



## Fungi & Foraging Policy

Brookwood Park Ltd, working in partnership have adopted Surrey Wildlife Trust's Fungi and foraging policy to help maintain and protect the environment.

There is increasing interest in and media coverage of gathering, preparing and consuming wild food. Whilst this can undoubtedly encourage an interest in the natural environment, uncontrolled foraging can impact negatively on ecosystems. This is particularly the case with the collection of wild fungi.

### **Why fungi picking isn't permitted on our site**

There are at least 12,000 species of fungi native to the UK. They can be found in all habitats and are an essential component of the biodiversity of our nature reserves and countryside sites.

Fungi are a vital part of functioning ecosystems playing a key role in decomposition, recycling of nutrients and provision of food and habitat resource to many other organisms.

Whilst some fungi species may be found in abundance others are rare, threatened or in decline.

Fruiting bodies of some species of fungi are valued as food and actively collected for the pot by individuals for their own consumption or by groups collecting commercially for the restaurant trade.

Brookwood Park Ltd have been subjected to indiscriminate and intensive collecting for some years and we now wish to protect and prevent damaging the sensitive ecosystem of this site.



## Foraging for other types of food

Small scale, non-commercial gathering of some fruits, nuts and leaves is a traditional use of the countryside. However, the complete stripping of fruits from a shrub or tree will affect food availability to other species.

For this reason, we ask that you pick berries, nuts and fruits responsibly on our site and ensure that you leave enough food for wildlife.

## Foraging code of conduct

- **Be sure of what you are picking**  
Some wild plants may be poisonous or even deadly if consumed. If you are not certain of the identity of a plant, fruit or berry, leave it alone.
- **Leave enough for wildlife**  
Only collect from areas where wild food is plentiful. It is important to forage sustainably to leave food for other species such as birds, insects and mammals, as well as to allow plants to reproduce.

Take only what you plan to eat. Remember, other people may come foraging, and areas of fruits and berries can quickly be stripped.

- **Avoid damaging other habitats and species**  
Please avoid trampling, uprooting or damaging other plants, trees and shrubs when foraging. Our site contains rare species and may be protected by law.