



Forestry England

# The Big Forest Find

## Top tips



Whether you are joining one of our events or exploring a forest near you, here are a few handy hints to ensure you gain the most from your experience, whilst protecting yourselves and the species you are observing.

### Before your visit

- **Find a forest** - There are a host of events to choose from. Check [online](#) for any changes up to and including the day.
- **Clothing** - Prepare for the outdoors. Bring sun cream, water and wet weather gear. Sturdy shoes and long trousers are recommended to provide protection from vegetation, ticks and other biting insects.
- **Download the iNaturalist guide** - check out our [user guide](#) to help you.
- **Practice makes perfect** - Go exploring with our seasonal prompts! Whether you prefer to upload your pictures in the app or after the event, practicing will give you a feel of what works best for you
- **Charge your device** - there is no access to charging facility on site, so make sure you arrive with a full battery!

### Making an observation

- **Stay focused** - Fuzzy pictures are difficult to identify. Hold your phone steady before you snap.
- **Tracks and sounds** - Evidence of mammals can also be useful, so look out for tracks as you explore. If you are using an iphone, you can record birdsong to add later on the [iNaturalist uploader](#) using the [import tool](#).
- **Just one more!** - Try taking 2/3 pictures from different angles. This will make your find easy to identify.
- **Stay sensitive** - Help us protect our forest wildlife by staying quiet on approach and standing at a respectful distance when taking pictures. Take care not to tread on the surrounding flora and fauna.
- **Protect our species** - If you think that you have found a rare species, talk to a member of staff before you post your observation or turn on your 'geo privacy' setting to 'obscured' if you are unsure.

### Uploading your pictures

- **Blurry photo?** Your blurry photos will be difficult to identify so make good use of the 'notes' section. If you are taking part in a local event, ask an on-site expert to help you.
- **Species unknown?** The drop down menu has a range of options for you. If you can't find a match, upload your photo and take a guess using an online species identification chart. Even if you don't know what it is, a member of our online community might.
- **Signal breakdown?** Don't worry if you have no signal, your camera saves the date and location of your observation automatically. Simply use your phone's camera and upload your pictures when you are re-connected.
- **Forgotten to upload your observations?** You can upload your observations after the event: they will still count. Make them valid for our Big Forest Find results by adding them before November 2019.

Thank you for helping to protect our forest wildlife