

An online exploration of Ballykelly Forest in Northern Ireland

Follow the link that your teacher gives you - Your first view should be a map of the UK

1. Select Northern Ireland by double clicking on the red circle within it.
2. You should see a more detailed map of Northern Ireland. This map is made up of data layers. These are a bit like the information you would find on a tracing overlay, but they can be switched on and off and several can be switched on at once.

What do you think “manmade features” means?

Landscape features produced by people, for instance roads

What do you think “accessible woods” means?

Those where public access is permitted or encouraged (The Woodland Trust defines it as woods where access is actively encouraged for recreational purposes)

3. Use the key on the right hand side of the screen to switch on the layer called “Woodland Trust Woods”

Once the layer is switched on, answer the following question:

Name two woods near Belfast (hover over the wood icons with your mouse pointer to find out more about them).

**Monkstown Wood
Throne Wood
Ligoniel Wood
Old Warren Woodland
Dorothy’s Wood
Seymour Hill
Friends of Belvoir Wood
The Woodland Walkway**

4. You can move your map view around in two ways – by clicking with your mouse and dragging or by using the arrow keys on the top left of the screen. Try doing this, but make sure you end up back where you started! If you get lost at any point you can click the “home” button (a house icon inside the arrow keys) to re-centre yourself on the case study area – Ballykelly. Ballykelly Forest that we are going to explore in detail has a red circle around it.
5. Now let’s focus in on a smaller part of Northern Ireland. Hover over the slider bar on the left hand side and choose the 1:1,250,000 scale.

How many Woodland Trust woods can you see at this scale?

Seven

6. Use the ruler on the tool bar to measure the distance from the city of Londonderry to our study area, Ballykelly. To do this:
- i) click on the "measure" button to open the ruler
 - ii) click to place the start of the ruler where you need it
 - iii) click and drag the ruler to rotate it into the position you need
 - iv) use the hairline mark to make an exact measurement (the distance you need will appear in the bottom left hand corner)
 - v) Give your final answer in either metres or kilometres (it should be around 18,000m or 18km)
 - vi) click 'finish' to remove the ruler

7. Now go to the city level view (zoom in on the slider bar)

Name the two villages that appear

Ballykelly and Greysteel

8. Now go to the local level and switch on the aerial photo of Ballykelly forest. You can also zoom to street level to see it more closely.

What man-made or man-influenced features can you see inside the wood? What do you think they are?

Housing estate, houses, roads. Cars can also be seen on the main highway if the transport route layer is switched off. Housing estate is in fact ex-military)

What man-made or man-influenced features can you see outside the wood?

Field boundaries, ploughed fields, farm, factory/outlet centre?

9. Continuing to look at the aerial photograph layer (and staying within these photographic tiles only) What woodland can you find outside Ballykelly forest? Where is it? What shape is it? Viewing the photograph at 'local level' makes this exercise easier.

There are several small triangular areas. There is a strip of woodland to the south east of Ballykelly.

10. Is any of the extra woodland you have found, ancient in origin? Switch the necessary layers on or off to determine this.

No, in fact it isn't.

This is deliberately a harder question. Pupils should switch on the layer entitled 'NI ancient woods' which is bright green. They will see that Ballykelly does qualify as an ancient wood, but there are no other woods within the aerial photographic tile that are ancient (although two to the right hand side of the aerial photo tiles).