



NATURE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

**Children from Ludgvan Academy School
explore Badger's Food Forest
West Penwith, Cornwall, UK**



The Children's Nature Photography Project

In October 2025 children from Year 6 class at Ludgvan School spent half a day at Badger's Food Forest to explore the area through photography. Badger's Food Forest was chosen because it is a safe, open landscape which is being transformed into a nature-friendly community space through tree planting, food growing, bee keeping and pond establishment. After an orientation from Gavin Nicol, the owner/Director of Badger's Food Forest, the children were provided with cameras and told they could photograph whatever they liked and/or interested them, and that we would then exhibit a picture chosen by them – allowing everyone to see the landscape through their eyes. Each child has now chosen the picture they most want to share with the public, and explained in their own words why this picture is important to them and what they liked about the project.

Why this project? Explorer and filmmaker Jacques Cousteau famously said "people protect what they love." Helping children connect to and fall in love with the natural world around them is the essential first step in recognising its true value.

The Project was a collaboration between Ludgvan School and Badger's Food Forest

We are very grateful to the staff of Ludgvan school for helping with and supporting this project; to Badger's Food Forest for providing the space to explore; to St Mary's Church for Exhibition Space, and to the Rights and Opportunities Foundation for their financial support.



**RIGHTS AND
OPPORTUNITIES
FOUNDATION**

Thanks also to  **headland** PRINTERS LTD for producing the exhibition panels.



I like how the daisies are all spread out and I really like that they are all in one area, not growing everywhere. The picture makes me feel happy and alright. I enjoyed the day. I do get very bored; I am more like a farm girl who likes riding horses, but I enjoyed this because the place was really pretty and because the daisies reminded me of the daisies in the horses' paddock. And it was sunny as well for once.



I was going around lifting up logs and that was there and I thought it was really cool, because the roots go from one side to the other and are making knots, and it looks nice. It looked like pasta or noodles. I don't eat noodles but I do eat pasta. I don't think those are edible. They might be the roots of the plants at the edges. I liked the day, having a look at nature around us. It's nice to get out and do something like that. The only thing I didn't like was getting my shoes wet and my socks, but they are dry now and it was worth it.



Alex Smith, age 10

We went to the corners and we went round the back first and we were lifting up stuff. And we were all trying to take pictures but it was moving really fast, and the others left, but I stayed and I got this good picture. It's clear and the beetle looks shiny, and you can see the legs, and on the grass, I can see the raindrops very clearly. I am surprised I took such a good picture. It's quite nice. The day was fun, definitely better than English or Maths. I've taken pictures of bugs before. I had a camera when I was young and I was running around and I took a picture of a bug, but nothing since. There's a field next to our house and me and my friend go there a lot. This has made me want to take more pictures of nature.



Amelia Mortimer, age 10

I took this because I haven't seen that type of grass before and it looks cool to me, because you can see the sky through it and it is soft and rough at the same time. One thread is all soft and you feel another and it's all rough. I knew those dead plants would be in the picture and I like that because it adds more, it's like a different plant. The day was great, seeing things and taking pictures of things I hadn't seen before. I'd like to do it again.



Cadan Mayhew, age 10

I took this because it's nice and calm, with the sharp corners and spiky ground in the grassy areas. The calming is because it's nice and green, and green is my favourite colour. I see it 24 hours a day, it's part of nature. Where I live there are lots of bushes and we have a garden with loads of green grass and I can't stop looking at it. I liked the day. I have done photography before. I got first place for photography of a bee when I was five, and I've got two cameras. But this was different because it was an open area, so you could see everything more clearly, so I really enjoyed it.



Ellie Richards, age 10

I like how the sun shines on the water droplets and how they form. It's kind of fascinating how they form tiny little flecks of water alongside the big ones. I splashed the water with my foot and then I got my foot out of the way really quickly and then I took the picture. I enjoyed the day because it was very fun, looking at nature and seeing what you could find. I have not done anything like that before and I'd like to do it again. I live near a park and we walk my dog there and I have got a phone camera and a proper camera but my parents don't let me take them in case they get lost. They might let me take them now.



Emily May Coombs, age 10

I took it because of all the detail. People don't usually look at all the dandelions and they are so beautiful up close. I think people should know. And it has got a strange bug on it as well. I didn't see that when taking the picture, just the dandelion. It was a really nice day, and peaceful and more calming than I thought it would be. It was like a nature reserve, so nice and peaceful, I enjoyed it very much. And Gavin has put so much work into it, so many trees and ponds. I think it's really coming together. I think more people should come because it's so peaceful and beautiful.



Ernie Bales, age 10

I just saw it on the other side, so I went round and took a picture. There's not a lot of detail from far away. It's a crane fly. They drag their legs with them while flying. The legs just stay still, floating, their wings do all the work. It's pretty clear when you watch them flying. I've seen loads of them in my garden and the field next to my house. I am interested in nature. I liked the day. There was so much nature: bugs, insects, beehives. I've not taken a camera into nature before. When you have one it allows you to keep the memories of what you see.



Evelyn Weaver, age 10

I like blackberries, I eat them, they are black. There are no spiders, it's in nature. I took it from above to avoid shadow. I have used my mum's phone in nature but with this I can zoom in which is nice because you can see what you are taking pictures of more clearly.



Evie Wharmsby, age 10

It just looks really nice. I thought if I got in close it might look cool and it did. When I look at it now, it makes me happy. The spikey bits: when I touched them, they were prickly. I think it's a tree that gives pine cones. I liked taking pictures of nature. I've not done it before and I'd like to do it again.



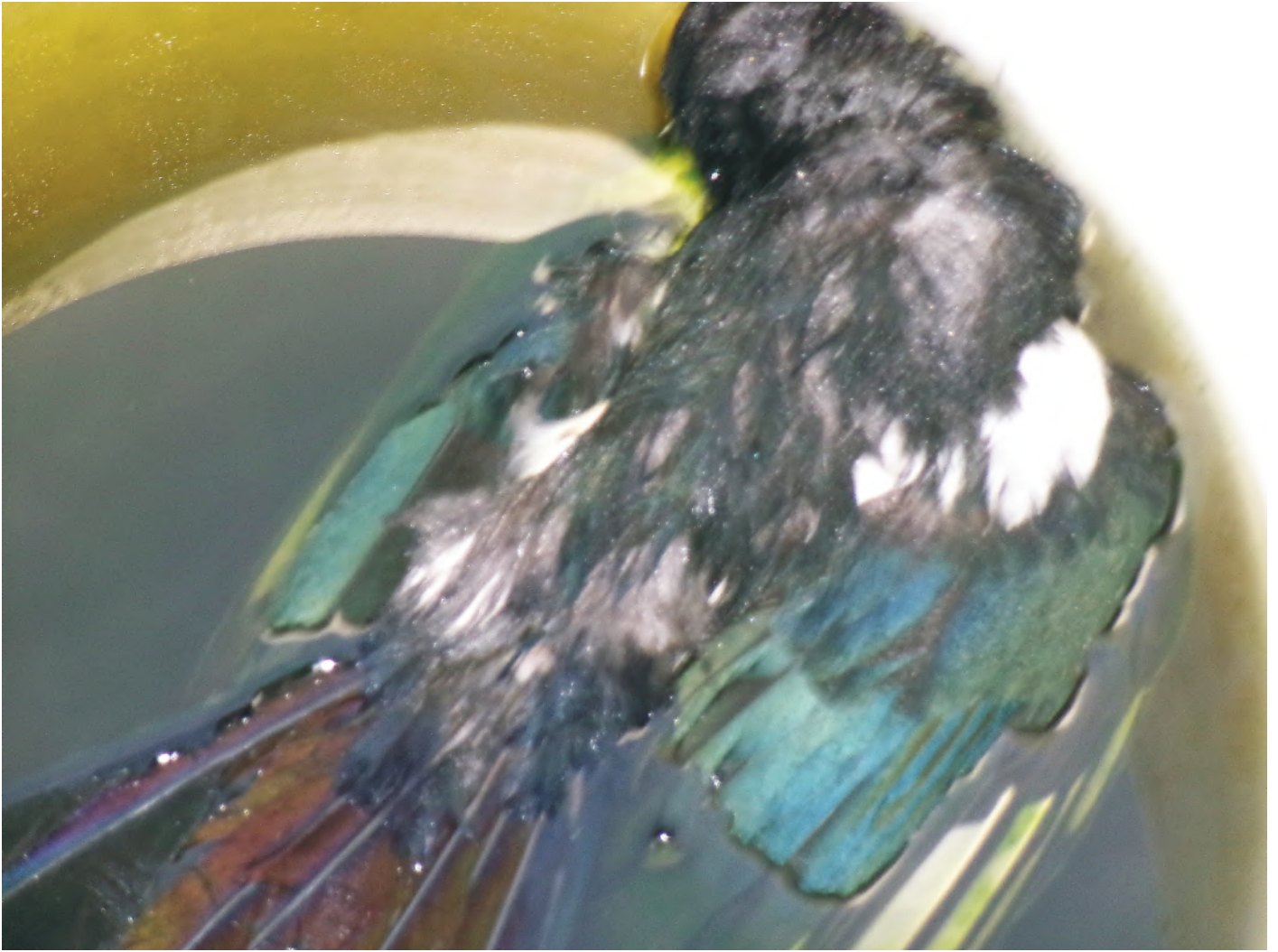
Freddie Toy, age 10

I just loved the look of this. The plant in the middle is from South America. Mr Coleman said we could eat it if we wanted to. I liked the look of them all, I think the others are normal flowers. I just liked the day. I've not done anything like this before. I've never used a camera before. I would like to do more. When you have a camera in nature you can take pictures of stuff.



Holly Edwards, age 10

I like this because underneath it's growing. It started off at the bottom, rough, and then it grew up above the water and you can see at the bottom the roots. It grows up all green. I think it might have had a hard journey. It started off as a little seed, all hopeless, but then it wanted to get to the top and grow, so people could see how far it had come; and it didn't have any help. It's really independent. It wasn't in a pot or watered, but still, it's beautiful.



Jack Payne, age 11

I took this because it's a dead bird and I like dead birds for some reason, both the way they are and the way they are lying. I am curious about how they died. Maybe this one got shot, I did see a hole. I don't think it drowned; magpies can hop. I enjoyed the day, the rubber ducks and the dead bird, and going in the massive ditch. You could walk into that and it felt real. I do a lot of photography at home. I have a proper camera; this one wasn't quite as good.



Jowan Fletcher, age 10

The reason I like it is that it looks purply and it looks like a mini palm tree. It just looks nice, the purple, with the green and orange is nice. It's growing, it's nature, and I like the colour. I liked the day; it was sunny and there was good light. I have never done anything like this before with a camera. It meant I got really close up and saw nature from different angles and that was good.



Keira James, age 10

I just found it really interesting. It looks really cool and I wanted to share this. I went down the road and there is that stream with the house behind it. It heads all the way down to the river. I like the way the leaves are on top and when you see the drops falling down, that looks really cool. And I like the rocks that are like a path and there is a bridge. When you go on that, it's fun to see the water flowing. I have not taken pictures around my house before. It was fun to explore. When you are taking pictures, instead of just walking, you have the pictures as a reminder.



Koben Gardener, age 10

I took it because it's got the whole field and you can see the sky, which is amazing, and the tractor; you can see everything. I am amazed at the view. I liked the place: spending a lot of time in nature, being outside. Having a camera was a bit strange because I have never held a camera before, but I'd like to do it again.



Laurel Kent, age 10

I took this because I like the colour and shape of the flower and it looks like an interesting flower that I've never seen before. It just caught my eye. It's just nice. I have not really done anything like this before, my brother has. I enjoyed it because there were so many things to explore, like all the different nature things that you wouldn't see on a normal walk, you wouldn't see the flower. Like having beehives there, which attracted the bees. So it was lovely to have them. The bees are going to make honey and pollinate flowers, which improves nature and gives us oxygen.



Lexi McNaughton-James, age 10

There was a fence around it and I was curious but not tall enough to look over, so I put my camera over and just took a picture; and when I saw what I got I thought it was nice and I liked it a lot. It looked like it was not in a field but somewhere wild, which was interesting, because that's totally different. When I look at it now, I think it's amazing and it makes me happy because it's just an interesting view with the leaves going over and around the stick. It was an amazing day because I love photography. I have a camera and I take lots of pictures, but it was fun and interesting to use a different camera, and I've not done it in nature before, so that was fun. I would love to do it again.



Loewen Riley, age 10

I took this because it looked really nice. When we were exploring, I thought it was a dragon. And it looked really cool and I thought, since I like dragons, I might take a picture. And then I found out it was an eagle and it didn't matter to me because it still looked really cool. I like dragons. I watched *How to Train Your Dragon*. That was really cool and it made me like dragons. You have pet dragons and they fight the big dragon off. I liked the day because it gave me a chance to see what nature brings to us and what you can make with it. It is wonderful. You can do all this stuff with wood, and some people make stuff with sand, it's amazing. I just really love nature and it's really good to get outside because of all the stuff you can find.



Logan Tully, age 10

I have actually never seen wood like this before and I thought it was really cool; and when I took the picture, I had to put my hand in the box and turn it around to avoid taking the grass on the ground. I liked the top of them because they had black hairs. I liked how it went up, and then a lump; up and then a lump; up and then a lump. And it made me feel like I was in the jungle. It was like Asian bamboo- I don't really know- I could see it in China or Japan I think, the Asian Jungle. I just thought the wood was pretty cool.



Lottie Males, age 10

It's natury, it looks good. We were walking around looking for things to take pictures of and this looked cool, with the long grass in the background and the spikey things in front. I don't know what it is. I know it's a plant and I like it because half of the seeds have fallen off and half are still there. I liked the day. I liked taking pictures. I have done it before with a phone camera, but this was different because you could zoom in and out as much as you like.



Masha Palii, age 11

I thought this was interesting and weird. Everyone was taking pictures of sunflowers and this was all alone and I just took a picture. It was interesting because it was in the middle of the water. I've not seen anything like that. The white stuff looks like centipedes and I like centipedes, I don't know why. It's interesting, it looks dead but it's growing. It was kind of fun wandering around, I've not done anything like that before. I've been in a forest before but not a place like this. I live in Redruth and lived in Kiev before, which is a big city. We have a forest near our house in Redruth and we go there a lot, but this was cool because of the mushrooms and beehives.



Max Battle, age 10

I am not sure why I took this but I wanted to share it because there are two plants, a small one and a big one - I couldn't get the whole tree in - and they are both being taken care of. I liked the day, it was fun. I have got my own camera but I have not used these cameras before. I've not been in nature before and I saw some stuff I've never seen before, like the pond. Where I live there's only roads and a single field and some trees. I like water, I like swimming, I did get soggy feet.



Milo Bhandari, age 10

I like that you can see the little drops of water and the sun is shining on it. I saw the cobweb and so I just took a picture of it. When I look at it, I feel like a tiny little spider. That would be hard because loads of people would be stomping around. I enjoyed the day. My socks were soaking but it was fun and it was hot. I'd like to do it again because I like nature, I like the smell.



Ozzlyn Turvey, age 10

I took this because they looked so interesting and they are fluffy. They look like small balls about to bloom. It makes me happy to look at it because it's pink and pink makes me happy. I like pink a lot, when I am feeling down it cheers me up. I liked the day. I got to spend time with other people. When I get home, I just eat and read and go to bed. I would like to do this more; both be in nature and be with others.



Rubin Aguirre-Aucott, age 10

I took this because the clovers are shiny and you can see the dew coming off them. It doesn't really look like clover, it looks like mountains at the back. I actually put my camera in the clovers and then I thought: Oh, let's take a picture! You can see water dripping off some of them, it's really nice. The morning was really wet. If it was drier, it would have been better, because my shoes got wet and are still soggy. But if it was drier I wouldn't have got this picture.



Siena Lynch, age 10

People don't really get to see these bugs because they are camouflaged. It's on top of the seed pod. I wanted people to see it. Bugs are living creatures like us and sometimes people step on them and think it's funny. We need bugs. Bees are bugs and they get us honey and bugs are pretty for us to look at. The day was fun because I don't get to do stuff like that, because I don't live where there are fields. I live on a street. We do dog walks but it's not the same. It's fun to have a camera because you get to look back at the pictures; and when you have got the camera, you can zoom in and look at nature closely.



Walter Cape, age 11

It just looks good. The pine cones are extremely big and the texture, it's bumpy and they're big and light when you expect them to be heavy. I liked them. I had not seen anything like that before, although I know they are pine cones. The morning was good. I got to skip maths. This was better, I got to have fresh air and I got to take pictures of stuff that I like: nature, and the plastic ducks. I don't know why I liked them, but they had something.



Winnie Hunt, age 11

It just looks pretty; it caught my eye. I really like sunflowers. I've always grown sunflowers in our back garden. I just really enjoy looking after them. You plant seed, keep watering every day, then move them from small pots to large pots. I planted six, they all flowered and one is in bloom now, but the others died, probably because the dogs were eating them. But there is another growing off a stem. The day was great fun. I liked walking around just taking pictures of everything. I don't normally walk around with a camera in my hand. It makes you think: I can take a picture of that.

