

Managing Blackhouse Wood



Worcestershire

Cloaking part of the Suckley Hills, this ancient semi-natural woodland is an important link between the Malvern Hills and Wyre Forest. Both small- and large-leaved lime trees feature strongly and the hornbeam and oak trees throughout the wood are an uncommon mix for Worcestershire.

In the 1960s, as with many other woodlands, large parts of Blackhouse Wood were clear-felled and replanted as conifer.

While conifers can provide valuable habitat for birds like goldcrests, they also restrict the growth of native trees, ground flora and scrubby understorey. To restore the wood to its former glory, we'll remove most of the conifers and help the woodland revert back to its natural tree mix of ash and field maple with a rich hornbeam and lime component.

All Trust woodlands are certified with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme for their high standards of management.



Did you know...?

... the bedrock of Much Wenlock limestone and Lower Ludlow shale supports a rich mix of flora that is scarce within Worcestershire. Actively managing the rides and glades at Blackhouse benefits plants like nettle-leaved bellflower, rock rose, yellow-wort, wild thyme and tutsan.

Helping Woodland Wildlife

Would you like to help wildlife? Then why not join our active and friendly volunteer team to help us look after your wildlife. If you're interested then give us a call on **01905 754919** or visit our website for more information.

Please remember...

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

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

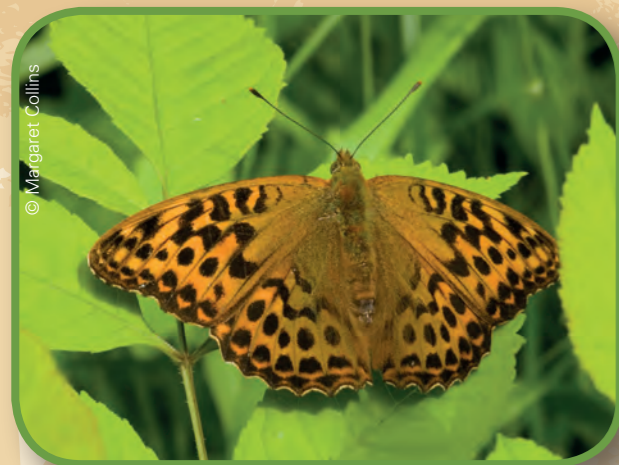


Managing for wildlife

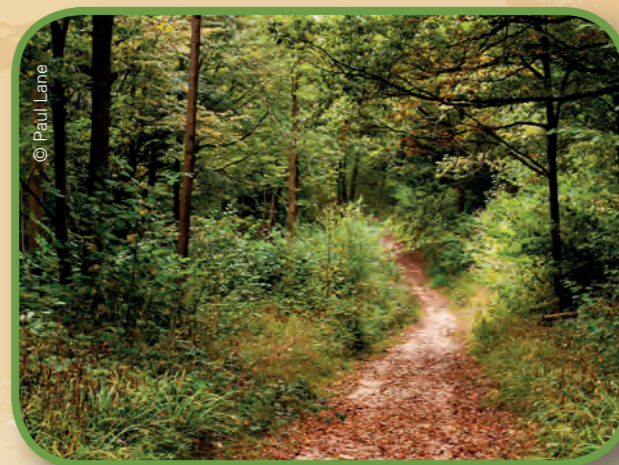
Removing most of the non-native trees is part of managing Blackhouse Wood for wildlife. The network of rides and paths ensure that wildlife can easily move between habitats – from glade to coppiced areas and surrounding open countryside according to individual needs.

The rides and paths are coppiced on a cycle. This involves cutting down trees almost to their base, which ensures the presence of differently aging habitat and allows light to reach the woodland floor. The short-term disruption caused by this work, mostly done in the winter, is far outweighed by the long-term benefit. The sale of timber raises money for more conservation work.

Blackhouse Wood is great for a relaxing dog walk but please keep your dog on a lead and clean up after it. Did you know that dog faeces can reduce the number of species growing here by over-nutrienting the soil? And that's no good for wildlife!



Silver-washed fritillary – These large butterflies are named after the silver streak on the underside of the wings. Their main foodplant is dog violet, found in shady areas, and the adults can be seen swooping along sunny rides.



Open/flowery ride – An astonishing 90% of a wood's wildlife can be found within 10m of the edge habitats; along rides and in glades. We manage these areas to ensure a range of species and ages of growth.



Yellow archangel – This indicator of ancient woodland and hedgerows flowers just as bluebells finish flowering. Part of the nettle family, it's important for bees, hoverflies and is also the foodplant of the speckled yellow moth.

