Welcome to... Castlefield & Rowliff Wood

Local Wildlife Site...

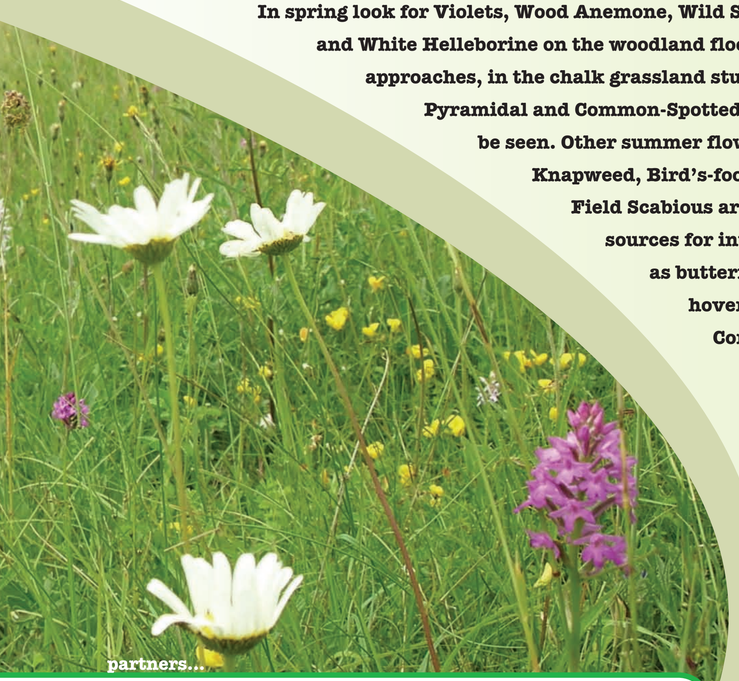
Discover...

As you explore this woodland, you will soon realise it's a woodland in recovery. The area was badly hit by storms in 1987 and 1990 and many trees were blown down; only a few Beech survived. The site was extensively replanted with the help of volunteers. These trees have been supplemented by natural regeneration from the seed bank. Much of the management work now is to thin the trees in the woodland to help restore it towards its former glory.

Explore...

Resplendent Jays give you no more than a fleeting glimpse of their colourful plumage as they dart across the footpaths before disappearing into the trees beyond. A myriad of birds including Blackbird, Blue Tit and Chaffinch can be seen and heard busily going about their business throughout the year. They are joined in winter by migrant Redwings and Fieldfares – members of the Thrush family who come to feast on the berries.

In spring look for Violets, Wood Anemone, Wild Strawberry and White Helleborine on the woodland floor. As summer approaches, in the chalk grassland stunning Pyramidal and Common-Spotted Orchids can be seen. Other summer flowers such as Knapweed, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Field Scabious are vital nectar sources for invertebrates such as butterflies, bees and hoverflies. Look out for Common Lizards basking in the heat of the day on the anthills.



Chalk Grassland



Key

- Beech woodland
- Ash woodland
- Chalk grassland
- Hazel coppice
- Scrub
- Amenity grassland
- Hedgerow
- Public footpath
- Permissive paths
- Circular Walk
- Steps
- Gate
- Bench
- Information board
- Parking

Area:
38 acres/15.4 hectares



Jay

Look out for....



Badger
Meles meles
Britain's largest carnivore is easily recognised through its black and white striped face but you will have to be about after dark and quiet if you hope to see this shy mammal. Well worn paths through the undergrowth complete with latrines demark a badger's territory. Other tell -tale badger signs include claw marks on pieces of chalk excavated from their setts and logs scratched for territorial reasons.



Orange-tip butterfly
Anthocharis cardamines
A spring butterfly, on the wing from late March, the male Orange-tip can be seen patrolling their territories, defending it from all comers including larger butterflies such as Speckled Wood and Comma. The females, which have a black wing tip rather than an orange tip, lays their eggs on the leaves of food plants from the Crucifer family which include Garlic Mustard and Cuckoo flower or Lady's Smock. The eggs are laid individually as the caterpillars have cannibalistic tendencies!



Verdigris Agaric
Stropharia aeruginosagarica
This brightly coloured blue/green fungus is more common than you may think. It can be found in a variety of habitats and any time from late spring to late autumn. As you may expect it is poisonous so, as with all fungi, unless you know otherwise, leave it alone!

Castlefield & Rowliff Wood LWS
is 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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partners...

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