Forestry England

Be minibeast friendly

The Forest Code for Minibeast Hunting



Follow our *Forest Code for Minibeast Hunting* to ensure the forests' plants and animals are left undisturbed.

1. **Treat with respect** – minibeasts are living creatures just like us.
2. **The forest is their home** – leave it as you found it. When moving logs or stones remember to replace them gently. If you can't easily move a stone or log, leave it in place.
3. **Be gentle** – remember minibeasts are very small and delicate. Carefully remove the lid from the collecting pot and use a paint brush to gently place the minibeast inside. Watch out for legs and wings that might get trapped.
4. **One at a time** – only place one minibeast in each pot. This will help you to get a really good look. It may stop minibeasts eating each other too!
5. **All things slimy** – avoid putting slugs or snails in your pot as they make it slimy. Use a tray instead.
6. **Caring for your worms** – when putting worms in pots, use some damp soil to help them stay moist.
7. **Try to keep noise to a minimum** – you might find it exciting or feel a little nervous when getting so close to a minibeast. Try not to scare the wildlife around you.
8. **Returning home** – gently pop your minibeasts back where you found them when you've finished looking. Anything that lives in the forest should stay in the forest.
9. **Be careful** – try not to handle any minibeasts that might bite or sting you.
10. **Wash, wash, wash** – remember to wash your hands and your equipment when you've finished.

Have fun and don't forget to record what you see. Take only memories away with you.

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