

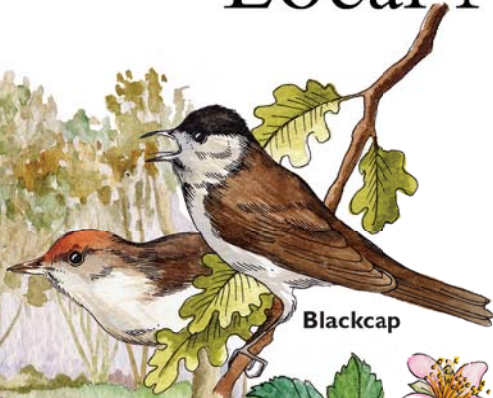
# MIDDLETON WOODS

## Local Nature Reserve

Red Admiral



Blackcap



### Bramble Thickets (left)

In more open areas of the wood and along the woodland edge, bramble can grow in dense thickets, blanketing the ground and covering fallen trees. Here, it can be regarded as a habitat in its own right. Both the adults and larvae of insects feed on the leaves, flowers and fruit, and are in turn food for spiders and birds. Throughout the year its thorny stems provide shelter whilst in the early autumn juicy blackberries attract insects, mice, birds and people!

Bramble



Weasel



Hawthorn



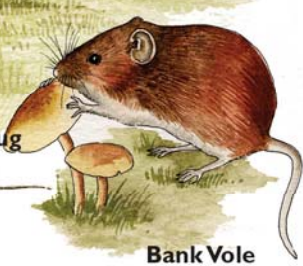
Redwing



Hawthorn Shield-bug



Bank Vole



Garlic Mustard



### Hedgerows

More than simply boundary-markers, hedges provide not only year-round shelter and food but are also important corridors for wildlife, linking distant habitats. Not all hedges were planted - some are strips of woodland left when the rest of the wood was felled. Others are lines of shrubs which have grown in the shelter of a fence, protected from browsing stock. All need management through regular trimmings or laying (where tall shrubs are cut and bent, but left alive to re-grow). Both too much trimming and long-term neglect destroys hedges as surely as grubbing out. New hedges, whilst valuable, cannot replace our inheritance of ancient hedges with their rich ecology and historical significance.

Treecreeper



Woodlouse Spider



Woodlouse



### Dead Wood

Dead wood, old and dying trees are vital parts of a good wildlife woodland as they are habitats for many of our less conspicuous species. Fungi cannot make their own food, but rely on gaining nutrients from other, living or dead, plants or animals. Many fungi depend on wood, and have fine threads, collectively known as mycelium, which can penetrate solid stumps and logs. About 15,000 species of invertebrate live in British woodland. Many of these spend their lives recycling trees, eating leaves, stems, bark, wood, roots or each other.

Sulphur Tuft



Beefsteak fungus



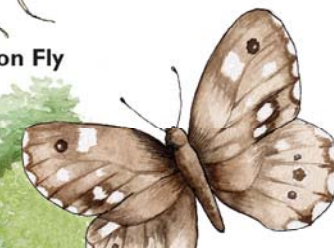
-  LNR Boundary
-  Park Boundary
-  Surfaced Route



Sparrowhawk



Scorpion Fly



Speckled Wood



Brown Hare

### Glades & Rides

Open areas in the wood provide sheltered pools of light and opportunities for plants and animals which cannot tolerate the dim shade beneath the forest canopy. Many such plants have adapted to life outside the wood and can be found in hedges and meadows. In nature, glades appear where trees have fallen, as a result of gales, for example. Felling trees, or the creation of open tracks, or 'rides', has the same effect.

The spot-lit wildflowers of glades and rides attract insects such as butterflies and moths. The tits and finches which feed in these open areas are prey to aerial hunters like the sparrowhawk whilst hares are ever-alert for foxes. As new trees grow, the glades and rides shrink until they are engulfed by the forest again. Glades and rides can be maintained either by cutting back this new growth, or felling trees to make new glades.



Red Campion