

# St Julian's Community Woodland



## Location

### South Marston

Postcode SN3 4AH

Grid ref SU191877

**Access** – through St Julian's Close, a new estate off Highworth Road. Dogs on leads are welcome. Surfaced paths but car park is gravel.

### Directions

**If driving** – From the A419, take the A420 towards Oxford. At first roundabout (Sainsbury's is on your right), take first exit onto Thornhill Road, which is signposted South Marston. Continue over next roundabout and after approximately 0.5 miles you will enter an area with traffic calming measures. Shortly afterwards, St Julian's Close is on left. Reserve car park is in the far corner.

**If using bus** – Visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets) for information and downloadable timetables

**If cycling** - For information and printable maps visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Nearby reserves**– Hagbourne Copse, Rushey Platt, Swindon Lagoons

## About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have about 18,500 members, look after almost 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

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Registered charity no. 266202.



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## 1.5 hectares

This small broadleaved wood in South Marston near Swindon has been newly planted and will reward regular visitors as it develops and matures. With plenty of potential to attract wildlife, who knows what may take up residence?

With its light, airy feel it offers a pleasant walk along its perimeter path and is easy to walk to from the village.

Look out for the brass rubbing posts, wildlife mosaic and special table and bench forged by a local blacksmith.

The wood was transferred to our care by The Hills Group. It was officially opened in September 2011.

We will manage the reserve for the first few years and then hand it over to a local community trust or group, working with them to draw up a plan.

We are cutting and removing the grass to prevent its nutrients returning to the soil. This is important if wildflowers are to thrive – the poorer the soil the better for most wild plants.

We have dug a small pond to provide habitat for water wildlife.

We will be thinning the trees as they mature to allow light and space for others to grow.

We will gradually remove scrub growing along the stream to open up the bankside.

## Wildlife

The wood is planted with a mix of **oak**, ash, **spindle**, wayfaring tree, wild cherry, hawthorn, hazel, alder and field maple. Its boundaries are marked by a stream and hedgerows.

Already it is rich with insect life, especially butterflies including comma, peacock, small tortoiseshell, **speckled wood**, red admiral, marbled white, orange-tip, **ringlet**, gatekeeper, meadow brown and small copper.

Come at dusk and you might see noctule and pipistrelle bats hunting for their insect prey, and hear the rustle of **fox** and roe deer. **Buzzard**, magpies and gulls swoop in the air.



Speckled wood, Susan Fitzpatrick. Fox, Darin Smith. Oak acorns, Philip Precy. Ringlet, Rachel Scopes  
Path through St Julian's, Susan Fitzpatrick. Spindle, Rob Large WWT

