

Question 4 Most of the hedgerows on Elm Farm are rows of different kinds of large bushes and trees. When the bushes are allowed to grow large they have lots of flowers or catkins in spring and summer followed by lots of nuts or berries in autumn.

What kind of insects get their energy from the flowers and what wild animals eat the nuts and berries?

Question 5 In Donkey Field, soon after you go down the steps and through the gate you will see mounds of soil in the grassy area on your left. If you can find a patch of bare soil on top of the mound, in warm weather you can move the soil and find some yellow insects.

What are the insects called and what are the mounds called?

Question 6 In Sheepfield, when you get to the gate at the bottom near the road there is a tree on your left that was cut about 2 metres above the ground. The young twigs that grow from the cut can be used to weave things such as baskets and garden furniture.

What sort of tree is it, and why was it cut 2 metres above the ground?

Question 7 In Ditchfield, Flatbottom and Woodcotes there are large holes in the fields that were made many years ago and are now overgrown with bushes and trees. The holes were left after people dug clay from below the soil. The clay went to supply a nearby kiln.

Name three things that you can find in a house, or on a house, or part of a house that could be made of clay after it was 'fired' in the kiln

Wildlife Ecology

Scientists use the word "ecology" to describe the study of how plants and animals live together in different places. The different places are known as "habitats". Examples of habitats are woodland and pond. Examples of what you might see in these are an oak tree and a frog.

On your way round the farm trail you will see different habitats. Make a list of habitats and at least two plants or animals that you can see or would expect to see in each one.

Habitat **Plants or animals in this habitat**

Woodland	Oak tree
Pond	Frog



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The Organic Farm Trail at Elm Farm

The Farm Trail Explorer

for visitors aged 9 to 12



You can use this explorer leaflet to discover some facts about Elm Farm and the wildlife on the farm.

You will need a pen or pencil to make a note of your answers to the explorer questions as you walk round the trail.

The trail is a permissive path, open to the public throughout the year. Children should always be accompanied by an adult.

The Farm Trail



The Farm Trail Explorer Challenge

On this and the next two pages there are two Explorer Challenges for you to complete as you go round the trail starting at point "S" on the map, near the large information board.

At the end of the trail you will find a leaflet in a dispenser giving answers to the questions.

As you walk the trail from point S, the 7 questions below will be in the correct order for you. If you need to you can ask an adult to give you clues to the answers.

Question 1 From the start of the trail, looking into the farmyard during autumn and winter, you will see large bales of cattle feed wrapped in airtight plastic that is known as silage. In summer you may see some bales in the fields. The bales contain grass that we cut in summer to feed to the cattle during the winter.

Why do we wrap plastic tightly around the silage?

Question 2 From the start of the trail you can see a large green tank at the side of the farmyard. Every winter when there are cows in the yard we collect the smelly mixture of their wee and poo and pump it into the tank. Then each year in the spring we transfer the smelly stuff called slurry into a smaller tank on wheels and spread it on the soil around the farm.

Why do we spread slurry onto the soil?

Question 3 In the fields there are lots of wild flowers growing with the grass, and one plant called clover that we sow in mixture with the grass. If you can find plants that always have three leaflets joined by short stalks, and has white flowers in summer, it is known as white clover.

Why do we grow clover in the fields with grass?
