

Gomm's Wood

Local Nature Reserve...

Owned by Wycombe District Council since 1942, Gomm's Wood is a mosaic of habitats including ancient woodland, mixed scrub and species-rich chalk grassland. Use this leaflet to guide you around the wood and discover a wealth of local wildlife from butterflies and birds to plants, mammals and even reptiles! The list is almost endless and varies with the seasons.

Common Lizard



Brimstone



Bullfinch



enjoy...

Start your exploration by enjoying the views across the Micklefield Valley, **1** with King's Wood to the north and Highfield & Hanging Croft Wood across the valley it is spectacular in autumn, with a multi coloured display from the yellow Field Maple, to reds of Guelder Rose and Spindle.

Visit The Butterfly Ride, **2** this strip of chalk grassland with scrubby margins is managed by cutting one half each year. This produces one half of short grass sward suitable for flowers such as Bird's-foot Trefoil (an important food plant for many caterpillars) and Knapweeds, important nectar sources for butterflies and other insects.

The other half is left to grow long, ideal habitat for egg-laying by butterflies such as Skippers and Marbled White.

Large Skipper

cover images:
Bee Orchid and
Purple and Gold Micromoth
on Marjoram

Gomm's Wood once stretched the entire length of Cock Lane from King's Wood (owned by Chepping Wycombe Parish Council) to the railway line near the London Road.

Around 1900 part of the Northern 'Grubbings' **4** was planted with Beech, which now mature, casts deep shade on the woodland floor when in leaf. Very few plants can grow in these shady conditions except evergreen such as Yew, Holly and a few woodland specialists such as Narrow-lipped and White Helleborines.

In the mid 1990's a small area of mature woodland was felled to encourage natural regeneration. **5** It is now a haven for invertebrates like Spiders, Slugs and Grasshoppers as well as their predators including Slow-worm and Common Lizard.

Gomm Bank wildflower meadow **7** is cut in March and September to produce a diverse flower rich habitat. You can find dozens of species but it is at its best in late June when hundreds of Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids are in full bloom. Spectacular Bee Orchids can also be found.

Where the land has been previously grazed such as at Micklefield Bank, **9** chalk grassland survives. Anthills, a hunting ground for Green Woodpecker, show the land has not been disturbed by the plough and the bank supports a rich flora including Common Rock-rose, Fly Orchid and the fragrant Marjoram.

In recognition of its value for wildlife and the local community, Gomm's Wood is designated a Local Wildlife Site and a Local Nature Reserve.

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

