

Family Activity Trails **COPPERAS FIELD**

Droylsden



Come and explore this little oasis bordering the Ashton Canal in Droylsden

The long grasses and plants here make it a good spot for hunting for bugs and butterflies.

wetland area—look out for dragonflies

Wide open grassy areas great for kicking a ball around

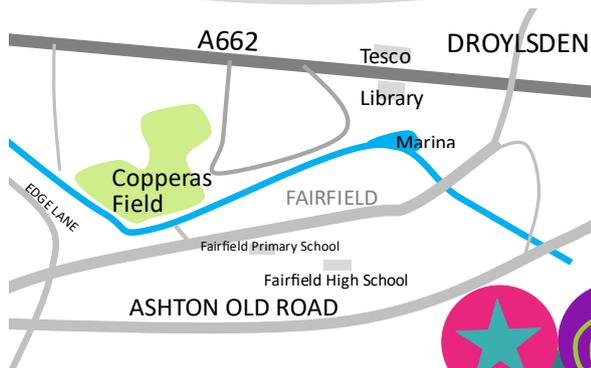
An enclosed, dog free space, with seating and play spaces



Why not get the bikes out and cycle from Ashton or maybe walk along the canal towpath from Droylsden Marina. Copperas Field has a bit of everything for families, open grassy spaces and little woodland paths.

Copperas Field, off Fairfield Road, Droylsden M43 6AF

It's around 2.5 miles along the canal to Portland Basin, Ashton. The towpath is nice and wide and surfaced, great for bikes and buggies



culture
Tameside



Bird spotting at COPPERAS FIELD

This area is a welcome haven for wildlife and there are lots of birds to see and hear. Why not take photos and try and identify them back home.



Canada geese

were first introduced to the UK as an ornamental bird by wealthy people in the 17th century. Today the population numbers over 70,000 breeding pairs

Part of the reason the geese are so common and so successful here is that people have created a lot of perfect spaces for them. They stay here all year and do not migrate.

Don't feed them too much – you may encourage more birds into the area than it can naturally sustain and could lead to the birds being seen as a problem.

Did You Know?

The collective name for a group of Ducks on the water is ... a 'Paddling'. If they are diving then its called a 'Dopping' of ducks!



Can you spot any of these birds in and around the canal and Copperas Field



Starling



Wood Pigeon



Greylag Goose



Jay



Moorhen



Mute Swan



Copperas Field **SCAVENGER HUNT**

**The whole area is great for a scavenger hunt.
How many things can you find?**

Why not set a time limit?

How many can you fit in a tiny box?

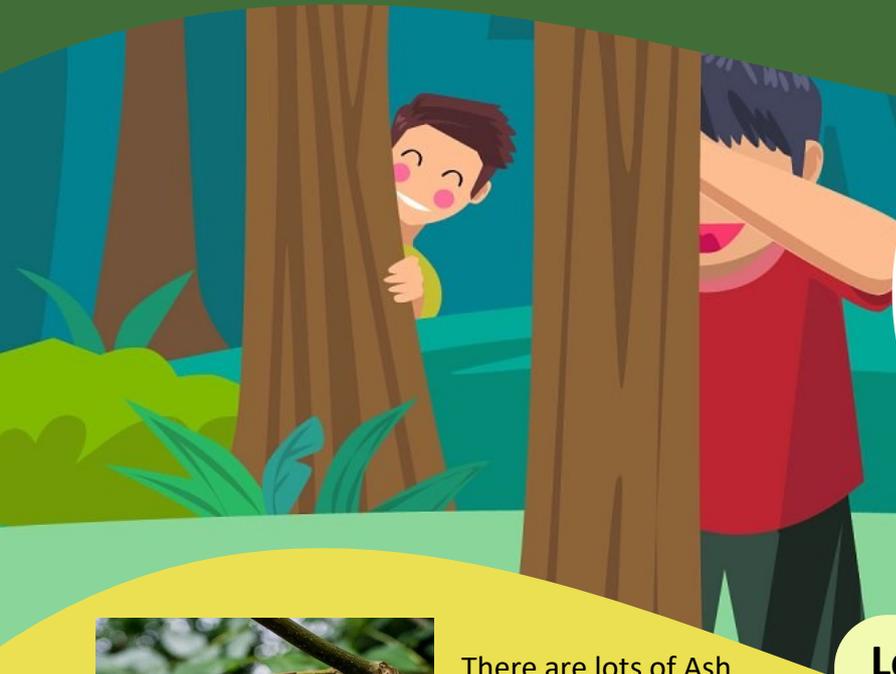
Just remember to take care and not collect living creatures,
pick a petal not a whole flower and careful of anything sharp.



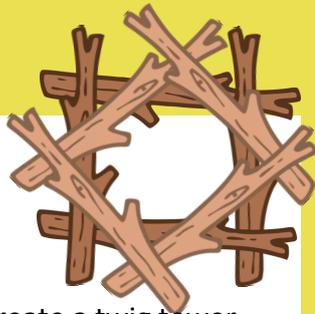
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something with 4 edges | <input type="checkbox"/> Something with stripes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A heart shaped leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> Something round |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something soft | <input type="checkbox"/> Something red and green |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something hairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Something pink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something manmade | <input type="checkbox"/> Something ancient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A chewed leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> A tiny berry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A feather | <input type="checkbox"/> A nibbled leaf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A white stone | <input type="checkbox"/> A seed with wings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A yellow flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Something prickly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something blue | <input type="checkbox"/> A bendy twig |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A 'y' shaped twig | <input type="checkbox"/> Something beautiful |



Woodland fun at COPPERAS FIELD



There are lots of Ash 'Keys' or seeds hanging from the trees. Why not collect a bunch and create a piece of art or pattern on the grass with them



Twig Towers

Gather some twigs and create a twig tower. It doesn't have to be very big... Remember to never break twigs off living trees and always dismantle and return twigs..

Tracks and trails

This is great fun if you and your friends make 2 teams. One team sets off and lays a trail of arrows and signs for the other team to follow. You can use twigs and stones or whatever is available. You can invent your own signs, but make sure everyone agrees them before you set off

Look out for Hazel.

Catkins resembling lambs tails, and late-summer nuts. Hazel is one of the most useful trees and its nuts are loved by people, squirrels and jays.

We spotted a tree with nuts at the bottom of the park where it borders the canal.



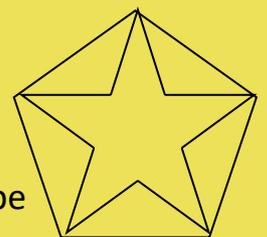
Make a nine square grid

With a friend collect 6 pairs of objects e.g. 2 stones, 2 leaves, etc. Make a 9 square grid each out of twigs. Decide who is the boss. The boss picks up an object and places it in his/her grid and describes to the other where it is e.g. Top right, one to the left and two up. The friend must place the identical object in the same place on their grid. At the end, look at the grids, are they the same

For older children...

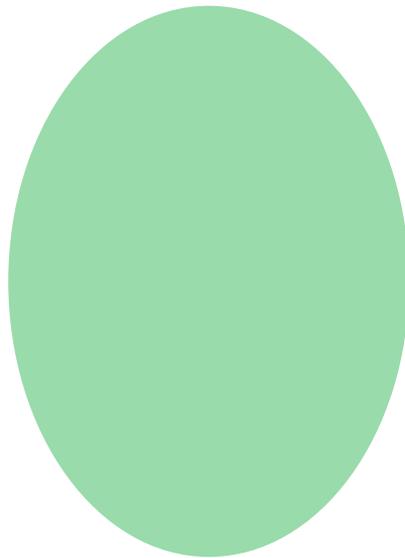
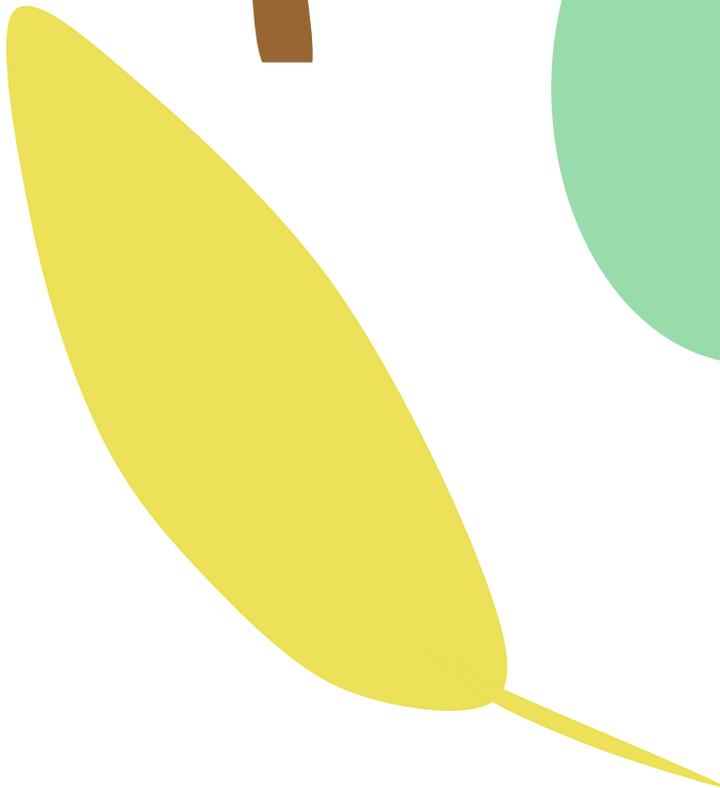
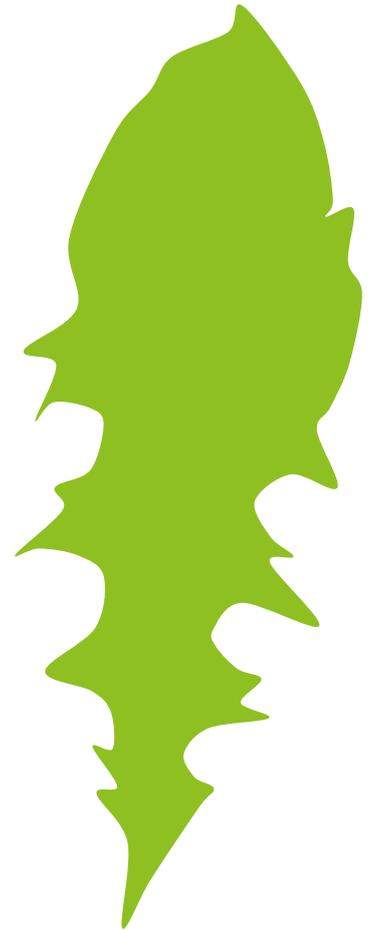
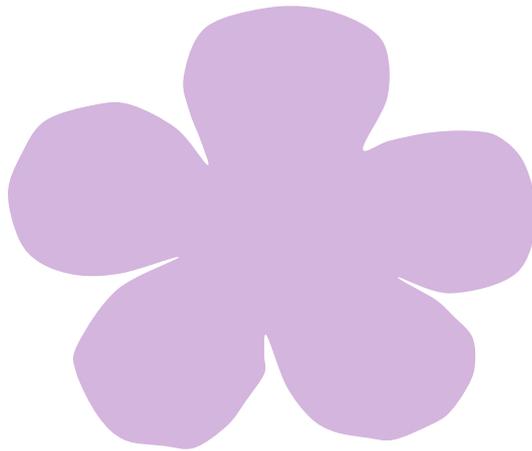
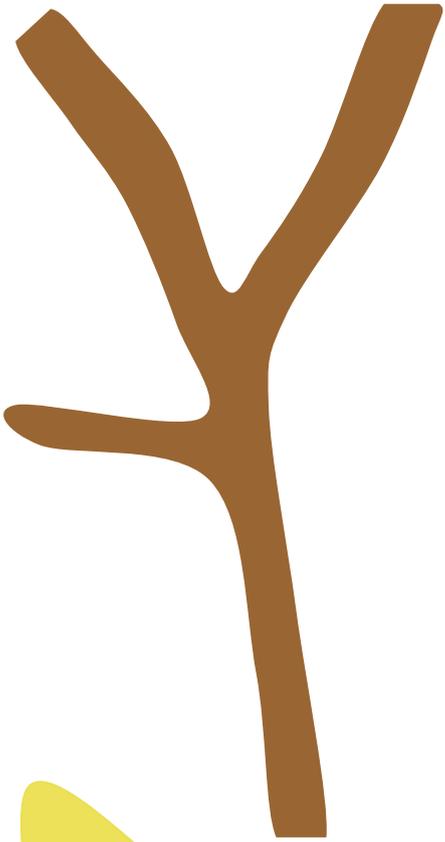
How many triangles can you make with 10 sticks?

(The sticks don't have to be the same length)



Discover the SHAPES in nature

How about trying to match some shapes?



Fun activities at COPPERAS FIELD

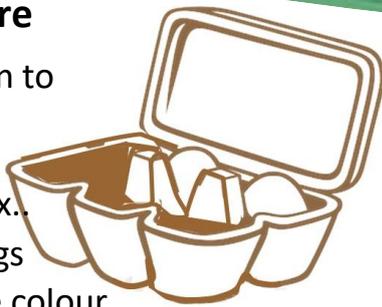
Hunt for feathers near the canal and make a headress



Egg Box Treasure

Challenge children to find things on a walk that fit into an empty egg box.

- 6 interesting things
- 6 things the same colour
- 6 things that are round
- 6 things that are smooth



Nature portraits

Find an area of bare earth and draw a 'canvas' of about 1m x 1m with a stick. Now ask the children try to make a picture of themselves within the canvas using what they can find such as earth, bark, grasses and stones.



What's in the bag.

Put an item in the bag such as a forked twig. Everyone has a feel without looking, then put in a pile with half a dozen other twigs and everyone has to guess which was the twig from the bag.

Nature jigsaws

Find a twig or large leaf and break into 4 or 5 pieces, then the challenge is



Welly Walks

The woodland area is great for finding muddy puddles and wet places to make a splash after rain.

On your walk, play 'Simon says'...

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| March like a soldier | Jump high |
| Sway your hips | Walk like a monster |
| Hug yourself | Twirl |
| Clap your hands | Play air guitar |
| Bark like a dog | Walk like a duck |
| Hop like a frog | Be a shark |
| Roar like a lion | Crawl like a baby |
| Hands on your knees | Sing with a silly voice |
| Wiggle like a worm | Stand on one foot |



Go on a MINIBEAST HUNT



Armed with a small pot or tray, a small paintbrush and a magnifying glass there's a whole world of minibeasts waiting to be discovered.

- Bugs can be found everywhere but **there are a couple of great places in the woodland area marked on the map.**
- Dark damp spots under rocks and logs are good hunting grounds for things like worms, woodlice and spiders. You'll find critters like ladybirds, caterpillars and aphids on flowers, plants and leaves in a more open sunny spot .
- A paintbrush to gently brush the bug into your tray will give you a chance to take a closer look with your magnifying glass.
- Don't leave your bugs in the tray too long and always put your bug back carefully where you found it and replace upturned rocks and logs.
- **Always wash hands afterwards!**



Millipede



Bee



Ladybird



Butterfly



Snail



Plant bug



Woodlouse



Earthworm



Slug



Centipede



Beetle



Plants and trees at COPPERAS FIELD



The trees and shrubs around the open fields are super for foraging. The fruit and berries are not only great for birds and wildlife, but some are brilliant for home cooking!



Brambles are just about everywhere. There will be plenty for everyone to make some yummy jam or smoothies in the Autumn.



Look out for cinnabar moth caterpillars on the yellow **Ragwort**



All around the edge of the fields are **Blackthorn** trees. Their fruit the Sloe, is really bitter, but great for flavouring gin.



Sloe

Look out for **Common Knapweed**. The flowers may have gone by the end of summer but you can still see the seed heads



Wild Cherry



Crab Apple

Rose Hips

Perfect for Rose Hip syrup and jelly



The leaves are food for the caterpillars of many moths, The flowers provide pollen and nectar for insects, particularly bees, and the fruit is eaten by birds, Mammals, such as mice, voles, foxes and badgers, also eat crab

