Welcome to... Gomm's Wood

Local Nature Reserve...

Discover...

This 34 acre (13.7 hectare) mixed woodland was declared a Local Wildlife Site in 2008. Gomm's Wood consists of a rich, dynamic mosaic of scrub, hazel coppice, young & mature woodland plus areas of valuable and increasingly rare chalk grassland.

Local Nature Reserve designation in 2010 recognises the importance of Gomm's Wood for wildlife, the local community and education. Together with Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods and King's Wood it forms a continuous 240 acre block of ancient semi-natural woodland at the head of the Micklefield Valley.

The diverse mix of habitats is reflected by a wealth of wildlife. Stop and sit for a few quiet moments on one of the benches around the site and enjoy this fantastic wildlife haven. The variety of wildlife here is due in part to active habitat management such as tree felling, scrub cutting, mowing, hedge laying and coppicing.

Coppicing - the systematic cutting at ground level, of hazel and other understorey tree species is a traditional woodland management technique. It provides a sustainable supply of materials such as charcoal, kindling, stakes, poles, hurdle fences, thatching spars and more. Coppicing creates a varied age structure to the woodland which is essential for the wildlife which has evolved to thrive in this changing habitat.



Blue Tit

partners...

Forestry Commission England · Natural England · D&B · Butterfly Conservation



Key

- Mature Woodland
- Young Woodland
- Scrub
- Coppice
- Chalk Grassland
- Permissive Paths
- Public Footpath
- Circular Walk
- Steps
- Information
- Parking
- Bench
- Cemetery
- Gate

Bee Orchid



Look out for....

Silver-washed Fritillary

This striking black and orange butterfly is a powerful flier, see it on the wing from June to August. It has a unique ecology for a butterfly as it carefully lays its eggs in the cracks and crevices of the bark of Oak (and occasionally other trees) where they over-winter. In the spring, the eggs hatch and the tiny caterpillars fall on to the Violets growing below. The territorial adult males can be seen flying along the paths, rides and displaying in the glades. These butterlifes (and a host of other species) rely on active habitat management to keep the woodland light and open.



Fly Orchid

Orchids

Gomm's Wood is home to at least eight species of orchids & helleborines. The helleborines are often surprisingly hard to spot in the dappled light of the woodland and are susceptible to deer browsing. During June, many hundreds of Common-Spotted and Pyramidal orchids flower in the chalk grassland. Other orchid species include the spectacular Fly & Bee orchid and the well camoflagued Common Twayblade. These and other chalk grassland wildflowers rely on the annual cutting and raking of the grassland to maintain optimum conditions.

Woodland birds

The diversity of tree species and ages results in habitat suitable for a wide range of birds. Mature woodland hosts Green & Great Spotted Woodpecker as well as Nuthatch, Treecreeper and Jay. Red Kite and Buzzard are regularly seen soaring overhead. No visit to Gomm's Wood is complete without an encounter with a Bullfinch and a mixture of Long-tailed, Great and Blue Tit amongst others, who flit throughout the site all year round. Summer migrants such as Blackcap, Chiffchaff & Willow Warbler can be heard... if not always seen.



Redwing

Gomm's Wood LNR
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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