



# Let's create an oak woodland...

'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow'



DISCOVER SCOTTISH BORDERS  
Parks & Green Spaces

Today we are going to go for a walk over to the park to collect some acorns. We will bring these back home or to school and plant them. Hopefully, in 1–2 years' time we will have some oak saplings that we can plant out. If you are planting a few you might even create a new oak woodland. Acorns are the seeds of an oak tree, and this tree is very important for wildlife.

## In the Park

- 1 Walk around your local park.
- 2 Find the oak trees: the big oaks are best for acorns.
- 3 Collect 2–3 acorns each from under an oak tree and put them in a bucket.
  - Leave some acorns for animals like squirrels, insects, and birds.
  - Pick acorns that are brown, big, and don't have any holes or bites.

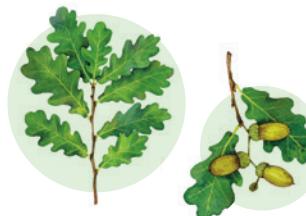


## Did you know...

- ?
- Oak trees can live for over **1,000 years**, meaning they support wildlife for centuries
- ?
- 1,178** different insect species use oak trees to live on, eat, hide and nest.
- ?
- Oak has been **used for thousands of years** for beams, panels, and doors in churches and cathedrals.

The leaves and acorns of an oak tree look like this:

Out of approximately 600 global species of oak tree there are only two native species of oak in Scotland: the pedunculate oak and sessile oak.



### Pedunculate oak

- The leaves have almost no stalks and grow direct from the stem.
- The acorns are attached to the twig by a long stalk



### Sessile oak

- The leaves have a stalk attachment from the branch.
- No stalk on the acorns

## Making More Room for Nature

We're helping wildlife in our parks and green spaces by turning quiet corners into wilder places that are great for nature – and fun for you to explore! Wildflowers are like a tasty buffet for bees, butterflies, and bugs, while the long grass gives them safe places to hide.

Next time you're out exploring, see if you can spot a buzzing bee or a fluttering butterfly enjoying their new home.

How many different creatures and flowers can you find?

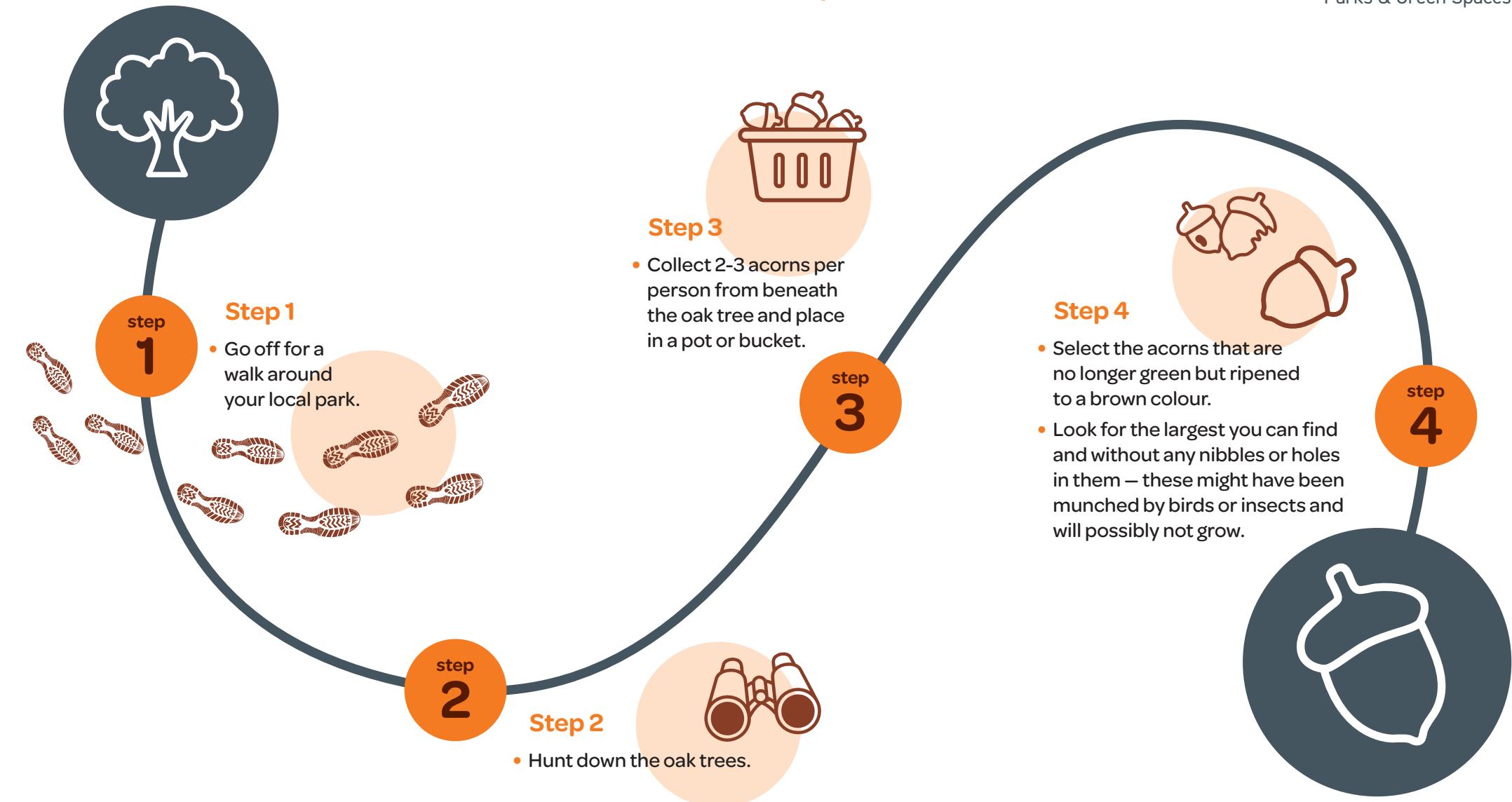
We'd love to hear from you – ask an adult to tell us what wildlife you spot in your local green space

@sbcouncil

@scotborders



# Autumn activity In the park





# Autumn activity

## At home or school



step  
**1**

**Step 1**

- Place the acorns in a bucket of water – those that sink are good for planting.



**Step 2**

- Place some peat free compost in a flowerpot, make a hole in the centre of the compost and place the acorn in the hole, then cover with a little more compost.



step  
**2**



step  
**3**

**Step 3**

- Pop in a label with the following information: your name, the date and label it 'oak'.



**Step 4**

- Look after the saplings for 1 to 2 years, remembering to keep the soil moist throughout the spring and summer months.
- Once your saplings have reached 20cm in height it is time to plant them out in spring.



step  
**4**