TOP TIPS FOR SPOTTING WILDLIFE

Don't worry if you don't spot any wildlife straight away. Look around you, you might just see evidence it exists. Keep your eyes open for:

- Chewed pine or spruce cones - look for the remains of a squirrel's feast on the floor under the trees. If you can find them you can be sure a squirrel lives close by.
- Otter spraint - otters are very territorial and leave their spraints (droppings) in obvious places such as the top of rocks or under bridges.
- Flattened grass - if you come across a circular area of flat grass you have probably found a deer's resting place.
- Owl pellets - owls can be difficult to spot as they are mostly nocturnal. You may see evidence of them if you find their pellets on gateposts.
- Keep your ears open - you may hear the tinkling calls of siskins and crossbills from the tree tops.

The spring is an excellent time to view birds of prey. Ospreys, dragonflies and damselflies can be seen in the summer. Migrating birds are frequent sights in the autumn including fieldfare and redwing. And in the winter, wildfowl, siskins, crossbills and hungry red squirrels are common sights.