

# Alex and Rosie's Adventures in the New Forest



Stories for children with autism  
David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley

# Alex and Rosie's Adventures in the New Forest

Stories by David Blakesley

Illustrations by Tharada Blakesley



# Introduction

Autism and Nature is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enriching the lives of children on the autism spectrum, by helping to engage them with the countryside and nature. *'Alex and Rosie's Adventures in the New Forest'* has been written to complement our guide *'Exploring the New Forest by bus: a guide for families with children with autism'*. The book tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit the natural places described in our guide, and several other places, including Ober Water, Blackwater Arboretum, Shatterford and Testwood Lakes. We hope that our story book will appeal to younger children with autism and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in the south west Hampshire countryside and the natural world. For more information visit the Autism and Nature website ([www.autismandnature.org.uk](http://www.autismandnature.org.uk)).

This book has been generously funded by The Barker-Mill Foundation, and we are especially grateful to Tim Jobling for his interest in our work. We would like to thank Autism Hampshire for their help in distributing this book. We would also like to thank Cate Rae and Guillaume Duclaud-Williams (Widgit Software) for their valuable advice and help with symbolising the text. Finally, we would like to thank Aurea Paquete for the layout of the book.





Hello  
My name is Alex



Alex



and Rosie



enjoy



visiting



the New Forest.



This is a

story

about their



favourite

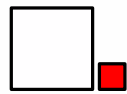
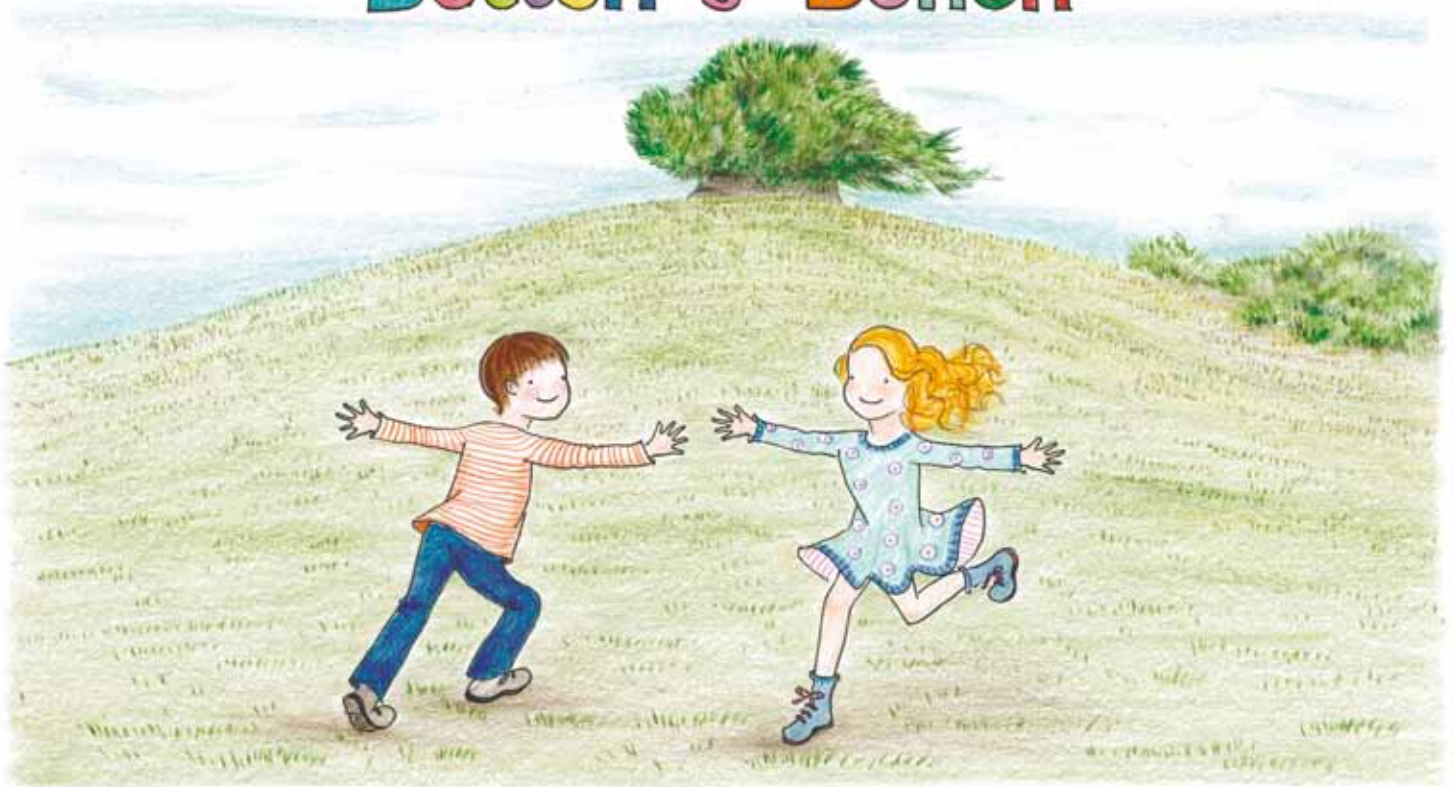


places.

Hello  
My name is Rosie



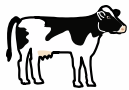
# Bolton's Bench



Bolton's Bench is a small hill in the New Forest.



Alex and Rosie like to run up and down the hill.



Cows

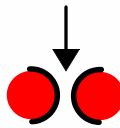
and



ponies



graze



near

the



hill.



Alex

and

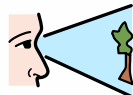


Rosie



like

to



see

the



young calves.



# Beaulieu River



Alex



and

Rosie



enjoyed

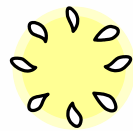
the

riverside walk.



They

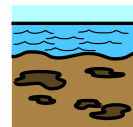
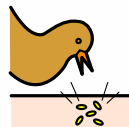
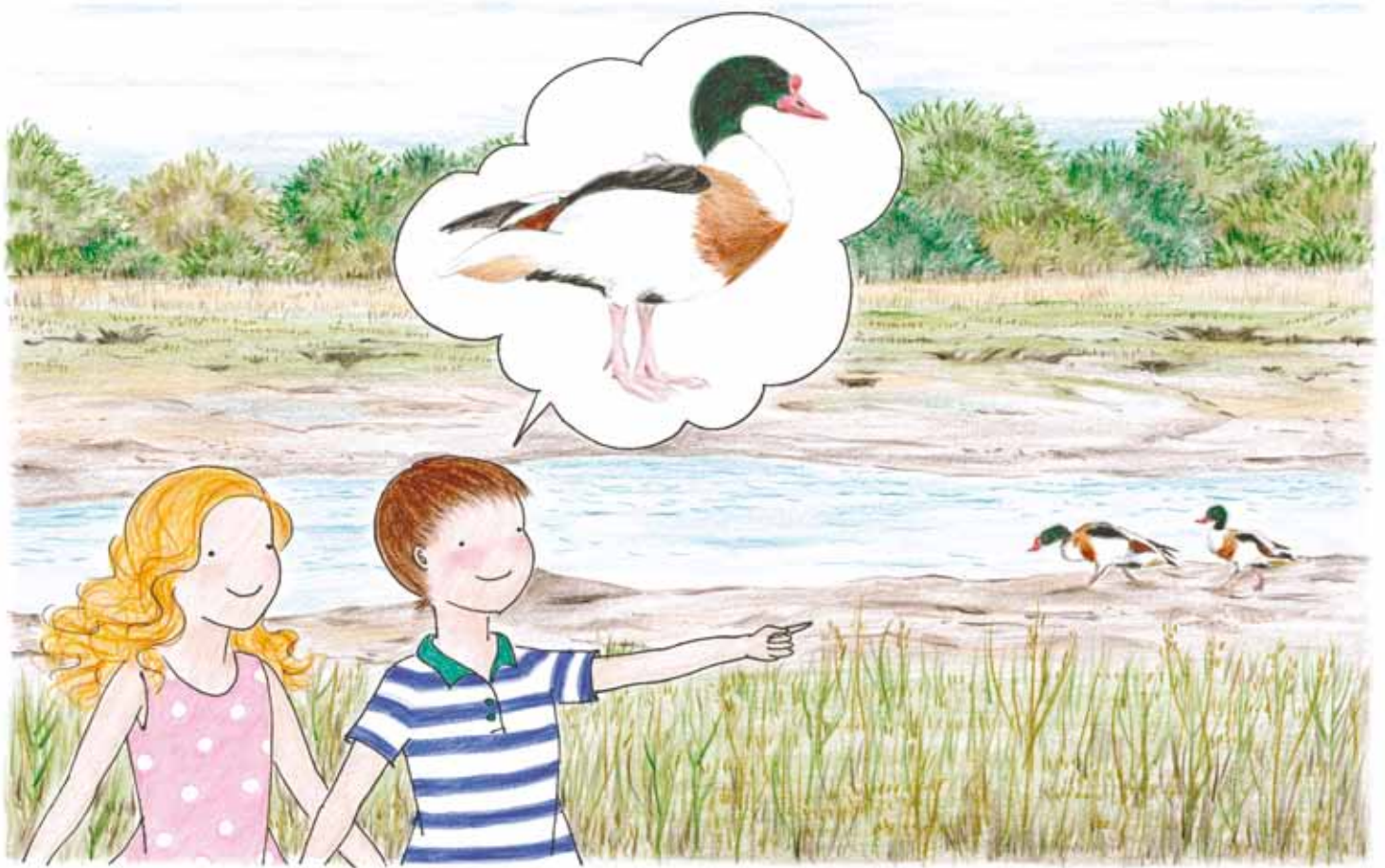
found



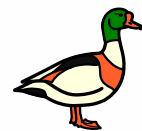
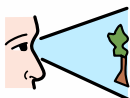
beautiful



sea aster flowers.



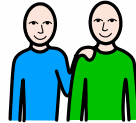
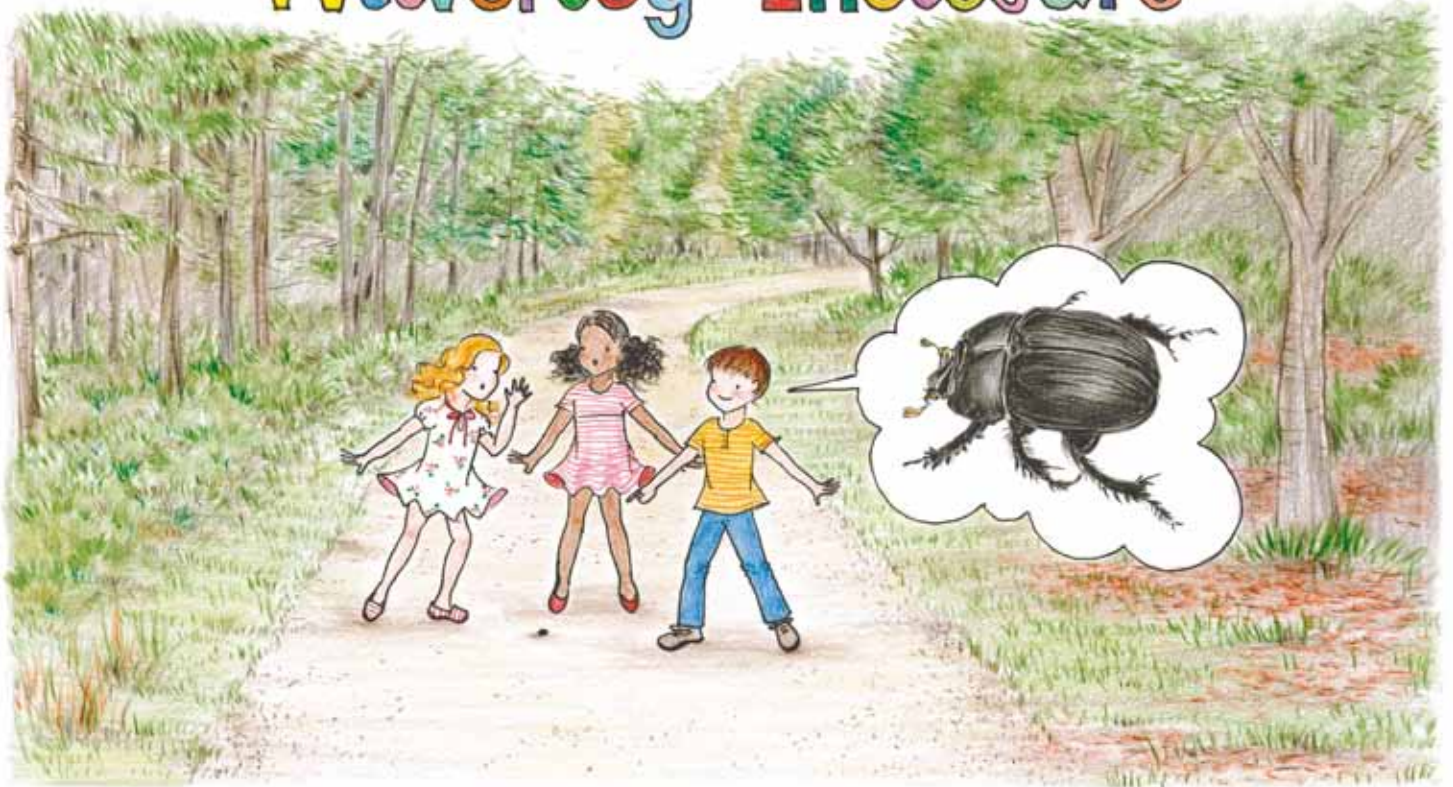
When the tide goes out, birds feed on the mud.



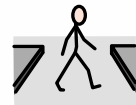
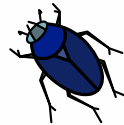
Alex and Rosie saw a pair of colourful shelducks.



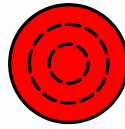
# Wilverley Inclosure



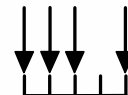
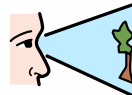
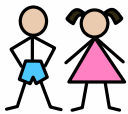
Alex and Rosie took their friend to the forest.



They stopped to allow a dung beetle to cross the path.



Later, they found a large ant nest.



The children were excited to see so many ants.



# Wilverley Plain



Alex

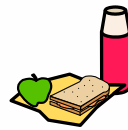


and

Rosie

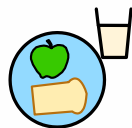


enjoyed



a picnic

at Wilverley Plain.

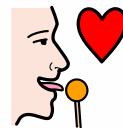


The

food

was

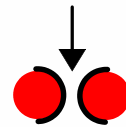
delicious!



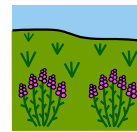




Heather was flowering



in the nearby



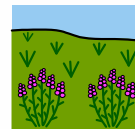
heathland.



Wild ponies

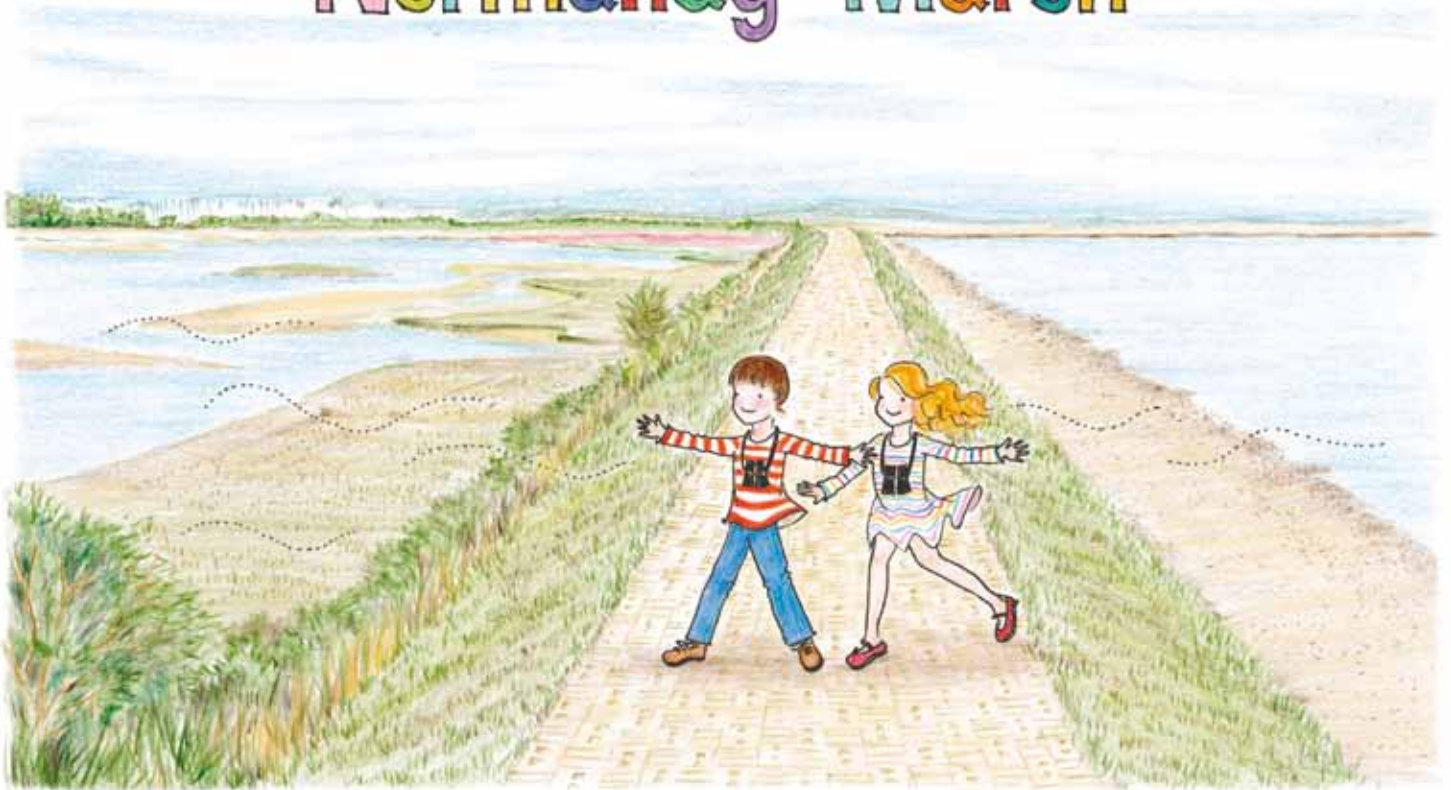


were grazing



in the heather.

# Normandy Marsh



Alex

and



Rosie

walked along the



sea wall.



Alex



loves

to



feel

the



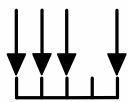
wind

on his



face.

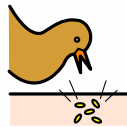




A lot of



birds



were feeding



in the marshes.

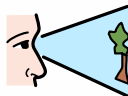


Alex



and

Rosie



saw



wigeons



and lapwings.



# Keyhaven Marshes



Alex



and

Rosie



visited



Keyhaven

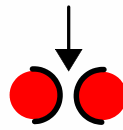
in



wintertime.



Brent geese were swimming



close to

the



shore.



Alex



and

Rosie



heard



oystercatchers



calling.



Oystercatchers are



black

and



white

birds with



orange bills.

# Highcliffe-on-Sea



Alex



and Rosie



looked for



fossils



on the beach.



Alex



was excited to



find

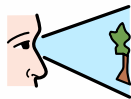


a fossil

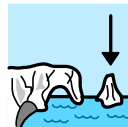
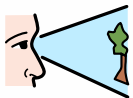


shark's tooth!



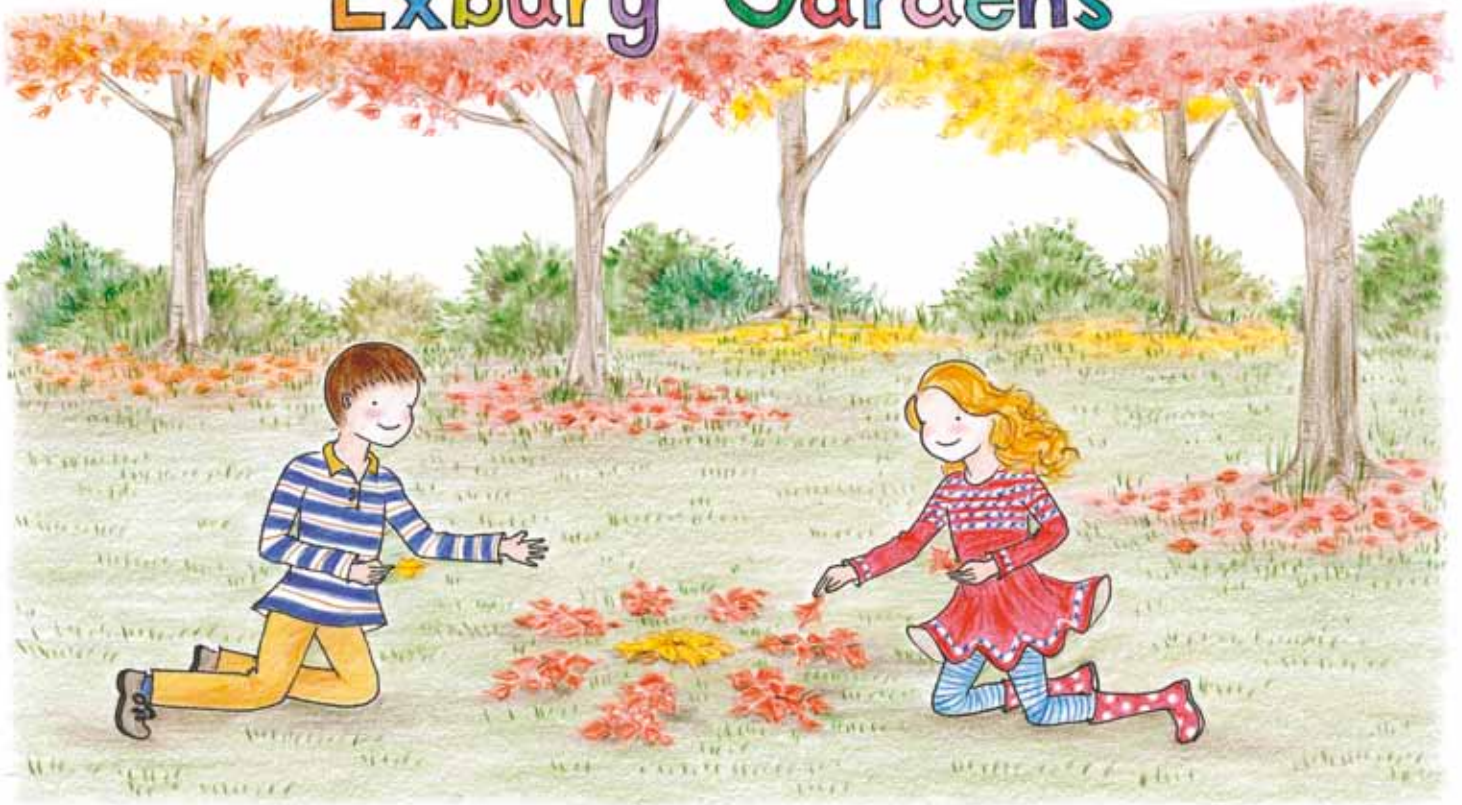


Rosie used binoculars to look at the Isle of Wight.



She saw the famous chalk Needles and the lighthouse.

# Exbury Gardens

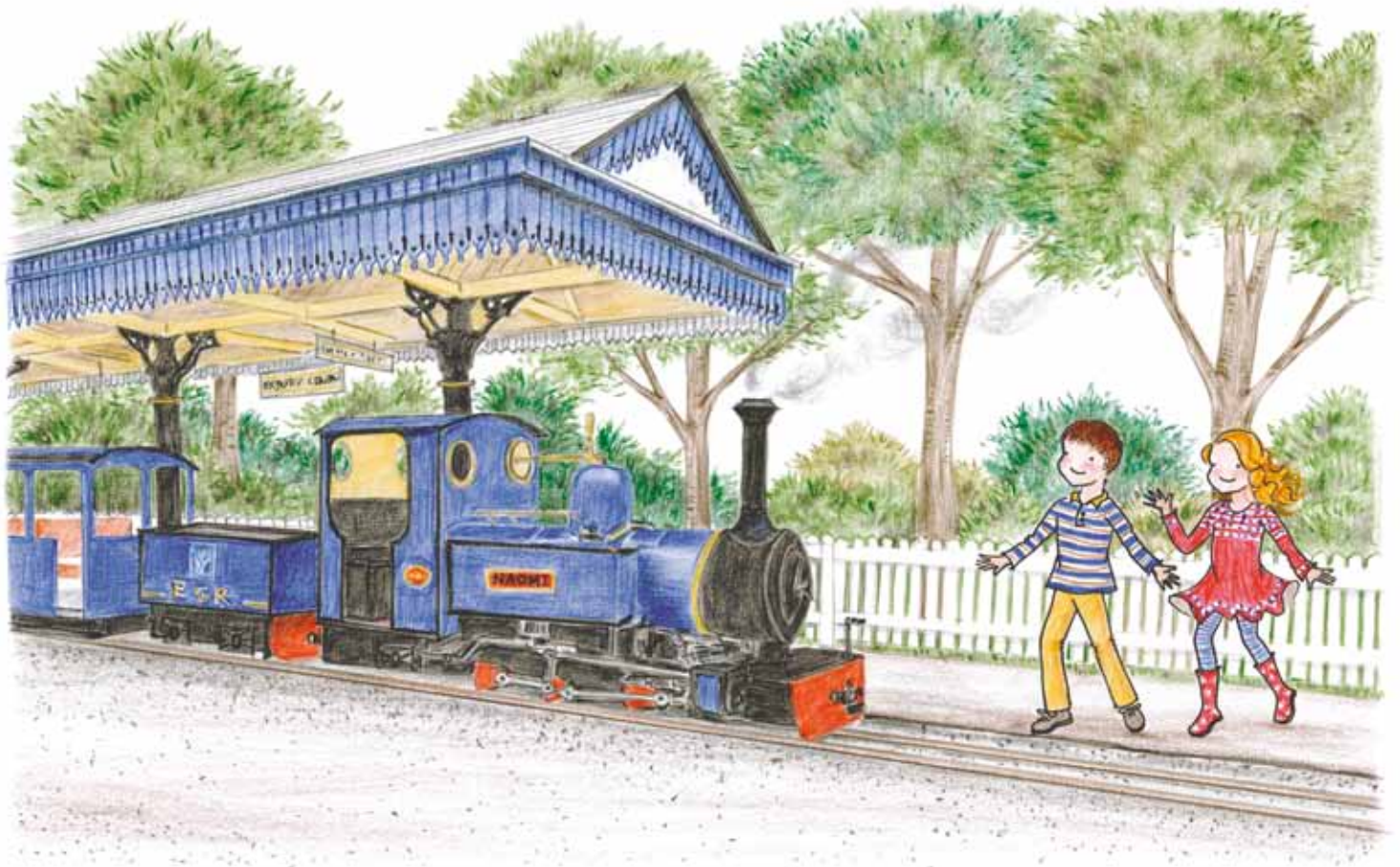


It was autumn and leaves were changing colour.



Alex and Rosie used the leaves to make natural art.





Later,



Alex



and Rosie



went to



the train station.



They were very excited to have a ride on the train.





# Lepe Country Park



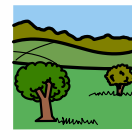
Alex



Rosie



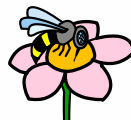
walked through



the meadow.



Honeybees



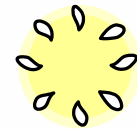
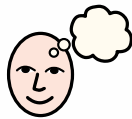
were busy collecting pollen



from the flowers.

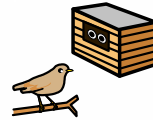


Butterflies were visiting the flowers to feed on nectar.



Rosie thought that the peacock butterfly was beautiful.

# Blashford Lakes

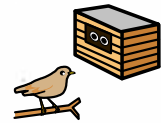
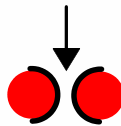
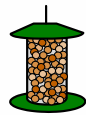


Alex and Rosie visited a hide to watch birds.



A great crested grebe was carrying its chicks on its back!



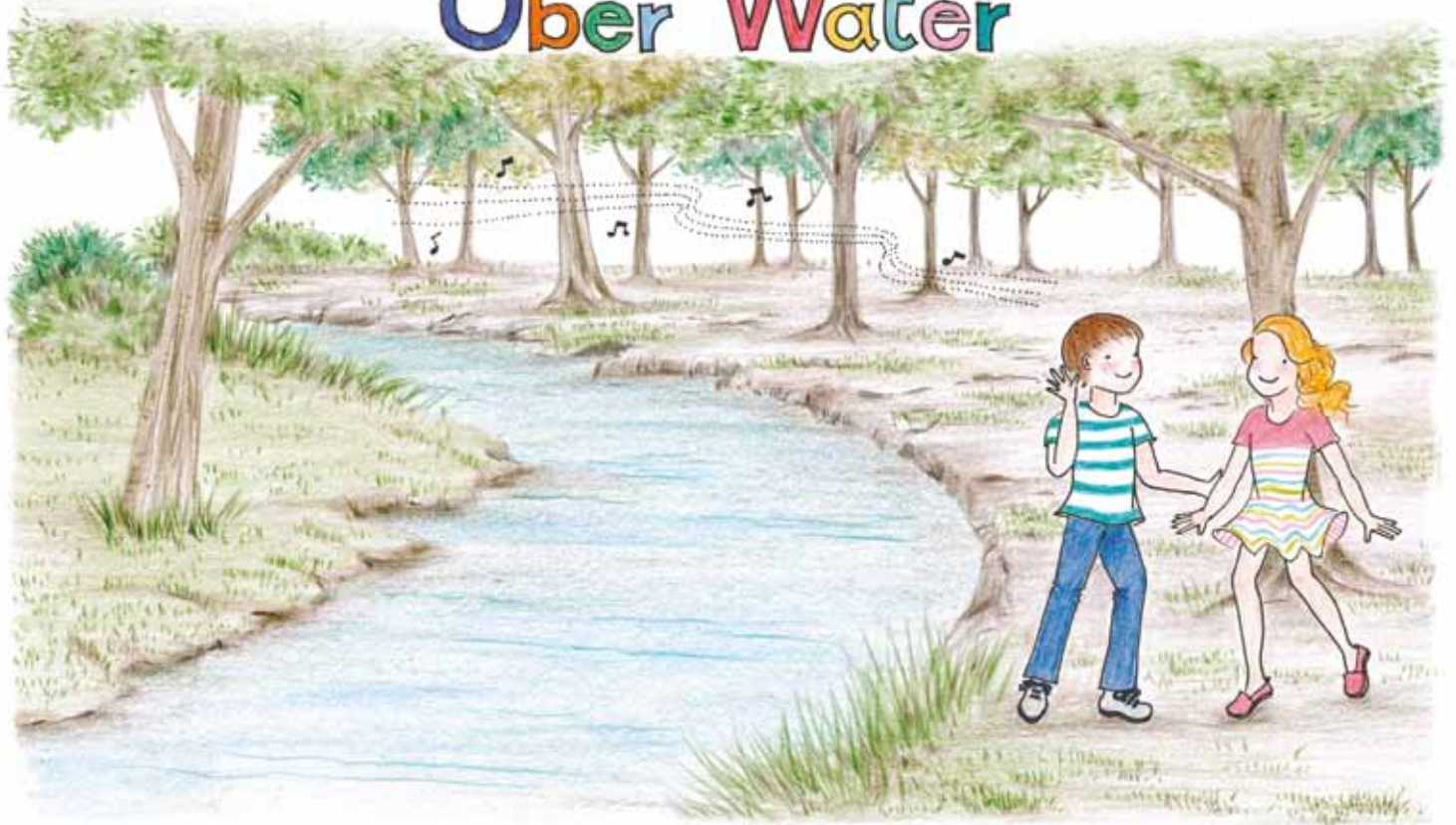


There are bird feeders close to the woodland hide.



Alex was pleased to photograph a nuthatch.

# Ober Water



Alex



and

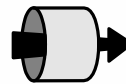
Rosie



walked



quietly



through

the



wood.



They

heard



birds singing

in the



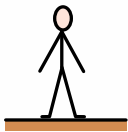
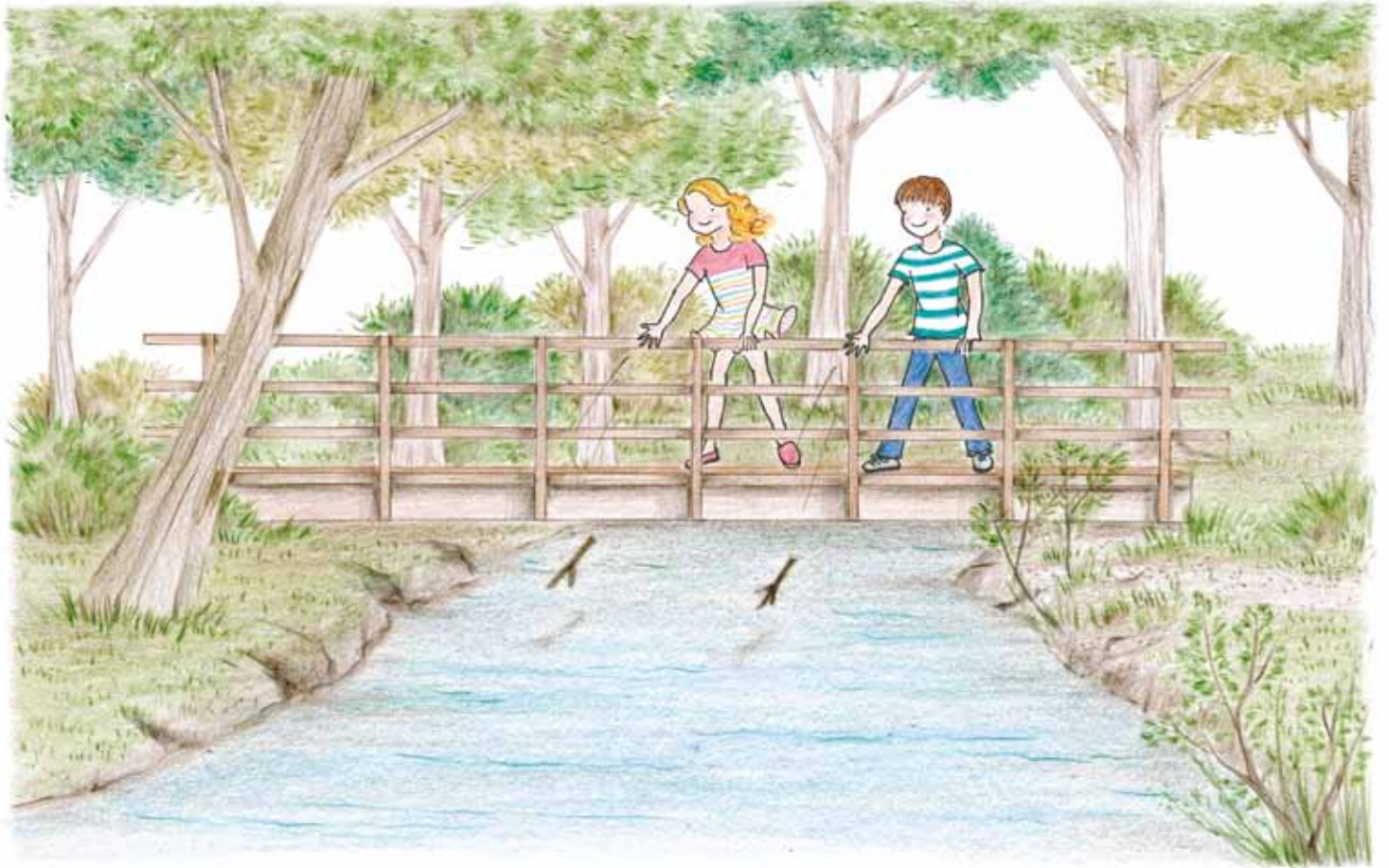
trees

by the



river.





They stood on a bridge and played Pool sticks.



It was great fun! But who was the winner?



# Blackwater Arboretum



Alex

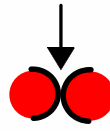
and



Rosie



enjoy



touching

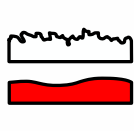


tree bark.



They

found



smooth



bark

and



flaky



bark.



Later,



Alex



and Rosie



visited



the giant sequoia trees.



These are the

tallest



trees



in the New Forest!



# Shatterford



Alex



heard

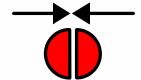
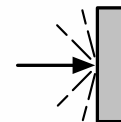


a sound

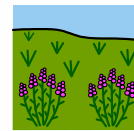
=



like stones



being tapped together.



It was a stonechat, calling from the heather.



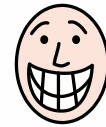
Suddenly



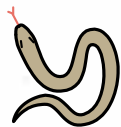
Rosie



exclaimed



in excitement!



A grass snake



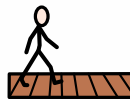
was basking



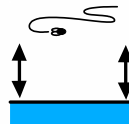
in the bracken.



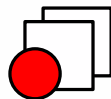
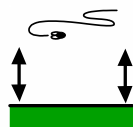
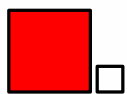
# Testwood Lakes



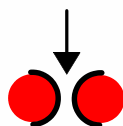
Alex and Rosie followed the boardwalk across the mire.



Dragonflies were hunting over the water.



A large dragonfly hovered in front of Alex and Rosie.



They were amazed to be so close to the dragonfly.



For bibliographic purposes, this book should be referred to as  
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Alex and Rosie had a lot of fun visiting their favourite places in the New Forest countryside. Find out where they went and what they saw.

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