

White admiral butterfly

Welcome to Tiddesley Wood – the Harry Green Reserve



Worcestershire

This large ancient woodland, once a deer park and previously owned by Westminster Abbey, has probably been here for more than 6000 years.

Historically, the woodland was actively managed by local people to provide timber, firewood and grazing. In the 1950s parts of the wood were felled and replanted with conifers by the Forestry Commission who managed it for commercial purposes. We're gradually removing the conifers to reinstate the native broad-leaved woodland that's great for our wildlife.

We manage the woodland by forestry and coppicing (cutting down a tree almost to ground level) to allow plenty of light into the wood. This promotes growth of scrub for woodland birds and encourages woodland flowers like the bluebells you see here in spring. We also maintain a network of wide, open rides that are havens for woodland butterflies like the white admiral and the wildflowers they feed on.

For thousands of years woods have been coppiced by regularly cutting shrubby trees like hazel, which would then be used as kindling or for construction. Wildlife has come to rely on coppice and we continue this management to give Tiddesley Wood's plants and animals the best possible habitat.

Many of the UK's rarest woodland birds are extremely vulnerable to disturbance, particularly in the breeding season. Woodland plants are very slow to spread and trampling and picking causes long term damage to our rarest species. We therefore ask visitors to remember this is a nature reserve, so please keep to existing paths and keep all dogs on leads to protect wildlife.

Did you know...?

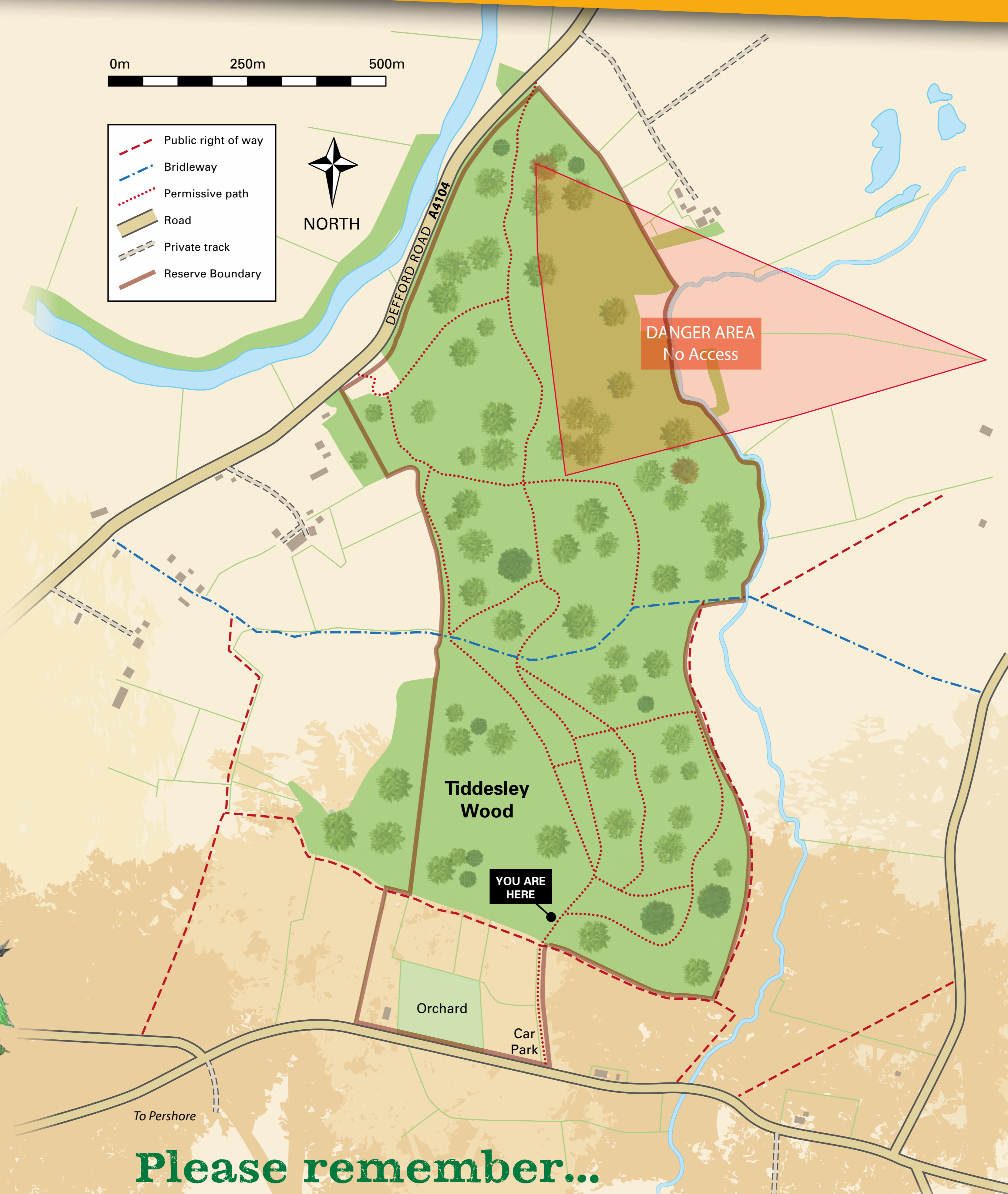
The most biologically rich part of any wood is the first 10 metres of vegetation on either side of the rides. A wide variety of plants can grow in these sunny areas that support a range of birds, butterflies and other insects.

I-spy...

Look for a range of woodland plants in the spring, from the more common bluebells and dog's mercury to the rarer herb-Paris and violet helleborine. Small teasel and devil's-bit scabious can be found on the sunny rides in autumn. Wild service tree and small-leaved limes are scattered remnants of the wood's historic species. Keep an eye on bramble patches for the white admiral butterfly, a woodland specialist.



Wild service tree



Please remember...

You are visiting a nature reserve that is for the conservation of our local wildlife. For everyone to enjoy the 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
- Motorbikes are not allowed on the reserve
- Bicycles are **only** permitted on the bridleway

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

- Bluebell • Dog's mercury
- Green woodpecker • Marsh tit

Tiddesley is famous for its carpets of bluebells each spring



© Rosemary Winnall

SUMMER:

- Noble chafer • Wild service tree
- Club-tailed dragonfly
- Silver-washed fritillary
- White admiral • Herb Paris

Rare noble chafer beetles live in Tiddesley's orchard



© Harry Green

AUTUMN:

- Devil's-bit scabious • Clouded funnel fungus • Autumn crocus
- Wild service tree

Autumn crocus is also known as meadow saffron



© Rosemary Morris

WINTER:

- Goldfinch • Fieldfare • Redwing
- Candle snuff/Stag-horn fungus

Fieldfare are one of many birds who feast on berries and fallen fruit during winter



© Pete Walkden

This nature reserve is one of more than 70 owned or managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust that form part of our vision for a Living Landscape. 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 happier and healthier lives.

You can help protect wildlife by:

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

