

Puzzlewood

A Magical Woodland in the Forest of Dean

The Environment KS2

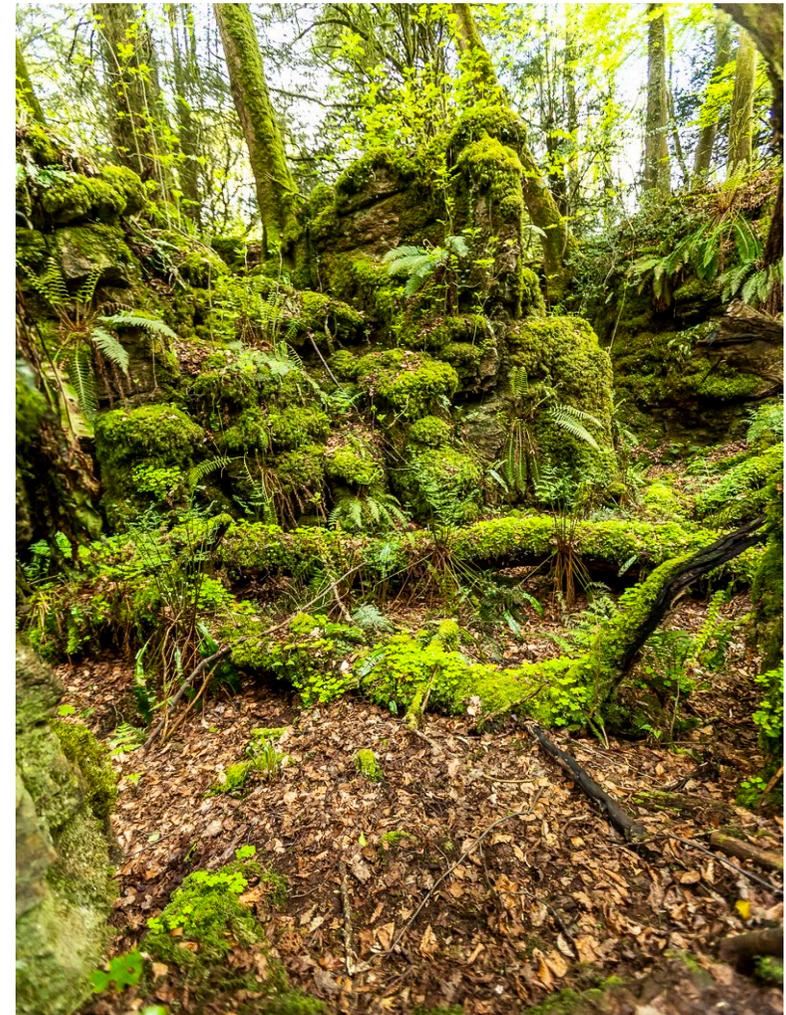
Puzzlewood is a designated ancient woodland. It is a special, important and protected place. The woodland is so old it has developed intricate communities of plants, animals and fungi.

Puzzlewood is a unique environment for the study of scowles, and the relationship between nature and humans.

Puzzlewood is an accessible location for the study of mining in the Forest of Dean.

It is ideal for a day of developing fieldwork skills within an enclosed environment.

We strongly recommend that you visit the site before your visit, as there are so many varied opportunities for curriculum development.



GEOGRAPHY

Locational knowledge

- name and locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time

Human and physical

geography Describe and understand key aspects of:

- physical geography - woodland
- human geography, including land use, economic activity including trade links, and natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use fieldwork to observe, measure record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies

ART

- To use experiences, other subjects across the curriculum and ideas as inspiration for art work.
- To develop and share ideas in a sketchbook
- To learn about great artists

HISTORY

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- Local study – mining in the Forest of Dean: prehistoric to present day

LANGUAGE

- Persuasive writing
- Explanations
- Non-chronological reports
- Report writing in a journalistic style e.g. newspaper, magazine article
- Formal letter writing
- Poetry
- Script writing for presenting information in video form (This would require 2 visits – one for information gathering, one for recording)

Suggested Learning Activities

Before you visit:

Locate Forest of Dean within the UK and Puzzlewood within the Forest of Dean

Study OS map of area – notice key features, 4 figure grid references, symbols (particularly mines) and keys

Plan route from school to Puzzlewood, using map scale to work out distances

Look at work of land artists e.g. Andy Goldsworthy, Chris Drury, Richard Long

Walk round / view Sculpture Trail at Beechenhurst <http://www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk/>

Some research on scowles and mining <http://www.oakraven.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Scowles-fact-sheet.pdf>

Write a list of questions to be answered / observations to be made

During your visit:

You are requested to stay on the marked paths in order to preserve this important ancient site.

Geography / History focus:

What is a scowle? Identify scowles beside trail using prior knowledge

Make and record detailed observations in a variety of ways (size, geological evidence, flora and fauna as these are very important ecological wildlife habitats)

Compare and contrast with other rock formations.

Look at scowles from an historical perspective

Look at scowles from geological perspective

Invite a local expert to speak – historical/archaeological or someone who has worked / works within the forest e.g. miner or charcoal maker

Explore the relationship between humans and this unusual geological feature (e.g. 3000 Roman coins from 3rd century A.D. have been found onsite, mining through the centuries)

Reflect upon whether the scowles are a natural or man-made feature, looking for evidence to support your views.

Discuss erosion and pollution.

Writing:

Sit beside a scowle – imagine all that the scowle has witnessed throughout history. Use senses to describe their feelings and thoughts about the area around the scowle now. Leading to a poem about how humans interact with nature.

On site information gathering for a video either about scowles and what they are, the impact of humans on nature, or Puzzlewood as an important historical site for visitors.

Art

Look at how environmental art can enhance the landscape.

Using map provided by Puzzlewood, follow trail and identify interesting features, deciding which are man-made and which are natural.

Consider and discuss e.g. How have the secret chairs enhanced the space? What is its purpose? Is there anything they might change about it?

Identify a space or a feature within Puzzlewood which they would like to enhance with a piece of their own environmental art.

Using sketchbooks, describe the space and make several sketches of possible sculptures which would add meaning to that space and make other people think more about it. **Look for naturally occurring sculptural shapes.**

In the area surrounding the hut, make 3D drawings / sculptures using found materials and items, which can be photographed for inclusion in their sketchbook and then dismantled.

Back in school, small sculptures could be made from their sketches, using different materials. A site for their sculptures within school grounds could be found and then the effect of weather over time could be recorded.

Another activity for which Puzzlewood lends itself:

Den building working in teams – look at Chris Drury's work on shelters and baskets if you want an artistic

bias. Den building is allowed in a specific area only and please request this activity in advance of your visit.

After your visit:

Different forms of writing:

Sustainability – how can we protect the woodland – do we need to? Humans v nature

Write to our M.P. e.g. about reinstating railways, ways to stop fly-tipping Brochure encouraging people to visit Puzzlewood

Historical timeline after further research into mining in Forest of Dean, plotting mining areas, waterways through forest, old railways, bridges

Research Iron Ore

Research Romans in the area – *‘the discovery of a hoard of over 3,000 3rd Century AD Roman coins which were found in the Scowles of Puzzlewood’*

