



Looking for animal tracks

Age 5 +

If you're able to get out into Epping Forest and it has been raining it's almost certain that you'll find a variety of different tracks in the mud. But any local park or green space that has a muddy patch is a good place to look for tracks, you might even find some in your own garden.

You will need:

- Identification sheet – [we like this one from the woodland trust.](#)
- Strip of card or a circle of stiff plastic cut from a bottle (optional)
- Plaster of paris (optional)
- Some water (optional)
- A small container to mix the plaster & water together (optional)



Here are our top tips for finding tracks:

- Pay close attention to muddy areas, especially in places where animals may not be able to walk around the mud!
- Look for areas of longer grass that look like they have been "parted". Animals often use the same routes every day and this can make gaps in the vegetation.
- Animals like to be near places to hide so they will often keep close to areas of trees, bushes and tall grass rather than out in the open.



Once you have found an animal print you can try to identify it using a key.

Make a cast of a print

Push a circle of card or plastic into the mud around the print. Mix one part water with two parts plaster of paris and mix, the mixture should be pourable. Fill the mold with the plaster. Leave for 20-30 minutes to harden.

Lift the molded print out and make sure you collect all your equipment to take home.

Please make sure you have the landowner's permission first.

