

## TIPS FOR RUNNING A FORAY

### Planning

- Get permission from the landowner if applicable
- Advertise clearly the starting time, meeting point, duration, requirements (e.g. stout footwear and clothing appropriate to terrain and weather, small basket - not plastic bags) and optional extras (e.g. knife, field guide, hand lens/magnifying glass).
- Check out the site in advance if possible: access, parking, footpaths, presence of fungi(!). Work out a possible route, identifying any special hazards.

### Briefing

- If you have the use of an indoor venue for the briefing, you may like to use some or all of Worksheets 1-4 as an introduction. If not, keep the preamble short and briefly cover:
  - The purpose of the foray
  - Any local restrictions on picking
  - The timescale
  - Where to look for fungi and how to collect them properly (importance of getting the whole fungus)
  - The importance of noting the location of the fungus, associated organisms, etc.
  - Responsible picking according to the Code of Conduct (see below)
  - The Countryside code (shutting of gates, no trampling of wild flowers).
- Always point out that some fungi are edible, but NEVER eat one unless you are absolutely sure that it has been correctly identified.

### During the foray

- Call the group together at intervals to review finds
- Demonstrate practical skills as means of identification (Page 7)
- Incorporate anecdotes, fascinating fungal facts and folklore (Pages 12-13)
- Use selected specimens to highlight the ecology and biological roles of fungi

### After the foray

- Display and label finds if possible. (Pre-prepared labels of some common species can save time).
- Dispose of fungi back in the woodland, not in a pile in the car park.
- If appropriate, make a list of the finds for distribution to participants

### Wild Mushroom Pickers' Code of Conduct

The Wild Mushroom Pickers' Code of Conduct was produced by a consortium of organisations involved in the conservation and collecting of fungi including English Nature and the British Mycological Society. It is available free of charge from English Nature's Enquiry Service (tel. 01733 455101) and can also be viewed on the English Nature web site ([www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)) and [www.fungi4schools.org/](http://www.fungi4schools.org/).

