

Welcome to... Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods

Local Wildlife Site...

Discover... Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods cover 22 acres or 9.1 hectares. Neighbouring King's Wood, owned by Chepping Wycombe Parish Council is 186 acres, whilst across the Mickfield valley, is the 35 acre Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve. Explore this site by following the way-marked route which takes about 30 minutes. Relax and enjoy the peace and quiet on one of the benches.

Enjoy... This Local Wildlife Site features mature broadleaved woodland dominated by Beech and Cherry, with Holly growing underneath the dark canopy. Where safe to do so, standing deadwood remains as a valuable habitat for Pipistrelle bats and birds from Tawny Owls to Blue Tits. Rotting wood is left on the ground as it is the perfect habitat for Sulphur Tuft fungi, invertebrates including beetles, or as a hiding place for small mammals like the Wood Mouse.

In the north west of the wood, a network of small glades and rides is home to a wealth of wildlife. Grasses, sedges and wildflowers grow in these more open areas and support invertebrates, birds, reptiles and much more!



Key

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Mature woodland | Bench |
| Glade | Play area |
| Permissive paths | Steps |
| Circular Walk | Gate |
| Parking | Information |

Look out for...

Great Spotted Woodpecker
Dendrocopos major

Look up in the trees and you may be lucky enough to spot one of these beautiful birds. Listen out for the distinctive 'chack chack' call which gives them away. In spring, listen too for loud drumming as males establish territories. Only the males have a red nape-patch on the back of the head.

Down at your feet there is a different story....

Bluebell
Hyacinthoides non-scripta

Flowers like Bluebells and Wood Anemones carpet the woodland floor in spring before the tree leaves block out the sunlight. Please be careful not to crush them underfoot or pick them during your visit so they can always be enjoyed by all. Deadwood and leaf litter provides the ideal habitat for minibeasts like Harwigs, Spiders and Woodlice.

Keep looking around carefully and you may also spot the...

Holly Blue
Celastrina argiolus

On the wing from the end of March, this delightful small butterfly mainly feeds on aphid honeydew and salts from damp mud, occasionally visiting flowers for nectar. It has two broods per year; the first eggs are laid in spring on Holly flowers - hence the name. Eggs are laid on Ivy later in the summer and the adults from these will fly until late September.



Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods are managed by WDC Woodland Service to ensure it is protected and its biodiversity enhanced for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

For more information on this site contact us:
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