

## Get Involved In Your Local Nature Reserve

You can get involved in looking after your local nature reserve in several ways.

Join in on the practical conservation tasks each week, or we also run a weekend task once a month.

You will have the opportunity to try out a variety of tasks which could include coppicing, footpath maintenance or wildlife monitoring.

You do not need to have any previous practical experience as tools and instruction are provided. You will need suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. For further details on these practical tasks please contact Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

## Access to Nature Reserve

Droitwich Community Woods is a great place to take a healthy walk and gain some exercise. Access on foot to the site is marked on the reserve map. These include entrances off Chawson Lane and Ombersley Way.

The reserve can be reached from the town centre by walking along the canal towpath. Whilst there is no marked car park for the reserve, there is limited parking available on Ombersley Way close to the playing field.

For any queries regarding this Reserve please contact Client Services at Wychavon District Council on 01386 565018.

This is one of over 70 nature reserves owned or 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** fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead happier and healthier lives.

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## Droitwich Community Woods Trail Guide



Worcestershire



Protecting **Wildlife** for the future

Designed by

**WYCHAVON**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
good services, good value

On the doorstep of many Droitwich Spa residents is Droitwich Community Woods. This 75 acre nature reserve is managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust in partnership with Wychavon District Council. It is a wonderful area of woodland, meadows, grassland and hedge banks, with the Droitwich Barge Canal and the Salwarpe River both running through the reserve. It is easily accessible on foot, only about a mile from the town centre. Volunteers play a key role in maintaining this mosaic of habitats for wildlife to live in and for people to enjoy.



## Salwarpe Valley

A legacy of the Droitwich Spa salt industry remains in the form of the Salwarpe Valley salt marsh, which covered the lower sections of the Briar Hill Coppice part of the reserve. This results in salt tolerant (halophytic) plants occurring here, including dittander.

There are some non-native, invasive species found on the site including Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, which we would like to eradicate as they threaten the native flora.

## The Woodland

This part of the reserve is a mass of colour in the spring, first with the cowslips and then bluebells. Summer gives us willows and poplars. As you walk through you may see dragonflies and butterflies or even a kingfisher by the water. Birds such as the blue tit and great tit use the nesting boxes we have put in this part of the reserve.



## Gorsey Bank

This area of the reserve has old oak trees which are home to many insects. If you are lucky you might catch a glimpse of the purple hairstreak butterfly high in the oak canopy. You can also see the perry pear trees which are much older than most of the woodland here.



## Hay Meadow

The wet grassland area in Hay Meadow by the river is an important site for plants including meadowsweet, purple loose strife and great willowherb. To manage this area we mow only one third of the grass each year. Insects still have cover in the long vegetation and cutting increases flowers in the meadow. Butterflies such as the brimstone are attracted to the nectar.

## The Grasslands

These are rich in spiders and insects such as ground beetles which make excellent food for birds and small mammals such as shrews.



# Did you know...

During the summer months you'll be sure to find dragonflies and damselflies along the river and canal.

The azure damselfly (pictured) is the fourth most common species of damselfly found in Worcestershire.

They stay around the bank and vegetation, rarely going out above the water.

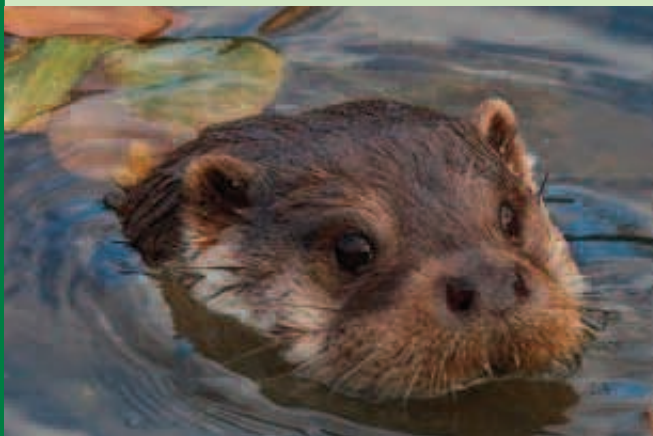


Meadowsweet is a white flowering plant found each summer in the areas of wet grassland along the River Salwarpe. It is strong smelling and in medieval times was used to scent pillows.



Coppicing is a traditional method of managing trees by cutting down young stems to near ground level. Regularly coppiced trees will live a lot longer and the different stages of coppicing in the wood create a variety of habitats for wildlife.

Species such as otter (pictured) will only become resident if the water quality of the river or canal is good. They don't live in polluted or disturbed waters. It is hoped that these beautiful mammals will one day set up home in our nature reserve. Keep a look out!



Kingfishers eat fish and aquatic insects. They are occasionally sighted along the canal and river here. They have unmistakable iridescent feathers that can appear to be bright blue or green.

Whatever the season there is always wildlife activity for you to spot as you walk through the nature reserve.

Don't forget your binoculars or to bring a camera with you!

