



Early bumblebee

Welcome to Blackhouse Wood



Worcestershire

Blackhouse Wood and the adjoining Crews Hill provide an important link between the Malvern Hills complex and the Wyre Forest. Blackhouse Wood is a species-rich woodland and was granted Local Wildlife Site status in 2007.

In the 1960s much of the woodland was clear-felled and replaced with fast-growing conifers. The previous owner began the process of restoring the native woodland and we will continue this restoration; it has the potential of being one of the most ecologically valuable woodlands in Worcestershire.

The purchase of Blackhouse Wood was only possible thanks to our members and supporters, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Severn Waste Services through the Landfill Communities Fund, The Rowlands Trust, The Banister Charitable Trust, The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust and The Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust.

I-spy...

Spring brings the flora of ancient woodland with woodruff, bluebell and yellow archangel featuring prominently. Listen for the drumming of a lesser spotted woodpecker. The exposed limestone banks make excellent basking spots for insects; look for early bumblebees, dark-bordered beeflies and holly blue butterflies. As summer arrives, the limestone specialist plants that are uncommon to Worcestershire start to show including common gromwell and yellow-wort. Autumn brings many species of fungi thanks to the mix of broadleaved trees.



Red admiral



Did you know...?

..there is a line of hand-dug limestone quarries, worked between the 18th and early 20th centuries, on the woodland's west side. Look for geological changes – Lower Ludlow shales form linear outcrops in the low-lying ground west of the Wenlock limestone ridge that lies higher up the slopes of the reserve.

Please remember...

This is a special place for our local wildlife. For everyone to enjoy the nature reserve please respect the following:

- Keep dogs on a lead to avoid disturbing wildlife and please take away any mess
- Keep to the marked trails and public rights of way
- Take home any litter
- No cycles, motorcycles or horses

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:
woodruff, primrose, early bumblebee, **Beefly** (*Bombus major*)



SUMMER:
wood vetch, red admiral, spotted flycatcher, **Nettle-leaved bellflower**



AUTUMN:
yew berries, death cap fungus, **earth star fungus**



WINTER:
winter finch flocks, **goldcrest**



This is one of over 70 nature reserves that we own or manage. They form part of our vision for a Living Landscape for Worcestershire. By working with other landowners, managers and communities we aim to **restore, recreate** and **reconnect** fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead healthier and happier lives.

We're part of a national network of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

You can help protect wildlife by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation
- Volunteering to help
- Encouraging wildlife at home or work

We are part of a national network of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

