

The Hidden World Trail

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Welcome to Leigh Woods

Leigh Woods is probably best known as the magnificent backdrop to the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Yet it has played an important part in the lives of the people in this area for thousands of years.

Only three miles from the city centre, Leigh Woods provides an incredible resource, with enormous potential for learning.

The Hidden World trail has been designed to enable teachers to plan school trips to Leigh Woods quickly and simply. It is also a fun and fascinating way for children to learn more about their surroundings.

Wildlife

Many rare species thrive in the woods. Some of these are endemic to the Avon Gorge (meaning that they are only found here), like trees such as the Bristol whitebeam. Other interesting wildlife includes the rare greater and lesser horseshoe bats, roe deer and birds such as peregrines and ravens.

History

There is archaeological evidence of human occupation from prehistoric times. The banks of an impressive Iron Age hill-fort can still be seen in the woods and there is evidence of woodland management from the medieval period.

Art

In the early 19th century, the Bristol School of Artists found inspiration here. Many of their paintings, depicting the woods and the views across to Bristol, can still be seen today in the City Museum and Art Gallery.

The National Trust

The National Trust protects places of historic interest or natural beauty for everyone to enjoy forever. As a charity, independent of government, it has been looking after countryside and coastline, historic buildings and gardens, archaeological sites and nature reserves for more than a century. No other organisation manages and conserves such a broad range of the nation's natural and cultural heritage.

The National Trust works alongside the Forestry Commission (England) to look after Leigh Woods in a sustainable way, whilst promoting public access and nature conservation.

Planning your school visit

Subject areas

We've put together a number of activities, each of which falls into one or more of the following curriculum subjects – Literacy, Science, History, Geography, Art, PSHE & Citizenship and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). So you can choose whatever combination of activities suits your lesson plans or use them as starting points for other work and further discussion.

At the bottom of each activity sheet is a reference to its curriculum link.

Route

The Hidden World trail follows a permanently waymarked route (purple trail), which is wheelchair accessible and fairly level. It begins in the Forestry Commission car park, which is accessible for minibuses and single seater coaches.

We have provided a simple map that shows the route, but would be happy to send you a full site leaflet. Please call or email us at the address below.

Please note that the final short section of the walk is along Coronation Avenue so you will need to watch for traffic. Please ensure all vehicles are locked and no valuables are left on show.

Stop points

We have suggested four stop points where activities could take place (marked on the map). The chart overleaf shows which activities might be most relevant at each stop. But these are only suggestions – there are endless variations you can try!

The two activities 'Map magic' and 'Use your senses' are relevant to the whole trail rather than specific stop points.

Time allocation

To walk the route without stopping takes about 45 minutes, so for example, if you were doing four activities across the whole trail, you would need to allow at least two hours.

Toilets

There are no toilet facilities at Leigh Woods, although we will be happy to ensure that our staff toilet is unlocked and available for emergency use if we are aware of your visit.

Further information

We can provide you with additional information about the site, such as historical records or species lists. We can also help you to plan your visit – although we can't always be there on the day. Please contact us at:

The National Trust

Reserve Office

Valley Road

Leigh Woods

Bristol BS8 3PZ

Tel: 0117 973 1645 Fax: 0117 974 3976

Email: leighwoods@nationaltrust.org.uk

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Text: Georgiana Hockin / Cathy Lewis

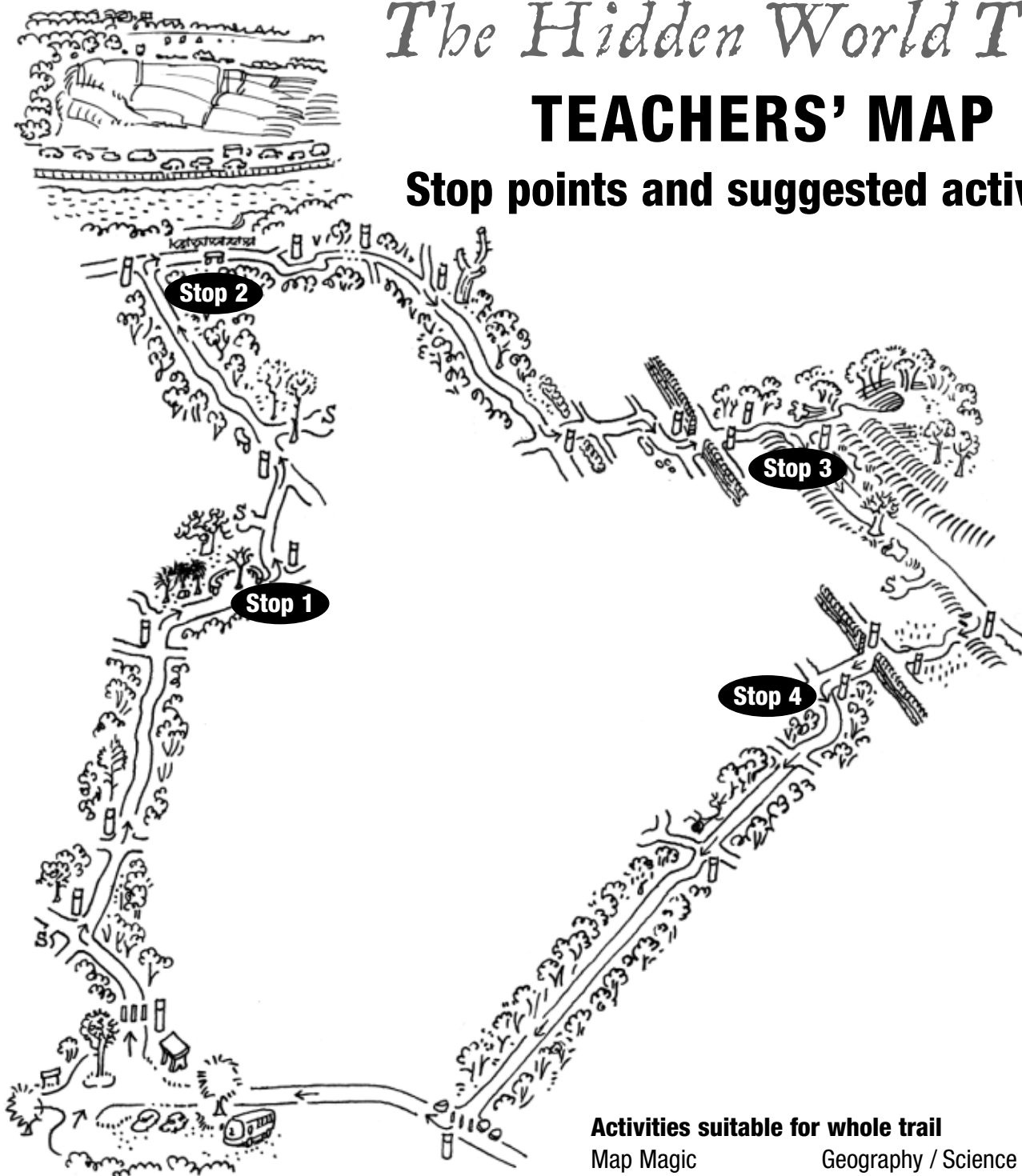
Illustrations: Tony Kerins

Design: Mark Foster

The Hidden World Trail

TEACHERS' MAP

Stop points and suggested activities



Activities suitable for whole trail

Map Magic	Geography / Science / Art	Page 3
Use your senses	Science	Page 4

Stop 1

Tree types	Science	Page 5
Fantasy tree	Literacy	Page 6
Bark pictures	Art	Page 7
After the chop!	ESD	Page 8

Stop 2

What's that bird?	Science	Page 9
Animals all around us	Literacy	Page 10
Gorge gaps	ESD / Art / PSHE & Cit	Page 11

Stop 3

Beetles and bugs	Science	Page 12
Imagine the Iron Age	Literacy / History	Page 13
Art attack	Art / PSHE & Cit	Page 14
Trees or towers?	ESD / Art / Literacy / PSHE & Cit	Page 15

Stop 4

What's that animal?	Science	Page 16
Animal antics	Literacy	Page 17
Hidden World Shield	Art	Page 18
Woods for everyone	ESD / Literacy	Page 19