

TRAIL TALE

HOLBURY
MANOR PARK,
HOLBURY

THE CLUELESS ELF

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY SIMON CHADWICK



TRAIL TALE

**PLEASE NOTE:
THIS TRAIL IS
NOT SUITABLE
FOR PUSH-
CHAIRS.**

Trail Tales are stories that take you on a journey; quite literally.

Trail Tales are fun, free and family friendly stories that encourage people to explore their local area.

The stories are developed with local children and we hope that people will take the time to discover the wonderful green and blue spaces that exist on our doorsteps.

Being outdoors, being active, looking, listening and touching the world around us, can all help to improve our wellbeing, help us to feel happier about where we live, and improve our health.

You can use a physical copy of the trail booklet, for which you'll need a pencil or pen, or you can use the screen-based version. For that, you might need to take a photo of something to help you draw or write when you get home.

So grab your copy of the story and enjoy exploring.



This story was developed with the help of pupils from Manor CofE Infant School & Cadland Primary School.

 Cadland
Primary School

 New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL

 Ceratopia

 Energise
Me

Neighbours Jen and Zach had passed by Holbury Manor Park many times. They had always wondered about the large wooden acorn they could see.

“It’s a trail marker,” announced Jen one day. “By following the markers it leads you around the park!”

“We should have a go!” said Zach excitedly. And so they did.

**TURN TO THE
MAP ON THE
BACK PAGE TO
SEE WHERE TO
BEGIN.**

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

**1
ON
MAP**

**Draw the acorn marker.
Remember, if you're
following the trail on
a phone, take a photo
and draw a picture
when you get home.**



Jen and Zach arrived at the edge of Warren Copse, and had barely started the trail when they heard someone crying. To their surprise, they saw it was an elf, sobbing hopelessly on top of one of the play structures.

“What’s the matter?” asked Jen softly.

“Oh, I’m so useless,” wailed the elf.

“I’ve lost my glasses, my pet, and my way home!”

“Hey, don’t cry,” said Zach.

“Let us help you find them.”

**2
ON
MAP**

**Explore the wild
play area while
you’re here.**



Jen and Zach suggested they start by following the Acorn Trail, passing by another trail marked with an owl almost immediately.

Soon, the three of them arrived at a clearing amongst the trees.



**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

**Take a seat on a bench and listen for a few minutes.
Write down all the noises you can hear.**

**3
ON
MAP**

“So you’ve lost your glasses, your pet, and your way home?” asked Zach, making sure that they knew what they were looking for.

“That’s right,” sniffed the elf. “They must be around here somewhere.”

“Are there normally elves here?” asked Jen.

“Oh, yes,” nodded the elf. “Sometimes we’re called colt pixies. There are lots of pixie mounds up on Beaulieu Heath.”

**4
ON
MAP**

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

**Look for a large tree stump
beside the path. Count the
rings to see how old the
tree was when it was felled:**

Please note that bramble and other undergrowth can cover a stump quickly. Don't worry if you can't see or get to it. You will see alternative stumps you can use on your walk.

“Then why are you here, in Holbury, instead of on the heath?” wondered Zach.

“Holbury Manor Park was once connected to the forest,” explained the elf. “All the houses and other buildings around here came much later. Now it’s an island of trees, cut off from the open forest.”

“There are lots of tree stumps and carvings,” noted Jen as they passed an owl, shaped from part of a tree. “Somebody has been here.”



They had walked to the southern point of Holbury Manor Park, arriving at a gate. “Ah, I remember coming here,” said the elf.

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

You should be able to see a sign near the gate that talks about the work that’s been taking place in the woods. How long is the management plan to restore the woodland around you?

**5
ON
MAP**

“Whoops,” said Zach. “I almost trod on something there.”

“My glasses!” said the elf as he put them on. “That’s much better. I can see properly again!”

With a spring in their step, they turned and headed back into Warren Copse. “Perhaps we should look for your pet, next,” suggested Jen.

“Look, even more trees have been cut down,” pointed out Zach. “Isn’t that a bad thing?”

“Oh, no,” said the elf. “By thinning out the trees it allows more sunlight to reach the woodland floor. That then helps flowers such as bluebells, foxgloves and other plants to grow. Plus, by leaving the wood that’s been felled, it provides homes to insects and small creatures.”

“I see,” said Zach. “So it’s not bad at all. In fact, it’s quite the opposite.”

They realised they were walking on a hillside, heading downwards. The path was narrow, but well used.

“I wonder how many different people have walked along here,” said Jen as they approached a small wooden bridge across a brook.

Look around you at the trees and plants:

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

**6
ON
MAP**



1. Draw a tree leaf



2. Draw a leaf from a bush or plant



3. Draw a flower, if you can see one.

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

How many steps between this wooden bridge and the next one?

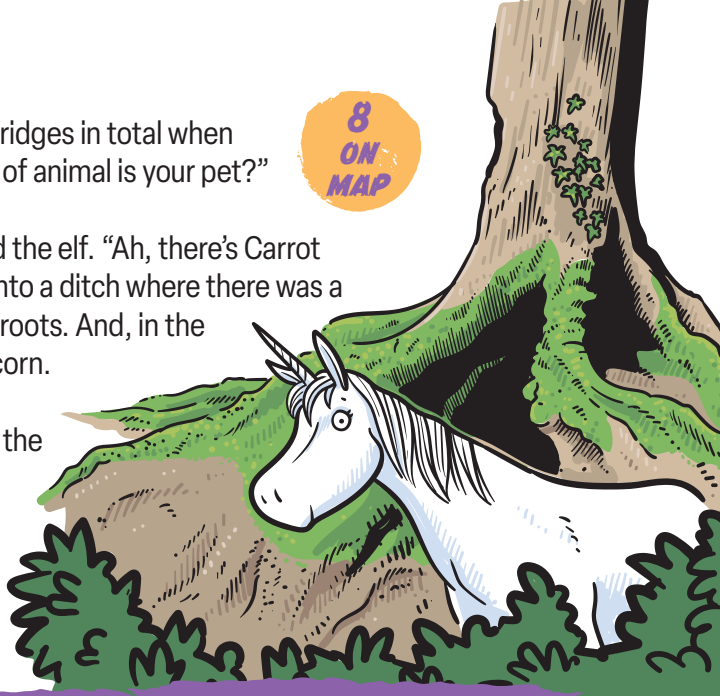
**7
ON
MAP**

They had crossed four bridges in total when Zach asked, "What kind of animal is your pet?"

8
ON
MAP

"Oh, just the usual," said the elf. "Ah, there's Carrot now!" He was pointing into a ditch where there was a tree with moss covered roots. And, in the ditch, there stood a unicorn.

"Wow," said Jen. "Of all the animals I hoped to see today, I never expected a unicorn!"



IT'S
YOUR
TURN

All of the animals below live in or visit Holbury Manor Park. Which are daytime creatures and which are nocturnal?



Now there were four travellers following the Acorn Trail. “We’re doing well,” grinned the elf happily. “We’ve found my glasses and Carrot, my unicorn.”

“Now all we have to do is find your way home,” said Jen. “What do we need to look for?”

“It’s a special tree with a door,” explained the elf.

“I’m quite sure we haven’t seen one of those yet,” said Zach. “But there’s still plenty of Holbury Manor Park we’ve not seen yet.”

They followed the Acorn Trail back up the hill, stopping at another marker halfway up. The acorn marker they had started at was just a little further up the slope. “So, where next?” Zach asked.

“There’s a sign here,” said Jen, walking towards it. “Let’s take a look.”



9
ON
MAP

Take a moment to read the sign.
In what year did the monks start living here?

IT'S
YOUR
TURN

IT'S
YOUR
TURN

Stop at the bench by the trees. What would happen to any rainwater that fell on the hill above you? Where would it go?

10
ON
MAP

They followed the treeline but the elf couldn't see the tree that took him back home. However, near the top of the hill, he stopped and pointed to the buildings in front of them.

"That's the manor house that Holbury Manor Park is named after," he said.

"So, is that where the monks would have lived?" asked Jen.

"Not quite," the elf explained. "The manor house has been rebuilt many times. Their home would have looked very different. Come on, I'll show you the ponds that they built."

The first pond was the biggest. While Carrot drank from the water, the elf, Zach and Jen took a moment to look around.

11
ON
MAP



12
ON
MAP

IT'S
YOUR
TURN

What creatures can you see in, on and around the ponds?

What other creatures might visit or live in the ponds?

**IT'S
YOUR
TURN**

**13
ON
MAP**

There is evidence that there were once ten fish ponds at Holbury Manor Park. How many did you see today?

They walked on, eventually arriving at another pond with a bridge beside it.

“Still no sign of a tree with a door,” said Zach as they crossed the bridge.

In no time they were back where they’d found Carrot the unicorn. “Oh, this is frustrating,” groaned the elf. “We’ve been everywhere.”

“Not quite,” said Jen, remembering the Owl Trail that they’d seen not long after they’d set out. “There’s one more place we can try!”

Back up the hill they went, past the Acorn Trail marker until they arrived at the Owl Trail.

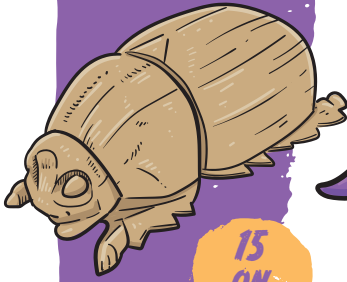
**2
ON
MAP**

“Is this looking more familiar?” Zach asked as they set off on the path.

“I think so,” said the elf. Then, when they came to a bridge, he said: “I remember this.”

**14
ON
MAP**





15
ON
MAP



“Look!” shouted Jen. “A giant wooden beetle!”

“We’re definitely close now!” laughed the elf, hurrying up. And then, just around the corner, they found it. A tree with an arch, like a door. “This is it!”

“Phew!” sighed Jen. “We found everything!”

“And now it’s time to repay your kindness,” smiled the elf as he produced a key from his pocket. “Come on in and have a big slice of cake.”

IT'S
YOUR
TURN

16
ON
MAP

Remember the tree rings that you counted? Think about how wide that stump was. How old do you think this tree might be? Imagine what Holbury Manor looked like when this tree was a seedling. How many generations of your family have lived during that time?



Follow this link to find more trails and to let us know what you think.

TRAIL TALE

LIME KILN LANE

PARK LANE

HOLBURY MANOR PARK

WARREN COPSE

HOLBURY DROVE

FOXCROFT DRIVE

ROLLESTONE ROAD

MINI GAMES!

- A** Standing still, how many trees can you count?
- B** Being careful of the water's edge, how many different creatures, big and small, can you see around you?
- C** Crouch down to see how many different plants you can see.