

Kings Wood is a magical island of semi-natural Ancient Woodland located near High Wycombe in the undulating Chiltern Hills. It has beautiful, varied terrain and is home to a wealth of flora and fauna.

Management of this special haven is shared by Chiltern Rangers, Wycombe District Council and Chepping Wycombe Parish Council.

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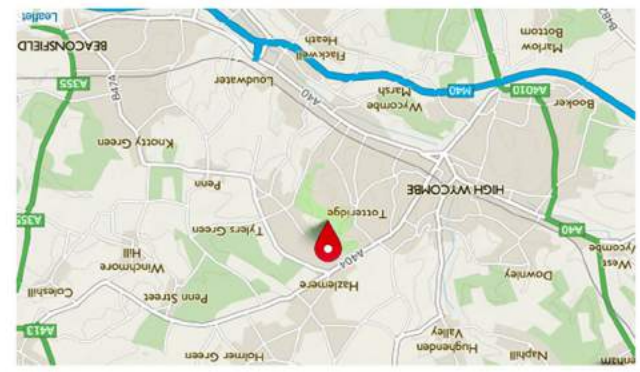
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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

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Discover



Kings Wood is an important piece of the patchwork of Ancient Woodland that covers a large part of the **Chilterns AONB Ancient Woodland** – an area wooded continuously since 1600AD – is a nationally important but threatened habitat, often containing irreplaceable ecological and historical features.

The **rich diversity of species** encountered in Ancient Woods is a result of the continuity of the site's existence and human interaction and use over long periods of time. Traditional woodland management created a mosaic of habitats that greatly benefits biodiversity.

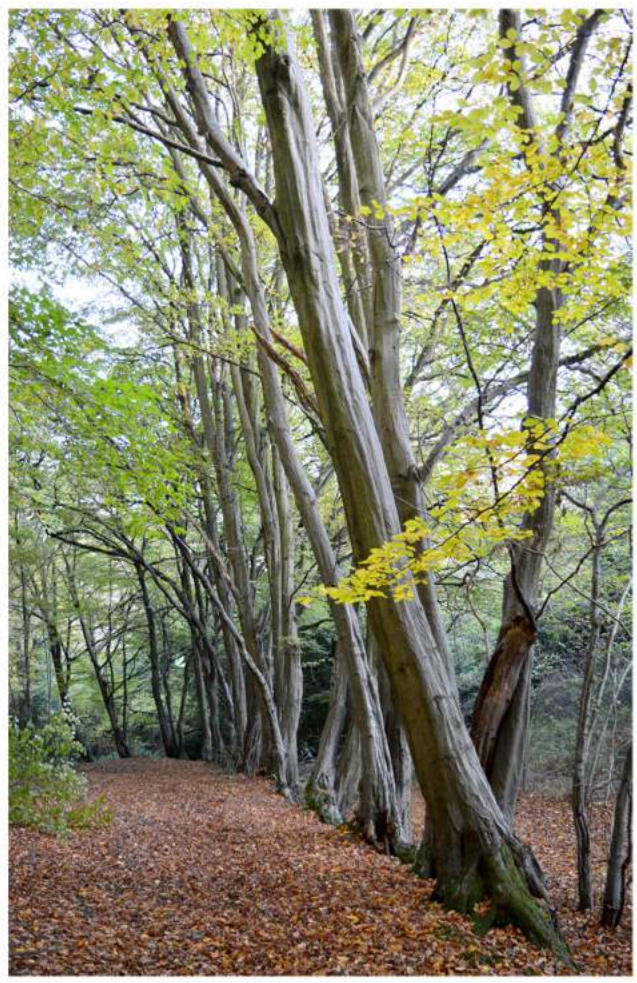


Plants that may be indicative (although not always proof) of Ancient Woodland include Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel and Golden Saxifrage.

Carpets of **Bluebells** (left) are also a good clue!

All of these plants require stable conditions and are very slow at colonizing new areas so are unlikely to be found in large numbers in new woodlands.

You can also spot flowers such as **Cowslips** and **Foxgloves** (right) which have benefited from the coppicing cycle, and a seasonal abundance of **fungi.**





Look out for

The trees in Kings are mostly Beech, but the North-Western edge of the woods features a wonderful old boundary hedge made up of **Hornbeam** (left & below). These characterful trees have bark which is smooth silver grey with distinctive vertical ridges.

The pale yellow-white wood of Hornbeam is exceptionally hard and historically was used to make yokes (the cog teeth at mills), butcher's blocks and also finer items like chess pieces!



Nuthatch– the only British bird that can climb down tree trunks. They can be seen all year round, especially in the winter when they spend around 90% of their time gathering food. Their name comes from their habit of 'hatching' or breaking the shell of a nut by wedging it into a crevice and hacking at it with their strong beaks