

# Glamis Castle Gardens and Grounds "Tracker Trail"



Wildlife creatures and animals can be shy and elusive so tracking them can be difficult. However, there are many clues to show us the whereabouts and the behaviour pattern of some wildlife.

Find the posts then read the clues to help you track some wildlife here at Glamis Castle.

**Start at the front of the castle, looking towards the Sundial and Yew Trees then by using the Gardens & Grounds Map you will find posts numbered 1 - 4 in the following areas;**

- 1) Nature Trail   2) Near Italian Garden Gates in nature trail   3) In the Italian Garden   4) Pinetum**

## Start by the Sundial. Tracker Trail for Roe Deer

Roe Deer live in the thick cover of woodland making it very difficult to spot them. The Deer come out in the half light of dawn and dusk to forage for food. Stand behind the rope at the sundial and look at the large Yew Trees.



Roe Deer



Yew Tree

The bottom parts of the Yew Trees have been eaten away. Look carefully and you will notice the difference in the thickness and bushiness of the foliage on the trees. Notice a line going around the bottom of the tree. The deer have eaten all the parts they can reach.

Interesting fact: Yew foliage is poisonous to most mammals and cows which have grazed on yew have been known to die, but roe deer are not affected.

## Post 1. (Nature Trail) Tracker Trail for Red Squirrel

Because red squirrels don't hibernate, they store seeds and nuts to eat over the winter months.

Look out for little holes in the ground which have been used by the squirrels to store food. Look closely and when you find one, you may still be able to see left over seeds.



Interesting Fact: Red Squirrels moult twice a year. In autumn they moult beginning at the tail, working toward the head, and in spring they moult from head to tail!

## Post 2. (Sandbox in Nature Trail) by Italian Garden Gates. Tracker Trail for Creature Tracks

The sand box should allow you to find some wildlife tracks. See how many different tracks you can identify in the sand. The pictures below show some examples of tracks you might see.

Roe Deer



Hare



Pheasant




Red Squirrel



Interesting fact: Rabbits live underground in **burrows** and hares live above ground in **nests**.

**Post 3. (Italian Garden) - Tracker Trail for Bumblebee** Try to spot the different types of common bumblebees. Look carefully at the pictures below and see how many you can spot.


White- tailed bumblebee. A common bee set apart from buff- tailed bee by pure white tail and yellow bands.



Buff- tailed bumblebee. Common in early spring. Yellow bands are slightly darker than in white- tailed bee.




Garden Bumblebee. Long- tailed bee that prefer flowers such as foxglove, delphinium and honeysuckle



**Interesting Facts:**  
Bumblebees have smelly feet!  
Not all bumblebees are common. Some species face extinction and need our help. We can help by planting wildflowers in the garden.

Common Carder Bee.  
Easy to spot by its brown colour.



**Post 4. (Pinetum) Tracker Trail for Pine Cones**

Look underneath some of the trees you should be able to see cones which have been chewed by red squirrels. Inside every chamber is a tiny seed. It is said that depending on how the cone has been eaten, you can tell if the squirrel is left or right - handed!



Interesting facts: squirrels build nests in trees which are known as dreys.  
Squirrels live for 10 – 12 years.



R	P	I	P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E	S
L	E	B	T	R	A	C	K	S	Y	P	U
H	X	D	R	E	Y	Q	S	E	E	D	N
A	Z	W	S	Y	U	O	M	K	W	V	U
R	D	E	T	Q	T	Y	I	P	T	W	T
E	I	J	U	S	U	W	A	A	R	O	S
A	Z	R	A	B	B	I	T	M	E	L	O
R	O	E	D	E	E	R	R	V	E	M	T
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	R	O	P	P
B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E	E	K	L
W	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	O	O	L	O
P	H	E	A	S	A	N	T	V	L	B	L

We hope you have enjoyed the Tracker Trail and that you have been lucky enough to track some creatures. Now try doing the word search and find the words below.

**Pine cones. Red Squirrel. Drey. Seed. Nuts. Hare. Rabbit. Roe Deer. Pheasant. Bumblebee. Yew Tree. Tracks**

