

Welcome to your Local Wildlife Site...



Tom Burt's Hill

Tom Burt's Hill Local Wildlife Site...

This 4.5 hectare (11 acres) site lies in the heart of High Wycombe with Wycombe General Hospital to the east and Eden Shopping Centre below to the north. Being only a short walk from the town makes Tom Burt's Hill convenient to visit if you arrive by public transport or if you work in the heart of town. So why not spend an hour enjoying the peace on the hillside while the hustle and bustle goes on below you?

enjoy...

The way-marked circular route, exploring the site, will take approximately 20-30 minutes. If you are lucky enough, you may even come across another large sum of money as the hill's namesake is reputed to have done while he was clearing out tree roots at the top of the hill in 1724. Tom Burt, a labourer, then used his money to set himself up as a maltster in the High Street. However, money doesn't necessarily bring you happiness and in 1750 he ended his life by hanging himself in a barn on Castle Hill (now the site of Wycombe Museum).

★ This leaflet is printed on Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper.



Red Kite



Cowslips

Tom Burt's Hill has two chalk grassland meadows and both were grazed until recent times, most recently being grazed by horses. This has resulted in a good floristic diversity on the site. To ensure this diversity isn't lost, we now mow the meadows twice a year: once in early spring and then in late summer. We remove the cuttings, to prevent a build up of thatch. This form of management aims to replicate the effects of grazing, ensuring that a visit here during the spring and summer is rewarded with a variety of wildflowers. This includes a wonderful showing of Cowslips on the larger meadow in the spring and good numbers of orchids through the summer. Typical chalk grassland plants including Dwarf Thistle, Yellow Rattle, Milkwort and Bird's-Foot Trefoil can also be found.

cover images: Green Woodpecker and Sloes on Blackthorn



Large Skipper

Long-tailed Tit

Wood Mouse

Wood Mouse photo: Bob Perry: bobperryonline.co.uk

The rest of the site is a mixture of scrub, mixed deciduous woodland (planted during the 1990s) and mature Beech trees which are found at the top of the site. These areas are all great for small mammals and birds, providing many places for them to forage, nest and seek shelter from predators such as Foxes, Red Kites and Sparrowhawks. This mosaic of habitats means the site is relatively rich in birdlife. Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Long-tailed Tit and Chiffchaff can regularly be seen and/or heard as well as many of the more common species like Magpie, Blue Tit and Goldfinch. We periodically clear areas of the scrub from the edges of the grassland to prevent it from creeping down the hillside. This helps to create a mixed age structure to the scrub while providing warm sheltered areas where invertebrates including butterflies such as Marbled White, Common Blue and Small Copper can get away from any adverse weather.

The main woodland area, along the southern edge of the site, is dominated by mature Beech interspersed with a wide range of other species including Ash, Whitebeam and Cherry. These trees were planted to replace trees that were lost in the storm of 1990. Evidence of this loss can be seen throughout the woodland where several of the larger Beech were left on site creating a valuable deadwood habitat for many invertebrates and fungi such as the Lesser Stag Beetle and Porcelain Fungus.



how to get there...

public transport...
nearest mainline station: High Wycombe (Chiltern Line) approx. 1 mile
nearest bus stop: High Wycombe Bus Station: 400m
Bus routes: Carousel No 27 stops on Sutfield Road
Ariva 100 Park & Ride

For further information please contact us:
Wycombe District Council Woodland Service
phone: 01494 421828
email: woodland.service@wycombe.gov.uk
www.wycombe.gov.uk/woodlandservice

Partners...



discover...

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



While you enjoy this Local Wildlife Site, please don't forget to follow the Country Code:
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people
www.countrycodeaccess.gov.uk