

Welcome to Monkwood Nature Reserve



Dormouse

Owned for centuries by Worcester Priory, this ancient semi-natural woodland has probably been here since before William the Conqueror.

17th and 18th century records show that the wood was regularly coppiced;

a tradition that continued until the 1950s and one that we've reinstated. Coppicing (cutting down trees to their base to promote regrowth) allows plenty of light into the wood. This promotes the growth of flowers like bluebells and wild garlic in spring as well as the scrub that benefits dormice and woodland birds.

In the 1950s LG Harris & Company Ltd bought the wood to produce timber for brush handles. They clear-felled large areas and planted a mixture of quick-growing non-native trees. Despite this, the woodland maintained much of its wildlife and floristic interest.

When the Trust and Butterfly Conservation bought the wood in 1986 the maturing plantations were shading out many of the rides and tracks. We are thinning out the non-native trees and undertaking a regular coppice cycle. We ensure plenty of trees are allowed to mature to provide habitats for hole-nesting birds and other wildlife. We also maintain a network of wide, open rides that are great for woodland butterflies, like the silver-washed fritillary, and the wildflowers they feed on.

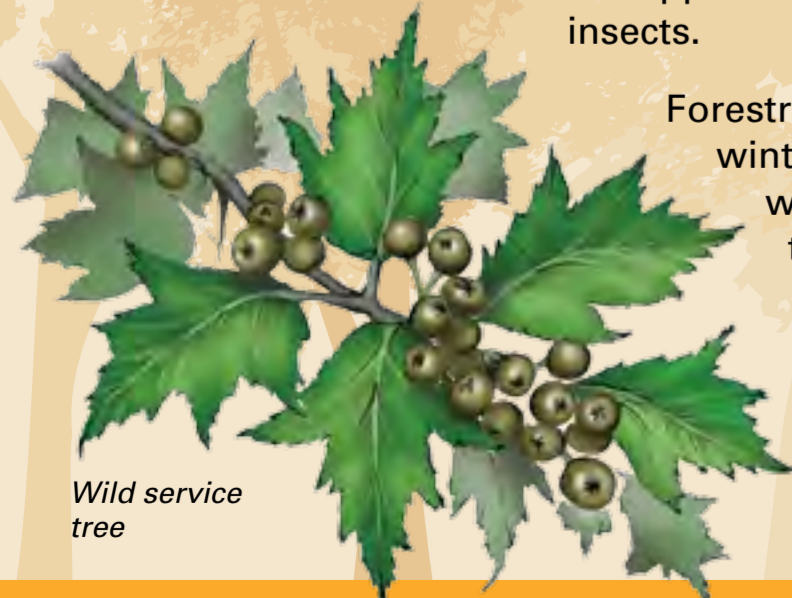
I-spy...

There are a small number of pools that attract dragonflies – in summer you may see the large hawker dragonflies flying along the rides. Keep a lookout for large holes in tree trunks drilled out by woodpeckers - you never know what might emerge from them!

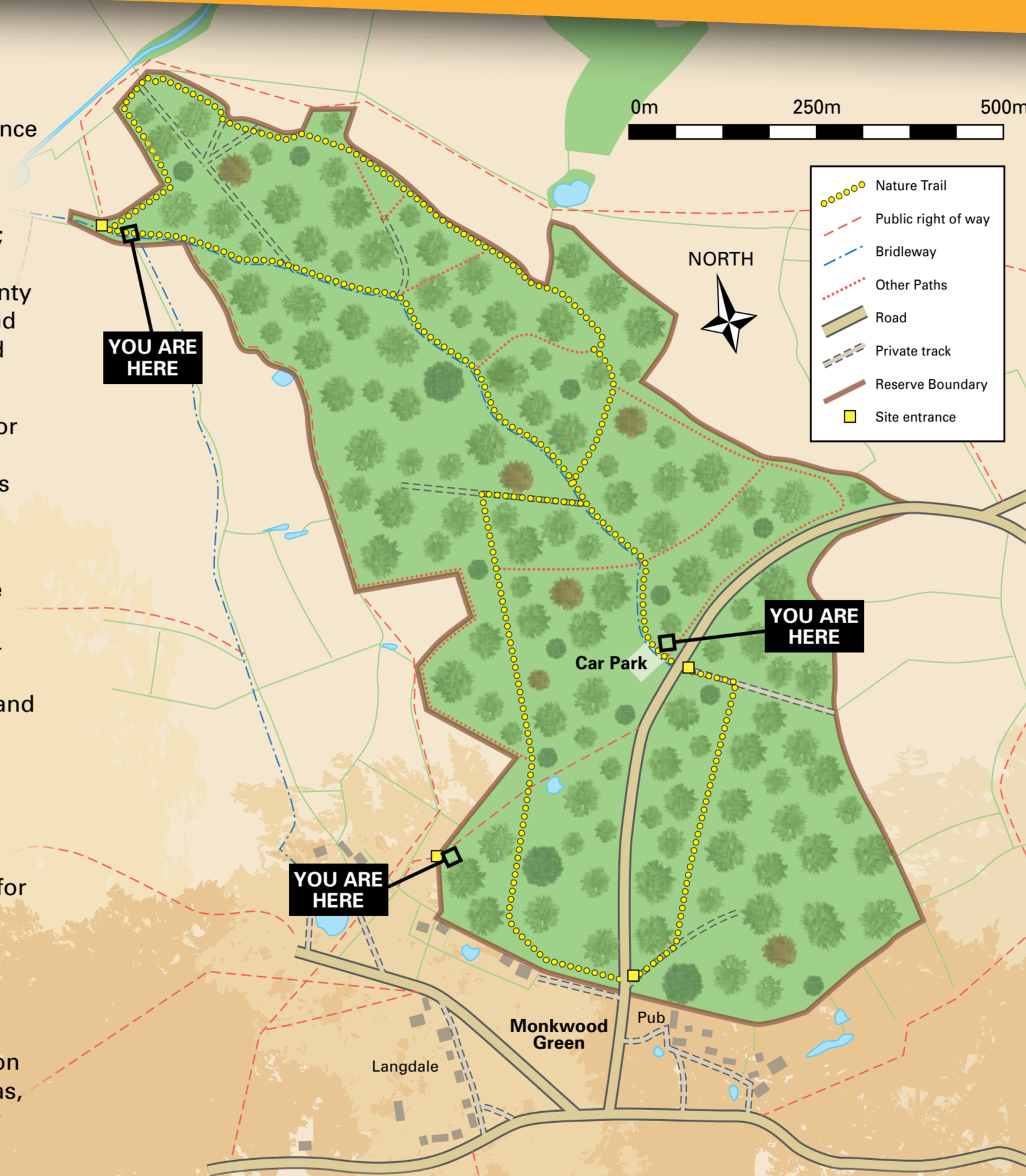
Did you know...?

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 grow in these sunny areas, which support a range of birds, butterflies and other insects.

Forestry work usually takes place during the winter months. We work to improve the woodland for wildlife and the felled timber helps create income for our conservation work across the county. All Trust woodlands are certified with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme for their high standards of management.



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 and horses are **only** permitted on the bridleway

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

- byctiscus populi
- wood anemone • bluebell
- early purple orchid
- willow warbler

This **aspen leaf-rolling weevil**, *byctiscus populi*, is found in only a handful of woods in the UK.



© Wendy Carter

SUMMER:

- purple hairstreak • white admiral
- silver-washed fritillary
- southern hawker dragonfly
- nuthatch

Study oak trees to catch sight of beautiful **purple hairstreak** butterflies.



© Oliver Wadsworth

AUTUMN:

- amethyst deceiver, candle snuff and stinkhorn fungus
- autumn crocus • wild service tree

A moist autumn at Monkwood provides lots of fruiting fungus like this **amethyst deceiver**.



© Bob Tunstall

WINTER:

- butter cap fungus
- Flocks of siskin, redpoll and long-tailed tits

Siskins and redpolls often flock from tree-top to tree-top eating seeds as they go.



© Karen Summers

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.

Little Monkwood is jointly owned and managed with Butterfly Conservation.

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

