

Den Building Activity Sheet



The designated Den Building Area



An example of a Den style – Option 2.



An example of a Den style – Option 1.

A day out in the Woods of Brocks Hill Country Park brings out the Den Builder in all of us – no matter what age! With the featured ‘Den Building Area’ full of logs, sticks and branches it is the perfect way to spend some time creating a very rustic hideaway! We’ve put together some information and instructions on how to build dens for those in need of some guidance or inspiration.

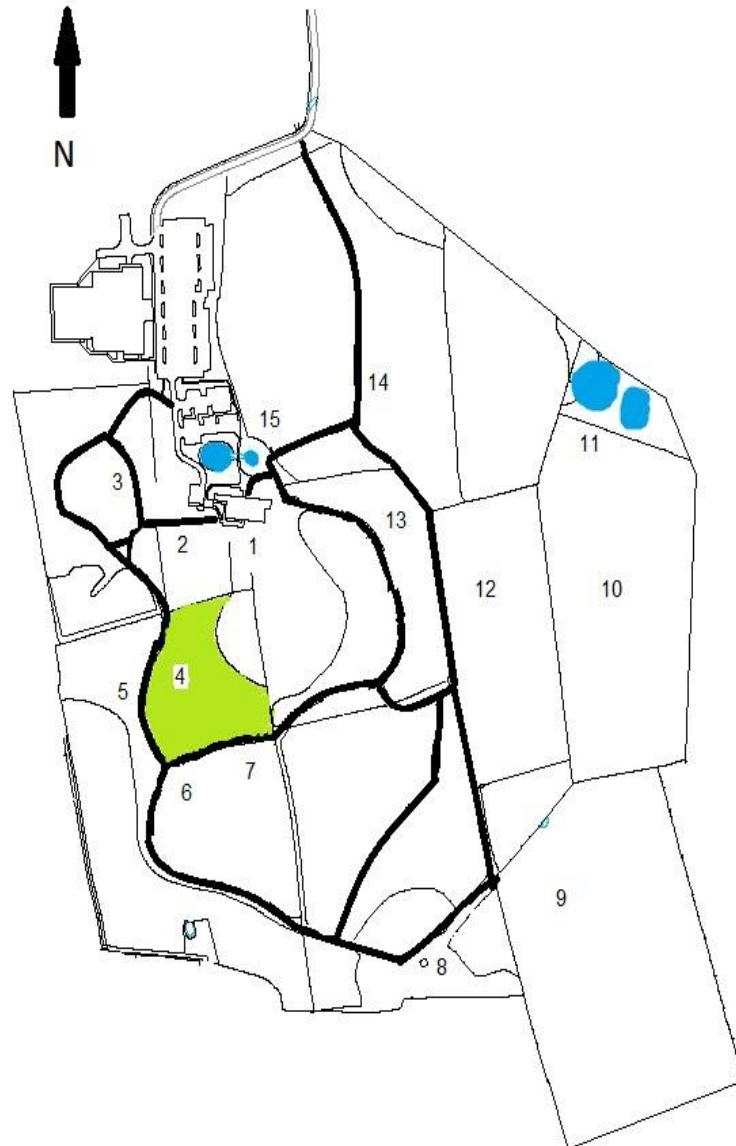
Please also note that when using our area do not take sticks or branches from living trees or from the wooden fence surrounding the area.

Where to find the Den Building Area

Below is a map of Brocks Hill Country Park and Visitor Centre. Area No. 4 in green is where you can find the Den Building Area.

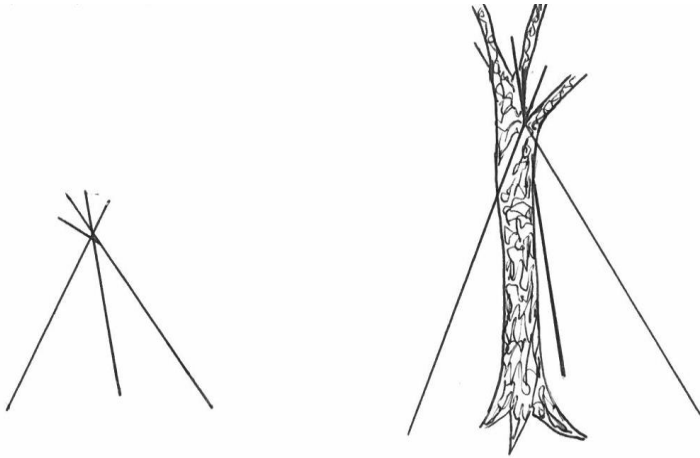
Key:

1. Visitor Centre and Sun Dial
2. Memorial Tree
3. Community Orchard
4. Den Building Area
5. Tree Nursery
6. The Sun God
7. Rotary Wood
8. Wind Turbine
9. Wigston Nook
10. Wildflower Meadow
11. Lucas Ponds
12. Hay Meadow
13. Winter Wood
14. Ridge and Furrow Field
15. Ponds



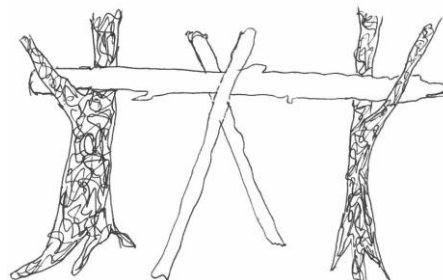
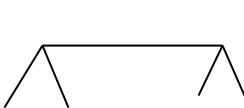
How to build a Den

Option 1:



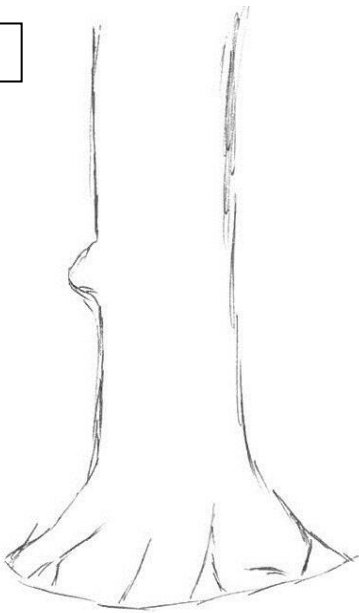
1. For the teepee structure start by using three branches, one with a 'y' shape to it to produce a free stand structure or lean them up around a central tree angled firmly in place.
2. To begin the framework, add additional branches and other finds along one side.
3. Smaller twigs and stems can then be used to weave across, through the framework, creating a mesh.
4. Leaves and grasses could then laid over this mesh, starting at the bottom and work upwards (this will help to keep in the warmth and keep out the rain!)
5. Nearly done –Twigs could be removed to make the floor smoother or bring a log in to sit on.

Option 2:

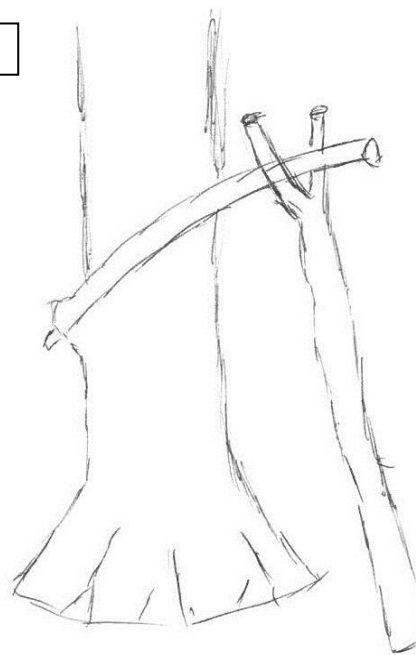


1. To make a traditional tent shape, find a tree with a junction where a branch comes off the side of the main tree trunk. Slot a log in this and prop the other end up on a forked log set at an angle into the ground. (See the following diagrams)
2. If there are two trees close enough together with branch junctions then the log can be laid across the two.
3. Add additional branches, logs and other finds along the sides and build up the thickness of the sides like the teepee option.

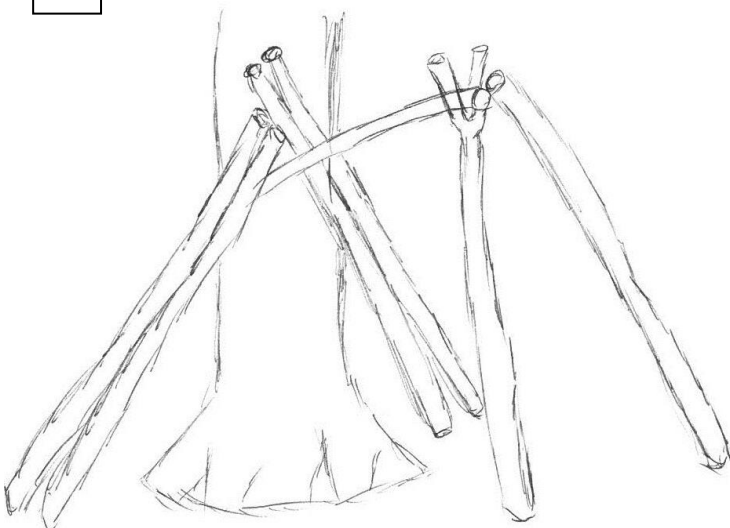
1.



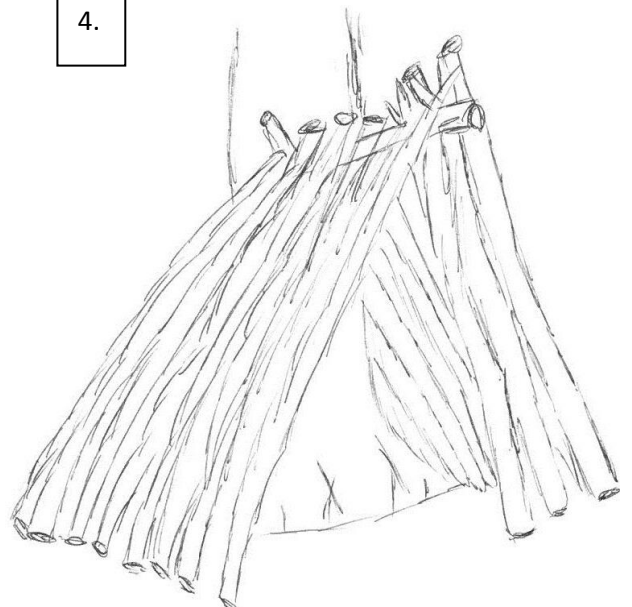
2.



3.



4.



Other ideas

After den building or instead of, children may wish to make a mini Elf House. This could be built at the base of a tree or in an existing hole in the ground. It really is a chance to let imagination run wild on a small scale!

How to make an Elf House

1. Find an ideal spot; this could be anything from a hollow stump, among a pile of stones, or between tree roots.
2. Search for twigs, cones, moss, hazelnuts, pebbles, acorns and any other suitable natural materials and begin!
3. The house could be anything from a fairy palace to a miniature village, children may even want to bring along dolls or toy soldiers to experience play in a natural environment.

Health and Safety

- Once again, please only use old logs and branches to ensure the living trees and plants aren't damaged.
- Please do not take any branches from the fence of the area.
- Always move branches and logs with a friend.
- Be careful when moving branches, drag rather than carry them and watch out for other people.
- Be very aware of trip hazards.
- Please be aware of thorns and prickles – we advise children wear practical outdoor clothing, including gloves.
- Do not pick unknown fruits and fungi.
- Make sure hands are washed after any of these activities.
- Please note that your den may be dismantled so that materials can be reused by others.