

Sensory (Spring) Walk.

Directions: R Payn

Worksheet: R Groves & family

The directions for this short, circular walk include accompanying notes and worksheets created to encourage children to use their senses to experience what there is to see, hear, touch and smell through Tolt Copse and the parallel path in the valley next to it.

The following directions suggest two possible starting points: 1. Brook Lane or 2. Garn Lane

Approximate time 45 minutes

From **BROOK LANE (Grid Ref: SZ 49196 84391)**

Take the track (G8) over the brook and up Brook Lane. Turn left where the track begins to curve to the right. The signpost signifies the direction as a Public Bridleway (G8 not shown) which is a sunken, hilly track continuing to climb, with banks and overgrown hedgerow trees on the right. Follow this route to the copse where the path levels out. Turn left and follow the Public Footpath uphill into the copse,

Go around gate showing the sign 'The Bowcombe Estate Dogs Must Be Kept On Leads'
Continue up hill to a rusty direction sign and follow the sign Public Footpath G9 Chillerton (avoiding track to the right). The path continues upwards for about 100 yards before flattening out. This is the only accessible track through Tolt Copse. There are many visible roots across the path and it is very narrow in parts. It can also be slippery when wet. The edge of the path drops away steeply to the left. Look for blankets of moss and curtains of ivy.

Whilst in the copse, in Spring time, you will be able to see and smell the Wild Garlic. If you are quiet you may catch a glimpse of a Red Squirrel or find some of its chewed hazel nuts. Listen out for the mewing, cat-like sound of a buzzard in the trees nearby. The drumming of a woodpecker is another sound you might be lucky enough to hear.

The path begins to climb again to a gate donated by the Parishoners of Chillerton and Gatcombe. On the other side of the gate, the route descends to the left, by the side of a fence on the right. As the fence turns to the right, there is a gate with a plaque commemorating two parishioners, Anne and Martin Cardew.

From here, walk down the hill keeping the trees of Tolt Copse to your left hand side. You will eventually join the bridleway at the bottom of the hill. Here you need to turn left

The track continues to a gap in where there used to be a gate. Now a sign post can be seen there pointing out Public Footpath G9 Tolt Copse or 'Chillerton' to the right. This area can be very muddy after rain. From here, continue straight ahead, through the gap, keeping the hedgerow to your right hand side and the field of crops to your left, between you and Tolt Copse. Whilst on this track stop every now and again to call out, shout or whistle to find out whether you can hear an echo. Could this area be called 'Echo Valley'?

The path along-side the field, rises slightly towards a sign post at the end and the bridleway from which you started out.

From **GARN LANE** (Grid Ref: SZ 48573 83745) Follow Public Bridleway sign G6 showing Shepherds Trail and Carisbooke).

This is a sunken, uphill, stoney track. Look for signs of paths made by badgers on the sides of the banks.

The route opens out to a grassy track alongside a field on the left hand side where different crops are planted each year. At the foot of the hedgerow on the right, look out for the large leaves of the Burdock plant or the dazzling blue Forget-Me-Nots. The track continues to a gap in where there used to be a gate. Now a sign post can be seen there pointing out Public Footpath G9 Tolt Copse or back in the direction you have come from 'Chillerton'. This area can be very muddy after rain. From here, continue straight ahead, keeping the hedgerow to your right hand side. You will now be passing on a parallel path to Tolt Copse on your left. Stop to call out or whistle towards the copse in order to hear an echo.

The path along-side the field, rises slightly towards a sign post at the end. From this sign post turn left towards another sign post at the entrance of Tolt Copse. Here you will follow the sign, 'Public Footpath', uphill into the copse itself.

Go around gate showing the sign 'The Bowcombe Estate Dogs Must Be Kept On Leads' Continue up hill to a rusty direction sign and follow the sign Public Footpath G9 Chillerton (avoiding track to the right). The path continues upwards for about 100 yards before evening out. This is the only accessible track through Tolt Copse. There are many visible roots across the path and it is very narrow in parts. It can also be slippery when wet. The edge of the path drops away steeply to the left. Note the blankets of moss and curtains of ivy.

Whilst in the copse, in Spring time, you will be able to see and smell the Wild Garlic. If you are quiet you may catch a glimpse of a Red Squirrel or find some of its chewed hazel nuts. Listen out for the mewing, cat-like sound of a buzzard in the trees nearby. The drumming of a woodpecker is another sound you might be lucky enough to hear.

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From here, walk down the hill, keeping the trees of Tolt Copse to your left hand side. You will eventually join the path you came in on and this will lead you back to the beginning.

The Sensory Trail

Can you find the items below on your walk? Tick them off when you see, hear, smell or touch them.

To See 👁️👁️



To Smell 👃



To Touch ✋



To Hear 👂



