

Hagbourne Copse



Location

Swindon
Postcode SN5 8YW
Grid ref – SU105829

Access - Follow circular walk for a short, relaxing stroll. It is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs but dogs on leads are welcome. A pond-dipping platform can be accessed from the path.

Directions

If driving - Hagbourne Copse is located in Blagrove Industrial Estate, West Swindon. From M4 junction 16 take A3102 towards Swindon. At roundabout turn right into Ramsden Road. At next roundabout turn right into Frankland Road. Entrance located on right before the T-junction. Some parking along Frankland Road.

If using bus - regular buses in Swindon. Bus 55 Swindon to Chippenham. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets

If cycling - A Swindon cycle map route runs adjacent to Hagbourne Copse; graded 4/5 for difficulty. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Nearby reserves – 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

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Registered charity no. 266202.



Hagbourne Copse

2.01 hectares

This pocket of woodland provides a breathing space for wildlife in west Swindon and a peaceful place where workers can take a lunchtime stroll. In April and May you can enjoy a stunning display of native **bluebells**.

The copse was planted some time before 1766 and belonged to the Lydiard Park estate. Oak was harvested for the building industry and coppiced hazel was used for fencing. Coppiced trees produce new shoots and this is a traditional way of harvesting wood.

We bought the copse in 1999 and volunteers still coppice sections, cutting trees back to ground level so sunlight can reach the floor, encouraging woodland flowers to grow.

We cover the coppice stools with twigs to protect them from the deer and rabbits, which nibble the new shoots and prevent the stumps from re-growing.

Wildlife

In springtime, aside from the bluebells, the woodland floor lights up with wood anemones, primroses, a few **early purple orchids** and Goldilocks buttercups, which are indicators of ancient woodland.

In summer, more flowers decorate the southern path, including red campion,

herb bennet, devil's-bit scabious and greater knapweed.

They attract butterflies such as the purple hairstreak, **peacock**, brimstone, red admiral and comma.

Autumn is the best time to see fungi - 22 species sprout from trunks, branches and the ground, among them **common puffball**.

Birds nest in the woodland. Blue tits, great tits, long-tailed tits and **tree creepers** can be seen flitting about in the trees, and in the winter you may see redwings hunting for berries and worms.

Look out for **great spotted woodpeckers** and the occasional sparrow hawk.

Rabbits, foxes, shrews and voles are present.

The pond is fed by ditches, which help to drain the woodland. It attracts smooth newts, common frogs, mallard ducks and occasionally a grey heron.



Peacock butterfly, Darin Smith. Common puffball, Graham Coules. Great spotted woodpecker, Graham Coules. Early purple orchid, Rob Large WWT. Tree creeper, John Hollis WWT. Bluebells at Hagbourne Copse, Martin Sawyer

