

The scenic beauty and variety of habitats mean that this reserve is one of the finest in the area. It's only 34 hectares (84 acres) but is home to a wide range of animals, not to mention the variety of flowers you'll spot on your visit here.

The trail starts at the small information centre beside the warden's house. The display in the centre provides an introduction to the reserve, as well as information about other reserves owned and managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The trail in this leaflet is a 3km circular walk. It is hilly in parts and muddy in places. Follow the numbered marker posts as well as the map in this leaflet to help find your way around.

Cattle graze the meadows and we ask that you keep dogs on leads and leave gates as you find them. There are picnic benches and a toilet near the education centre. We ask you not to picnic elsewhere on the reserve.

The reserve is open at all times. There are steep slopes, steps and stiles. Information available from the centre by the Knapp House. Donations welcome. Please keep dogs on leads at all times.

Group visits with or without a Trust guide and use of our education centre can be booked on **01905 754919**.

School visits must be pre-booked with our education team, call **01905 754919**.

*Download our Worcestershire Woods & Wildlife Walk audio trail or booklet for an 8m walk through this beautiful area from our website.*

This is one of over 75 nature reserves owned and cared for by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust that 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 fragments habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can live happier and healthier lives.



**Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**  
relies on the support of its  
members and on donations  
and grants.



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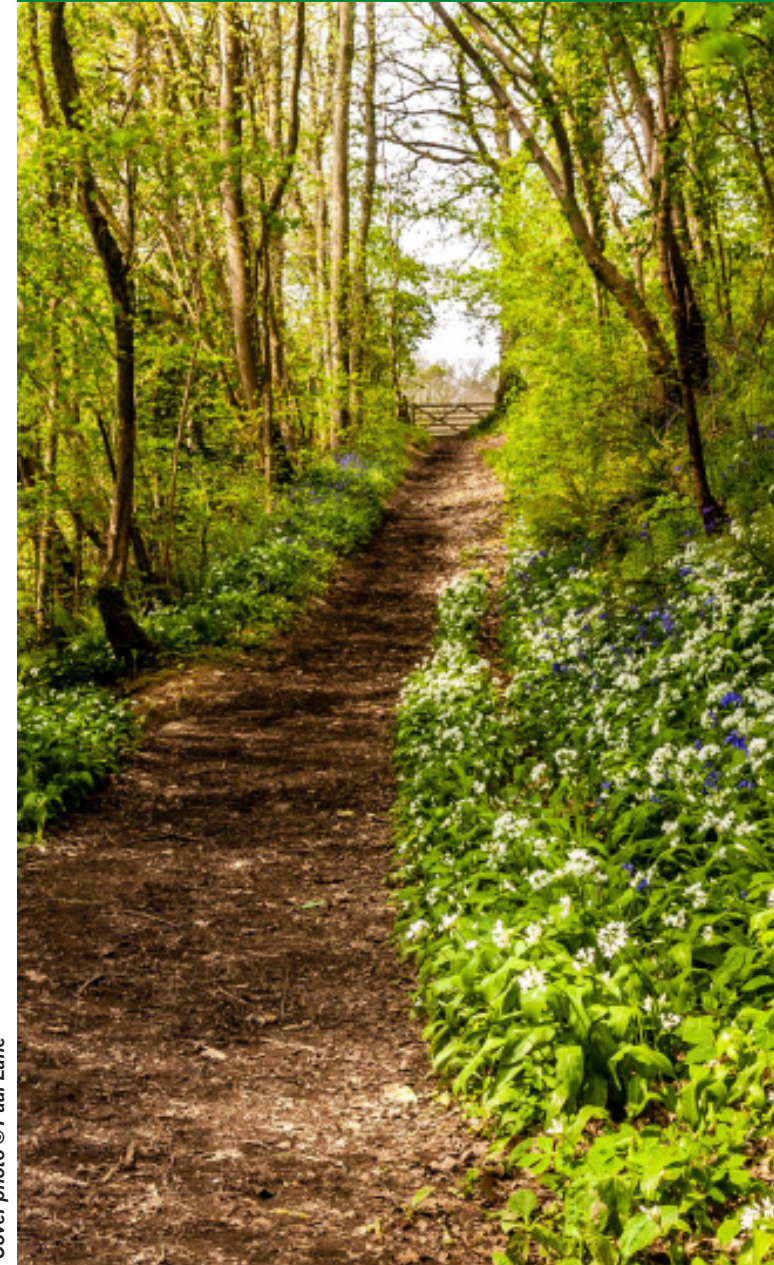
Charity No. 256618

# The Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve

## Trail Guide



Worcestershire



Cover photo © Paul Lane

## Did you Know...

... Otters are back at the Knapp after a long absence. After a long period of industrial use the river is now secluded, wooded and undisturbed with good quality water – perfect habitat for otters.



© Elliot Smith

... Coppicing is a traditional method of managing trees by cutting down young stems to near ground level. New shoots grow and can be harvested a few years later. Regularly coppiced trees never die of old age and the different stages of coppicing in one wood creates a variety of habitats for wildlife.



... The Knapp reserve was originally just 6 hectares of orchard and woodland, donated to the Trust by Hugh and Shifa Doncaster in 1968. Since then the Trust has been able to acquire further blocks of land with financial support from other conservation bodies and from Christopher Cadbury.



© Paul Lane

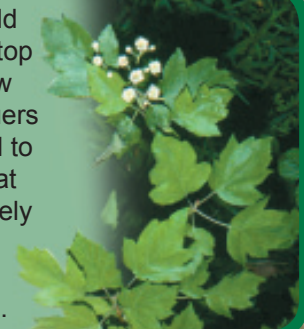


... We've been putting up special nest boxes to encourage dormice onto the reserve. Keep an eye out in autumn for discarded hazelnut shells. The tooth marks and the way they've been opened determines what animal has eaten the nut – dormice create a round hole to get into them!

... The Leigh Brook and its tributaries were once home to several mills dating back almost 1000 years. It is believed that the mill here at the Knapp was washed away by floods in the 1850s. The floods of 2007 nearly washed away Pivany Bridge, many trees were washed downstream and fences and footpaths were destroyed.



... The fruit of the wild service trees at the top of Papermill Meadow are known as chequers and were once used to flavour beer and treat colic. They're relatively rare in Britain and are usually confined to ancient woodland.



... The Knapp is home to land caddis flies, a national rarity that are confined to Worcestershire and our neighbouring counties. There are almost 200 species of caddis flies in the UK and only the land caddis has a larvae that lives on land rather than in the water. They burrow in leaf litter and the adults only live for a couple of weeks in the autumn.



© Harry Green

### What to see

**SPRING** wildflowers, butterflies and woodland birds

**SUMMER** dragonflies, damselflies and breeding kingfishers

**AUTUMN** Late butterflies feeding on orchard fruits

**WINTER** wintering tits, finches, and thrushes