



Beck Corridor Audio Trail: **Activity Sheet**



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Activities



1 Beckenham Junction Station

Welcome to the Beck Corridor. These activities complement the Beck Corridor Audio Trail, and it is recommended that you undertake them as you listen to each track, but they can also be done on their own.

A map and directions are also available as a separate PDF and these will help you find your way from one stop to another.

Record information or jot down any notes in the space below. Perhaps you may like to record how long it takes you to do the walk, what species you've seen on the way or any problems you encounter.

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2 St George's Church

St George's churchyard is a wildlife haven in a busy urban environment. It includes trees, hedges and wildflowers and also provides conditions for different communities of lichens to grow. Lichens are dual organisms. They are composed of different fungi and algae and grow extremely slowly. They colonise stonework but are also found on tree trunks, wooden seats or fences and pathways.

Carefully and quietly look around the churchyard, respecting the graves. Note down where lichens are found. What are the differences between them and why do you think they are different? Is there a relationship between the age of gravestones and the number of lichens found on them?



Above: Example of Lichens forming on gravestones

5 Kelsey Park Heronry

The Beck river and the lakes within Kelsey Park support a huge variety of bird life which live in the flower beds, woodlands, grasslands and scrub. The park has the only heronry in Bromley, a place where the grey heron nests and breeds. This magnificent bird feeds on fish, amphibians and wetland creatures called invertebrates. They can use their beak to spear prey. It is amazing to see how a big bird such as this can be so graceful in the air!

Choose one heron or a small group of herons to focus on. Make detailed observations about their features, behaviour, relationships and their surrounding habitat. Include written descriptions, sketches and any other factual evidence you see or hear, also include any personal thoughts.



6 Harvington Estate Woodland



Britain has 16 species of bats and 10 of these can be found in the Bromley area, many of them having been spotted in Kelsey Park. Bats live in holes and cracks in trees, behind climbing plants such as ivy or in bat boxes. All bats are protected because their numbers have dropped throughout Europe.

If you were asked to undertake a survey of bats in the area, how would you approach it? What techniques would you apply to find bats using the area? Who would you share your results with and get advice from?

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7 Loggery



Stag beetle larva



Can you spot the Stag Beetle habitat? Stag beetles are becoming increasingly rare in Britain, yet Beckenham is one of England's hotspots. Females lay their eggs in rotting wood on which the developing larvae feeds. It can be up to 5 years before they emerge as adults. You'll only see adult stag beetles flying in the summer, usually from May to July.

The adults only live for a few weeks, drinking dew and water from puddles or sticky sap on the surface of tree leaves. They're so heavy, they usually need to climb a tree and launch off to take flight! This loggery has been created to support their life cycle and increase stag beetle numbers in the area which already supports a good number.

Why do you think stag beetles are under threat in Britain? Consider their habitat and possible predators. Why do you think we do what we can to conserve the species? What practical steps could you take to encourage stag beetles into your garden?

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Above: Harvington Estate Loggery

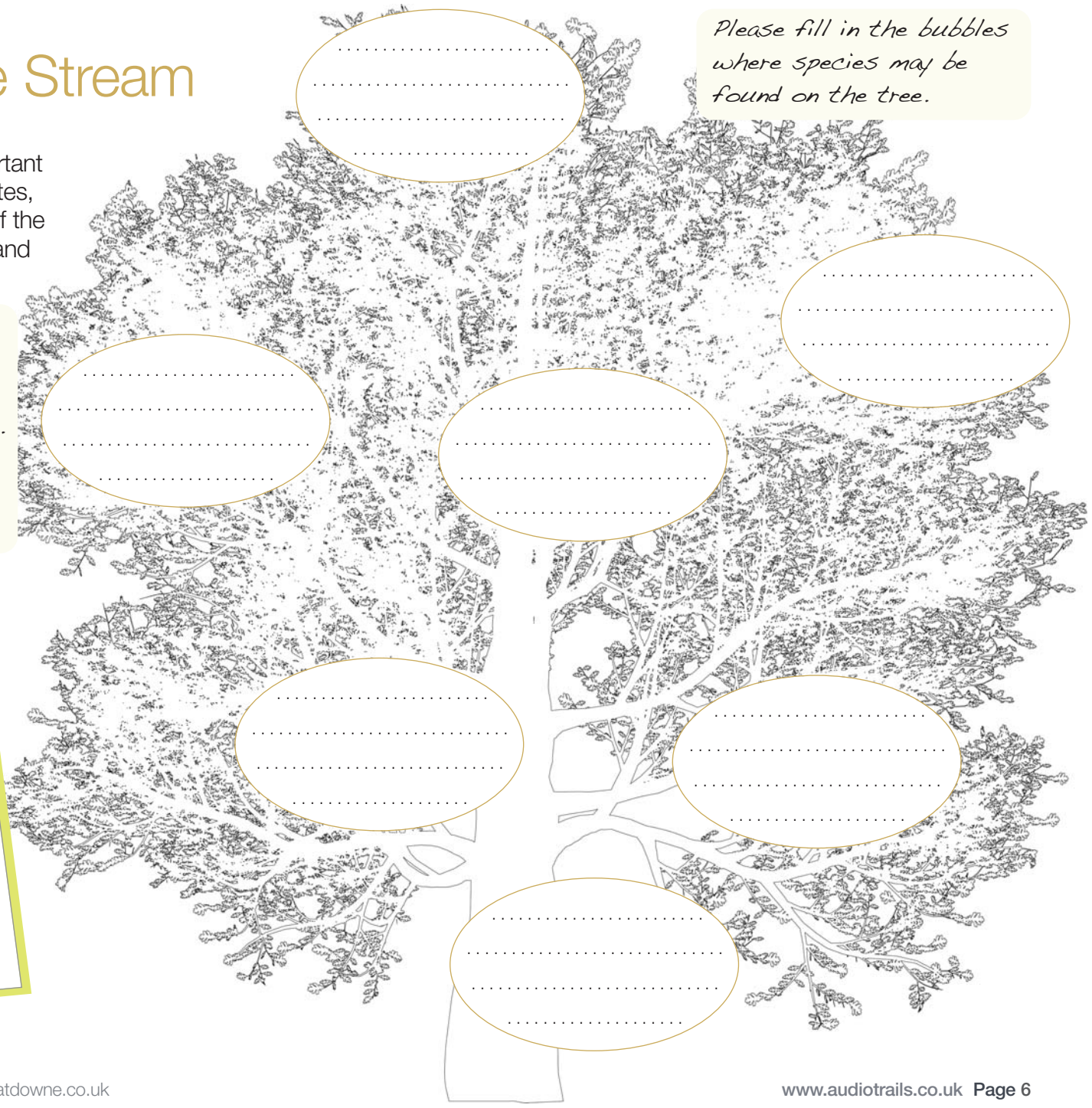
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8 Harvington Estate Stream

Oak trees are known to be one of the most important species of tree in Britain for supporting invertebrates, fungi, mosses, lichens and birds. Different parts of the tree have different roles to play in providing food and shelter for these other species

Take a close look at one of the trees and begin to gather information about it. Note what wildlife you find, where you find it and how it is using the tree habitat. Each tree acts as a living community. Can you see evidence of where the trees 'residents' interact with one another?

Please fill in the bubbles where species may be found on the tree.



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