



Yew *Taxus baccata*

The 'berries', which are actually a seed container called an aril, are eaten by many birds including Song Thrush, Blackbird and Fieldfare; the leaves are eaten by the caterpillar of the Satin Beauty moth.
As it ages it gets denser, providing nesting opportunities for Firecrest and Goldcrest (see below).
This long-lived tree, not considered to be ancient until its reached 900 years old, is poisonous in all parts excepting the aril.

An incredibly strong and durable material, Yew wood was traditionally used for tool handles, the famous English longbow, and indeed one of the world's oldest surviving wooden artifacts: the Clacton Spear, a Yew spear head estimated to be around 400,000 years old, which is on display at the Natural History Museum.

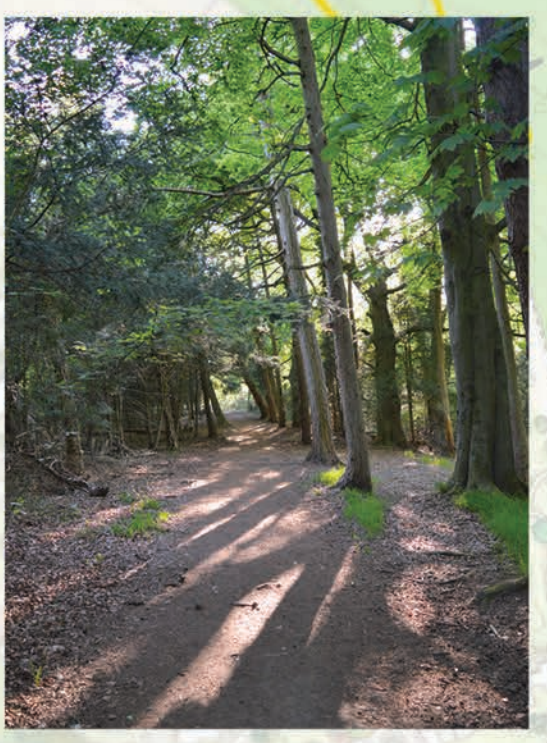
The southern part of Deangarden wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and the northern section a Biological Notification Site (BNS).

The old dry ski slopes of Wycombe Summit (below) have been converted, with the assistance of Berkeley Homes, to chalk grassland. This globally rare habitat boasts a rich variety of plants, up to 40 flowering species in a square metre, many specially adapted to take advantage of the nutrient poor soil.



Explore







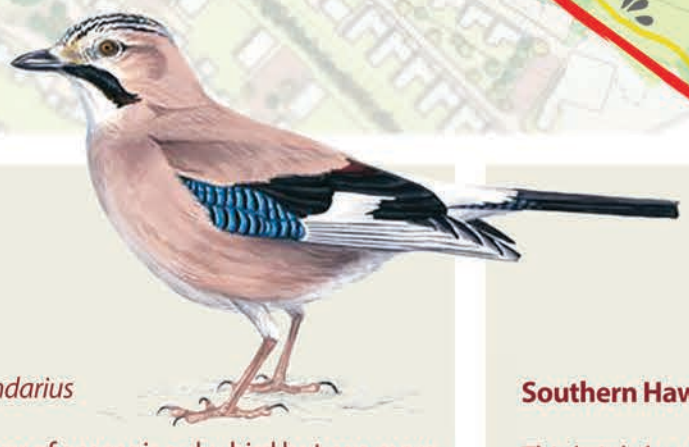


Enjoy



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

The UK's smallest bird, weighing in at just 6 grams - that's the same as a ten pence piece!
Its scientific name means 'king' or 'knight', and in some folklore is known as 'King of the birds' after beating the eagle in flying the highest, though its fiery crown also gives rise to its name.
It favours large mature trees and coniferous woodland; the yews are a favourite haunt.



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

This noisy gatherer of acorns is a shy bird but can more easily be seen in the autumn whilst caching beech mast, hazelnuts and acorns for winter supplies.

As it does not remember all of its hideaways, these forgotten snacks help to naturally spread these species; the rapid expansion of Oak after the last Ice Age has been attributed to this behaviour.



Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

This brightly coloured dragonfly is one of our largest, fastest flying species which is capable of hovering and can even fly backwards!

Whilst it breeds in ponds, it hunts well away from water and can often be seen 'hawking' along woodland rides in search of prey. It's known for being inquisitive and will often approach people for a closer look!