



Keep an eye out for fungi in the autumn, the peak season for puffballs, colourful milkcaps, brittlegills and rings of clouded funnel caps.

Puffball



Tall tree tops



Red fox



Discover the historical side of Grass Wood in the winter, look out for Fort Gregory and at Park Stile for remnants from the Iron Age.



Grass Wood in Winter

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity working to protect and conserve Yorkshire's wild places and wildlife for all to enjoy.

We care for over 95 nature reserves throughout the county and run loads of events so that everyone can get out and experience wild Yorkshire for themselves.

Get in touch

Call: 01904 659570
Email: info@ywt.org.uk
Find us: BD23 5NE (nearest postcode)
Grid reference: SD 983 652

It is thanks to the fantastic support of our members, volunteers and supporters that we are able to continue with this work.

Why not join us?

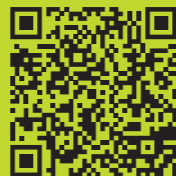
Joining is easy! For a small amount a month you can support Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places, and get involved with loads of fab activities and events. Visit www.ywt.org.uk or email membership@ywt.org.uk for more details.



Open all year round. Enjoy the nature reserve by following the footpaths and stiles, but be sure to put on some sturdy shoes as the going can be uneven! There is a small car park in a disused quarry, see map overleaf.

Help us look after Yorkshire's wildlife

Whilst we welcome dogs to Grass Wood, please make sure that they are kept on a lead so as not to disturb the wonderful wildlife here. Please take particular care that your dog is well-behaved during the bird breeding season.



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



www.ywt.org.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is registered in England No. 409650 and is a registered charity No. 210807



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

GRASS WOOD

Nature Reserve



Keep your eyes and ears open in spring as birds aplenty will be raising their young; look out for resident nuthatches and treecreepers.



Nuthatch

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

at Grass Wood Nature Reserve

The ground will be carpeted with primroses, violets, bluebells and lily-of-the-valley.



Grass Wood in Spring



Bluebell

Step out of the sun and into the shade of the trees in summer; enjoy listening to the birds singing and the leaves rustling.



Butterflies including peacocks, or the scarce northern brown argus come alive in the summer sun.



Peacock

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

Grass Wood is a classic example of Yorkshire Dales ash woodland, with over 88 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat – one of the largest areas of broadleaved woodland in the area.

The woodland is predominantly ash and hazel, which grow across a series of limestone terraces that spread down towards the River Wharfe. You will also find non-native conifers growing here.

The wood is a fantastic place to see redstart, pied flycatcher, great spotted woodpecker and a variety of warblers. If you are lucky you may even hear the green woodpecker's 'yaffle'!

The spectacular array of flowers found in the wood has earned the nature reserve a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation, with characteristic plants including brightly coloured yellow pimpernel.



Lily-of-the-Valley

Insect-life is also diverse, with many species of butterflies, beetles and moths. In addition mammals including roe deer and red fox make the most of this woodland habitat.

TAKING CARE of Grass Wood

In the past many conifers were planted in Grass Wood. The long term aim of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, working in conjunction with the Forestry Commission and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, is to replace these alien species with native trees. The Trust carefully selects trees for felling which allows native species to regenerate naturally in their place. These are also supplanted with locally sourced trees which are otherwise declining in the wood – species such as whitebeam and holly.

The traditional practice of coppicing has also been reintroduced into some parts of the wood. This opens up the woodland canopy, allowing light through so that wildflowers such as cowslips can thrive. Cut branches are also used to form individual stool wigwams covering the hazel stumps while they regrow, protecting them from browsing deer.

GRASS WOOD NATURE RESERVE

Navigation Map



KEY

- Reserve boundary
- Parking
- Main footpaths
- Interpretation sign

TIMELINE

Prehistory	1500 AD	1750 AD	1850 AD	1932 AD	present
	Extensively wooded area	Wood used as fuel source for local lead mining.	Acquired by the Duke of Devonshire.	Increasingly managed for timber and recreation by Bolton Abbey Estate.	Acquired by YWT and managed for nature conservation.

A group of local supporters work tirelessly to help manage the wood and raise funds to support the Trust.



Primrose



Willow catkin



Northern brown argus

Look out for spring flowers then for butterflies in summer

Enjoy a colourful trip in autumn as the leaves turn. Explore the old kilns known as 'Elling Hearths' in winter



Please remember this woodland is home to lots of fantastic wildlife therefore we ask that you don't camp here or light any fires, please also leave wildflowers and fungi where they are for others to enjoy! Dogs should be kept on leads and litter taken home with you. With your help and understanding we can make sure this remains a wonderful place for people and wildlife.



Grass Wood path

Photography credits: Main image of Grass Wood – Rodger Ratcliffe. Nuthatch, Bluebell – Neil Aldridge. Peacock butterfly – Jonathan Bliss. Puffball – Paul Miguel. Tall tree tops, Grass Wood in Spring, Grass Wood in Winter, Willow catkin, Grass Wood path – James Ferguson. Lily-of-the-Valley – Philip Precey. Primrose – Tim Bailey. Northern brown argus – Bill Smyllie. Fox – Jon Hawkins.