



Investigating how we benefit from Forests in our Daily Living Secondary/Meanscoil

Theme: Forests & Community - Answers to Question 9

Can you list 6 ways that this woodland is benefitting your local community and the local wildlife community?

- 1. It cleans our air**
- 2. It cleans our water**
- 3. It recycles nutrients**
- 4. It protects our soil by keeping it stable, for habitats and ecosystems to thrive**
- 5. It prevent erosion of the soil down hills and streams/rivers**
- 6. It increases the lands capacity to store large volumes of water, particularly after a sudden downpour.**
- 7. It helps to prevent flooding downstream, as the roots hold the water and the trees soak it up**
- 8. It is home to lots of plants and creatures such as woodlice, worms, spiders, birds, foxes, badgers, etc,**
- 9. It is a lovely place to walk and spend time in nature**
- 10. It is part of our history and culture and connect is to our ancestors**
- 11. It stores carbon (carbon sequestration)**
- 12. It helps to keep air and soil temperatures stable and helps to cool the planet down**
- 13. It is a source of tree seeds, such as acorns, ash keys, hawthorn berries, sloes, etc. This is called a Living Seed Bank and this is a very valuable asset to any community for future woodland planting.**

In broad terms, these are called Ecosystem Services. They make woodlands, forests and hedgerows an essential part of the biodiversity toolkit in terms of tackling a changing climate and biodiversity loss.