



Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods

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Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods Local Wildlife Site...

Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods LWS covers 22 acres (9.1 hectares) and is situated on the steep-sided Micklefield valley between Croftwood Road at the top and Micklefield Road below. They form the smallest part of the suite of three connected woods - together with neighbouring Kings Wood (186 acres) which is owned and managed by Chepping Wycombe Parish Council and across the valley Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The site is predominantly mature, mixed broadleaved woodland with a network of small glades and rides. It was designated a Local Wildlife Site in 2010 in recognition of its value for wildlife.

enjoy...

Hanging Croft was part of Hicks Farm at the end of the 18th century, belonging to John Hicks. A map from around this time shows the wood and neighbouring Kings Wood to be the same size as today and bordered by fields. A large field nearby was called Hatter's Grubbed Ground, indicating it had been cleared from woodland. During the late 19th century the Farm belonged to Henrietta Tempest of Bradenham House after changing hands several times. Eventually in 1955 the land was sold to Wycombe District Council. The Hicks Farm Estate was built soon after.

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Treecreeper

Highfield Wood belonged to Micklefield Farm which was situated in the bottom of the valley. Richard Lansdale was the owner at the end of the 18th century. The wood was given alternative names on the 1850 Tithe Map - Micklefield Wood and Barrs Wood, although these names are not used anywhere else. The farm and the wood at this time belonged to David Robertson on a 999 year lease from Lord Carrington. Later, Micklefield Farm and Highfield Wood were let to Thomas Shackle of Wycombe Marsh. He also leased Gomm's Farm.

By 1910 both farms were owned by Sir Phillip Rose, a local landowner who lived at Rayners near Penn. The land was bought in the 1930s for development by Bryce Building and Construction, but was acquired by the District Council in 1942 who built the Micklefield Estate soon after the Second World War. The land was farmed until then.

The future. Management work will diversify the age structure of the woods by small group fells of three or four trees every few years. This will allow the woodland to regenerate from the seed bank, providing new opportunities for plants dependent on the sunlight which will be allowed in by this process. It will also create a large quantity of deadwood - the perfect home for fungi such as Sulphur Tufts and invertebrates like Woodlice, Beetles and even the Devil's Coach Horse! By managing the woodland in this way we hope to ensure woodland cover in the Micklefield Valley for many years to come.

Partners...

For further information please contact us:
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 www.wycombe.gov.uk/woodlandservice

Forestry Commission England
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how to get there...



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 Get the kids involved too, help them to find some of these more common species:



Cover images: Badger and Bluebells

The two woods are situated on slopes too steep for agriculture so were never cleared. Several plants within the woodland are indicators of the great age of these woods.

This urban woodland unfortunately suffers from fly-tipping, anything from sofas and TVs to garden waste. This selfish and illegal activity threatens the woodland, its wildlife and is a hazard to those who use it. Please report any incidents of fly-tipping to the Woodland Service.



Lords and Ladies with Bluebells