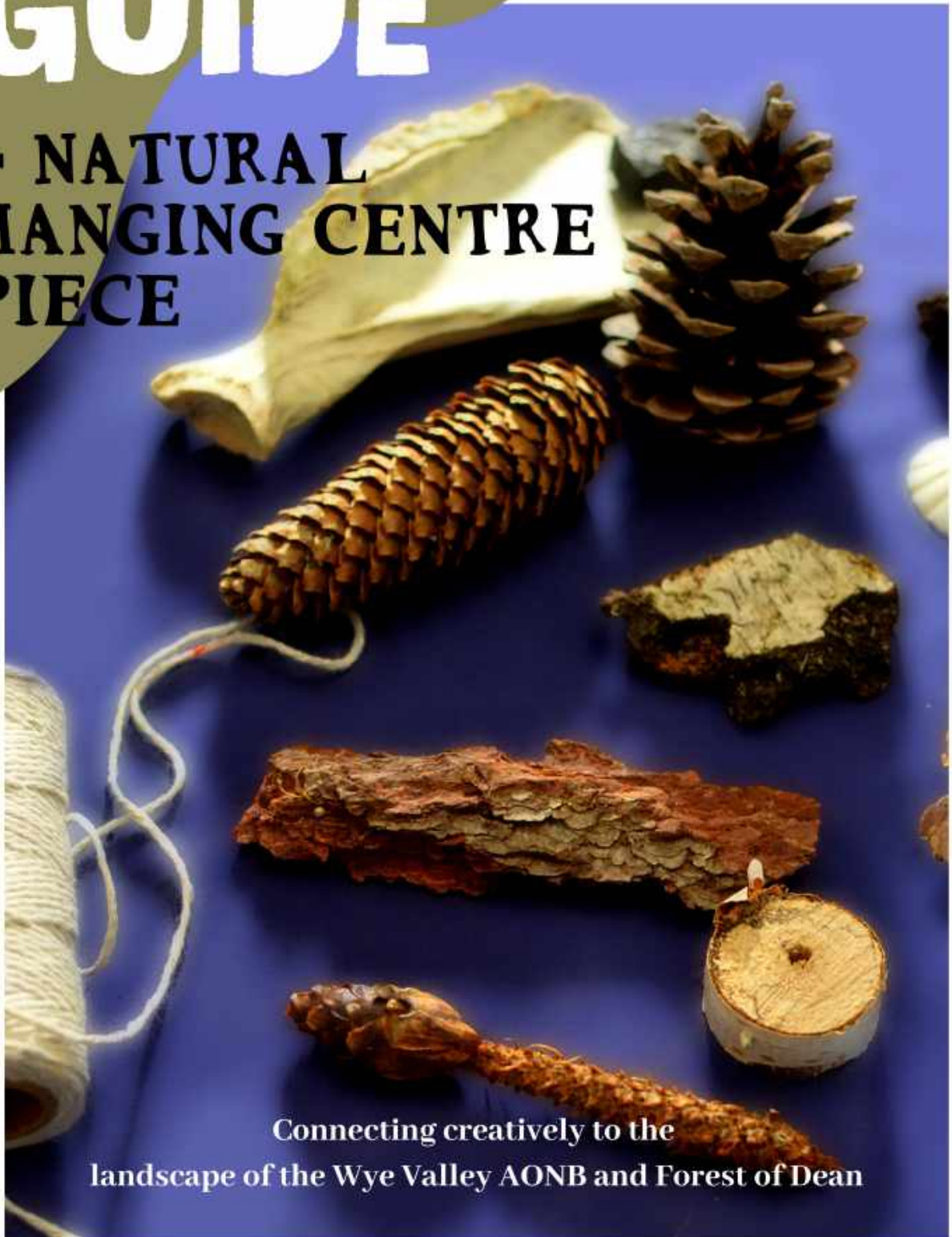


# ACTIVITY GUIDE

## - NATURAL HANGING CENTRE PIECE



Connecting creatively to the  
landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and Forest of Dean

# NATURAL HANGING CENTRE PIECE



Use the abundance of natural forms found in the forest or other natural landscape and make an attractive rustic hanging decoration that you can place either outdoors or inside. You can be imaginative with this and collect objects near to your location that you think would look good integrated into your artwork. When arranged in a simple vertical pattern, the subtle change of colour and textures, even of the most ordinary of objects, look artistic and visually interesting! Some objects would benefit from a drill hole and are not difficult to do if you are competent with a cordless drill.

## Activity rating

Suitable for most people although some assistance may be required with making simple knots and threading the string through holes. It is recommended that a member of staff pre-drill the objects with a cordless drill or is at hand to do so during the activity.

## Preparation time

This activity would require someone to take a walk and collect the objects or this could be incorporated into the activity if participants are able to explore care home gardens for materials. It's a perfect dog walking type of walk where you pick the pine cones, pieces of interesting wood etc.

About 15 minutes to set out the objects and equipment on a table. The objects can be pre drilled or possibly drilled on site by a member of staff with a cordless drill and a block of wood to protect the table.

## Time required for activity

Depending on the amount of objects the participants thread, the activity should take about 1 hour and 10 minutes for 4 threads worth.

## Shopping list

- o Some suitable pieces of wood to act as the main hanging bar. These can be roughly 30-40 cm long.
- o A collection of natural objects such as pine cones of different sizes (part squirrel eaten possibly!), small pieces of selected wood, pieces/flakes of bark, mixed shells (these can be purchased online as a mixed bag).
- o Natural string.
- o Scissors.

## Optional:

- o Small pieces of stone, pebbles or coal to wrap in wire.
- o Pliable wire to encapsulate the stones.
- o Saw to cut off small chips of wood the size of a draught piece.



# NATURAL HANGING CENTRE PIECE



## Step by step instructions

1. Let the participants select the 'top bar' piece of wood. Some may be twisted, mossy, stripped of bark etc.
2. Select a number of different objects and arrange them into 3/4 columns on the table with the intention of creating a pleasing balance of shapes, colours and textures. About 3/4 objects look good in each column. The bigger/heavier objects such as the pine cones may look better at the bottom end.
3. Take a piece of string roughly 3 feet long and tie a double knot at one end. This will become the bottom of your first hanging thread.
4. Some of your objects may need a small drill hole or may have already been drilled. If this has been done, you can thread the string through the hole. A small piece of wire bent into a hook may help at times.
5. For some objects like the pine cones or small rocks, it is possible to wrap the pliable modelling wire around to create a hook or cage respectively.
6. Once you have threaded your first object, roughly calculate the distance for the next double knot and tie this into place.
7. Thread the string through the hole or wire of the next item and repeat until you have the desired amount. The remaining length of string can be then wrapped around the 'top bar' and another piece of string added to allow the hanging to be placed on a wall/tree.

## Top Tips!

- Mixed shells for use with crafts projects can be easily purchased online from well known sellers.
- If you stain the string with a strong tea mix either before hand or after, it gives it a lovely golden colour and enhances the overall look.