



# Clouts Wood

## Large Print

**Hello and welcome!**

**This booklet will provide information about  
Clouts Wood, for visitors who prefer to  
use Large Print.**

**Please return this guide before you leave.  
Thank you.**

**Clouts Wood is a woodland complex situated in the village of Wroughton, south of Swindon.**

**The complex is 62.19 hectares in total, consisting of 4 separate areas with distinct habitats - Kings Farm Wood, Clouts Wood, Diocese Meadows and Markham Banks.**

**Kings Farm Wood:**

**We jointly bought this reserve in 2013 with Swindon Borough Council and Wroughton Parish Council.**

**Generations of the King family grazed their livestock on this land. They planted the wood in 2002 with species such as pedunculate oak, silver birch, hawthorn, rowan and guelder rose.**

**We will thin the wood as it matures, and create glades and scalloped woodland edges to increase biodiversity.**

**Look out for primrose, early dog violet, sanicle and giant fescue which grow along the stream's banks.**

**You may spot buzzards, red kites and swallows overhead, or hear the call of the green woodpecker or the bark of a fox.**

**Willow warblers, tits and small mammals live here.**

**Orange-tip, comma, red admiral and speckled wood butterflies make the most of the sunny rides where wildflowers grow.**

**Clouts Wood:**

**This is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.**

**The valley has been wooded since the ice-age receded, and there are records of sale of coppice rights that date back to the 1600s.**

**In spring there is a colourful display of ramsons, woodruff and goldilocks buttercup.**

**From late June you will see the tall, yellowish spikes of the nationally scarce Bath asparagus.**

**Wildflowers such as green hellebore, wood vetch, herb Paris and meadow saffron sprinkle the woodland floor.**

**Ash is the dominant tree species, but there is also a wide variety of other trees including wych, English elm and alder. We coppice the wood which allows sunlight in so that woodland flowers can grow.**

**In the autumn and winter, the wood is home to fungi including shaggy parasol mushrooms, stump puffballs and velvet shanks toadstool.**

## **Markham Banks:**

**This is a band of steeply sloping chalk downland lying alongside Clouts Wood with lovely views from the top.**

**Acquired in 2008, we use sheep and cattle to graze down the coarse grasses.**

**Ten species of bumblebee have been seen here, including buff-tailed and common carder.**

**They come for the rich mix of wildflowers, which includes chalk milkwort, common rockrose, kidney vetch, autumn gentian and spiny restharrow.**

**In summer, butterflies such as brimstone, small skipper, painted lady, gatekeeper and clouded yellow fly above the slopes.**

**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 over 20,000 members, look after 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims.**

**We hope that you have had a good trip to Clouts Wood.**

**Please return this guide and the separate map before you leave.**

**Thank you for visiting Clouts Wood.**