

# The Leigh Brook at The Knapp and Papermill nature reserve



**Worcestershire**  
Wildlife Trust

The depth and transparency of the Leigh Brook varies considerably as it is fed both by tributaries and drain-off from the Malvern Hills.

Water-loving trees, such as alders, line the banks and lime-loving ferns, such as hart's-tongue fern, grow close to the brook. Regal kingfishers breed in banks along the river and, if you're lucky, you might see one of these orange and electric blue birds flash past you. The brook is home to myriad aquatic creatures from cased caddisfly larvae, mayfly nymphs, bullhead fish, freshwater shrimps and water hog lice.

As the water trickles past and we enjoy the peace and quiet of this beautiful place, so does our wildlife. It's important that birds like kingfisher and grey wagtail have space to hunt for food. It's just as important that their food is left undisturbed, tucked under the rocks or burrowed between stones, so please resist the temptation for you or your dog to go paddling.

## Did you know?

After a long period of industrial use, with many mills along the Leigh Brook, the brook is now secluded, wooded and undisturbed with good quality water – perfect habitat for otters. You have to be very very lucky to spot one, though!



## Support us

We couldn't work to protect and conserve Worcestershire's fantastic wildlife and wild places without your help. Please support us by becoming a member, volunteering or donating.