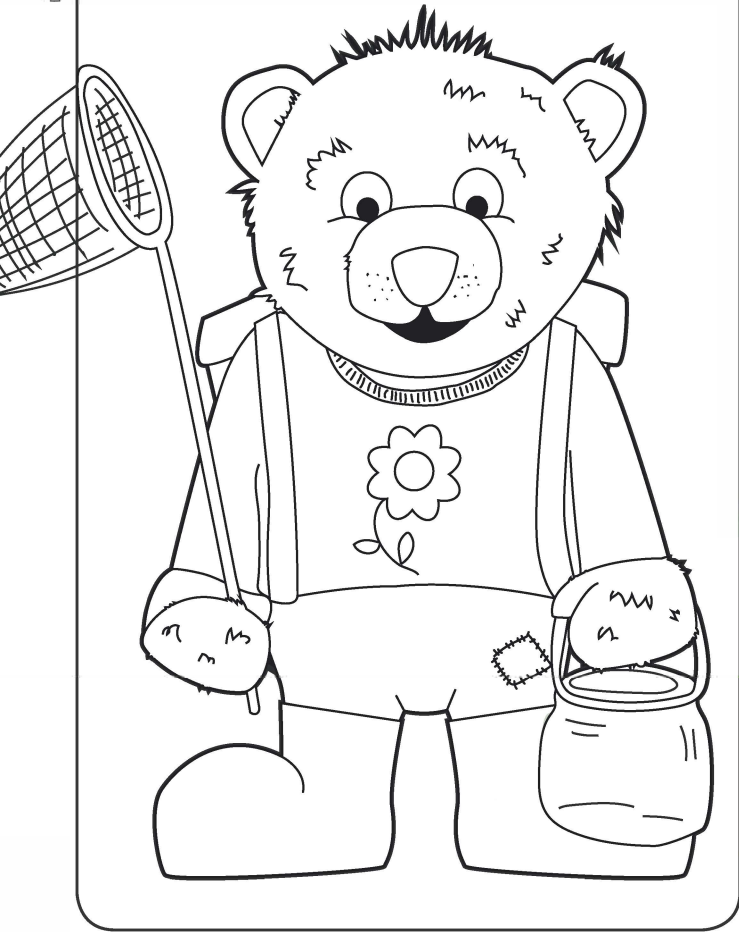
In the ponds on the left Teddy notices a frog enjoying the sunshine.

'I wonder if there is lots of frogspawn here in the spring. I will have to come back and see for myself.' thinks Teddy.

He keeps walking along the track until he gets to another gate, he goes through the gate and turns right to see what's there. As it is summer Teddy sees lots of beautiful lichen and ragwort with butterflies dancing around. Teddy watches the butterflies for a while before turning around and heading back along the track.



COLOUR TEDDY IN...

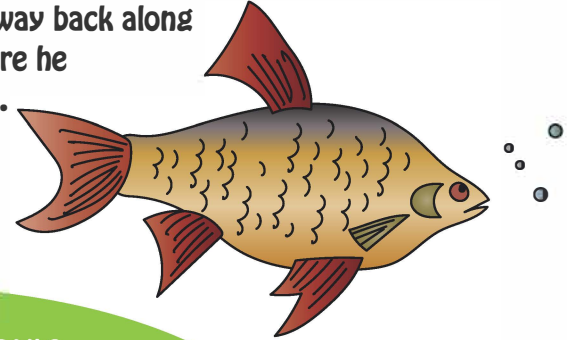


He passes some more ponds where he sees more dragonflies flying around the bulrushes. He sees something moving in the water and stands very still to have a better look.

'Fish!' Teddy says to himself 'I wonder what type of fish they are... I will have to find out when I get home.'

(THEY ARE RUDD - YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM ON YOUR SMART PHONE)

Teddy finds his way back along the track to where he started the walk.



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SWADLINCOTE WOODLANDS,
ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE,
ELVASTON CASTLE
AND EUREKA PARK

TEDDY WALKS



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