

# The Knapp & Papermill

Nature Reserve



Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust



family  
**trail**  
guide



## Welcome to the Knapp & Papermill nature reserve.

I'm Badger and I'm part of the Wildlife Watch gang. We're going to have a wander around the Knapp today and if you're really lucky you'll spot loads of brilliant beastsies and fabulous flowers. You may even discover something you didn't know before you arrived!

There's a map with a circular walk in the middle of this trail guide to help you find your way around.

Use my guide to help you spot lots of weird and wonderful wildlife. Don't forget to keep your eyes and ears open all the time – you never know when you're going to discover something new!



## What kind of things do you think you're going to find? How about...



**INSECTS**



**BIRDS**



**FISH**



**FLOWERS  
& PLANTS**



**MAMMALS**



**TREES**

The place where a plant or animal lives and finds its food is called a habitat. Do you think you'll find everything living in the same kind of habitats?

**I don't think so. Let's go and find out...**

# Orchard

The first place you'll come to is the orchard. The old fruit trees have flaky bark that insects can hide under and make holes in. That's why you may see woodpeckers and nuthatches in the orchard – they have long, thin beaks to reach under the bark and peck into the wood for a tasty bite to eat!



The trees are all apple trees. In spring, there are pretty flowers that attract lots of insects. By summer the flowers have turned into fruit - uncooked cooking apples will give you a bad tummy so don't try to eat them. Fallen fruits in autumn and winter are a magnet for butterflies like red admirals and wintering birds like fieldfare and redwing.



orchard in spring

comma



nuthatch



## Did you know...

Locals say that an elephant is buried in here – it died when a Birmingham circus was moved here in the war. We've never found any elephant bones – can you spot any lumps that are big enough to have an elephant underneath them?



Use this space to design your own bug to live in an orchard tree?

Can I fly?

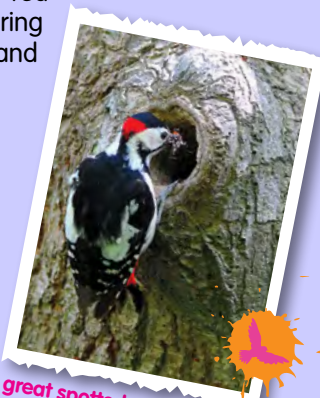
What do I eat?

How do I eat?

How many legs?



red admiral



great spotted woodpecker

# The Leigh Brook

The stream is really important. You follow it from the orchard to Papermill Meadow. While you're walking along, why not play I-spy? You won't spot everything on these pages so why not find other things to spot?

Kingfishers fly very quickly across the water. If you're really lucky you'll see one watching for fish from a perch or hear the high-pitched whistle as one flies past you.



kingfisher

On warm sunny days look out for dragonflies and damselflies along the river and by the pond. Male beautiful demoiselles are blue and females are brown – both look metallic.



beautiful demoiselle

There are lots of fish in the brook – young trout, bullheads, minnows and many more. You'll probably see some from the bank – and even from Pivany Bridge. Careful not to fall in!



bullhead

Grey wagtails are often seen at the edge of the water.



grey wagtail



otter

If you're really really really lucky you may spot signs of otters. Look for tar-like poo (called spraint) and footprints by the water's edge.

Butterburs have purple flowers in spring and when the flowers die the leaves keep growing. They grow so large that people used to use them to wrap butter in – that's how they got their name!



butterbur



alder

Alder trees have catkins in the spring and cone-like flowers that release seeds in the autumn – birds love to eat them!

# Why not draw the symbols of what you see onto the map?



INSECTS



FLOWERS & PLANTS



BIRDS



MAMMALS

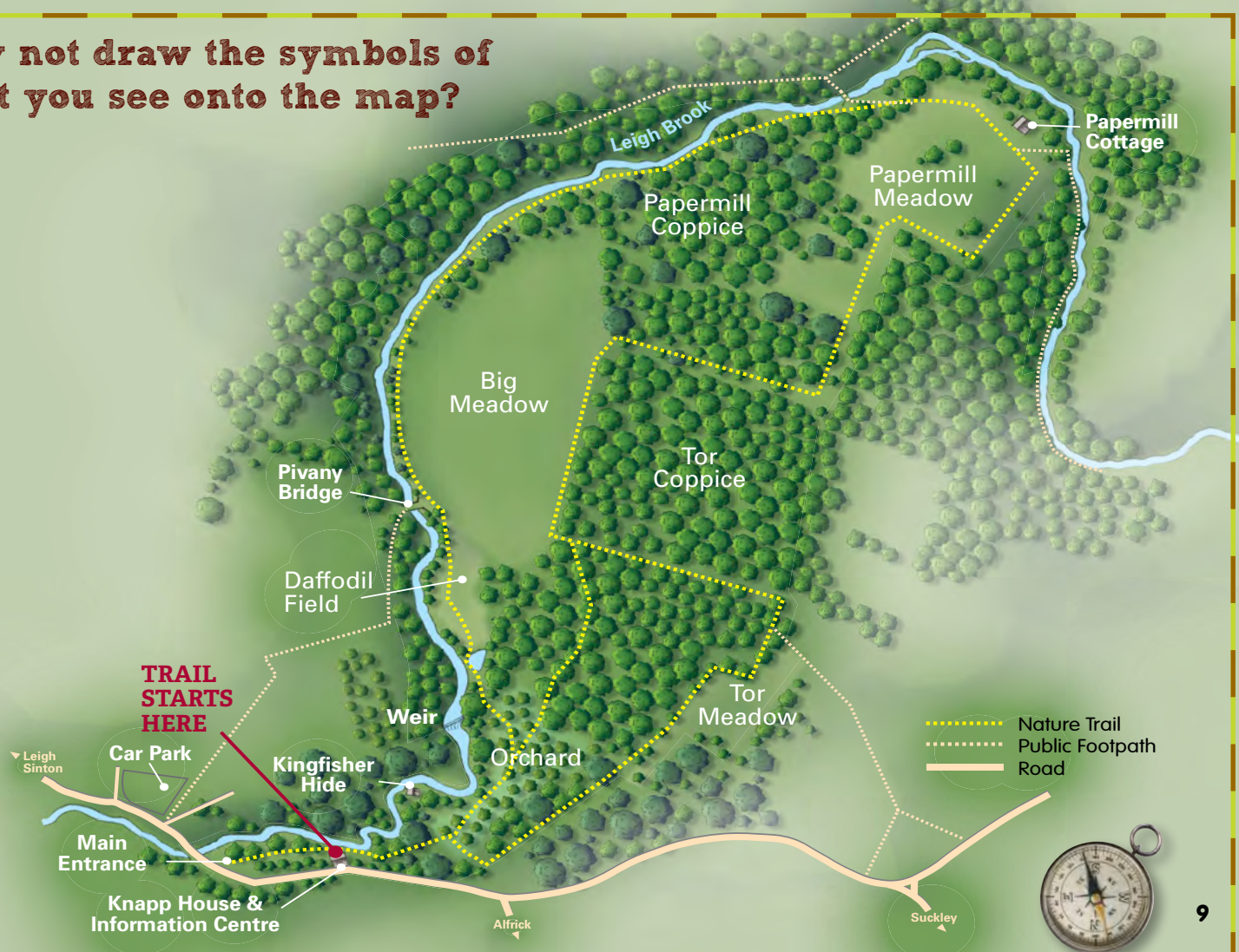


FISH



TREES

8



# The meadows

Did you notice the meadows you walked through by the river?

The meadows are at their best during summer when the flowers are out and butterflies, bees and other insects are attracted by the nectar. In winter you may see cows grazing the meadows – this helps to maintain a variety of plants.

Papermill Meadow hasn't been ploughed or had chemical fertilisers put on it for at least 100 years. That's why it's so rich in flowers and plants.

Different flowers mean there are loads of insects. On warm evenings bats come out from the woods and Papermill Cottage to feast on the yummy beasties in the meadow.



carder bee

You may see carder, buff-tailed, red-tailed and white-tailed **bees**. The last three get their names from the colour of their bottoms!

**Devil's-bit scabious** flowers from late July to October. Its name comes from the bitten off look of the roots (you'll have to take my word for it)!



devil's-bit scabious



meadow brown



orchid

From spring to autumn look out for different types of **butterfly** – meadow brown, marbled white and skippers.

We've got different **orchids** here including green-winged, spotted and early purples.



brown long-eared bat

Brown long-eared, pipistrelle, noctule and many other **bats** feed on insects in the meadow.

The plants and animals in **bold** are in our **word search**. Can you find them?



# Woodland

So, we've been in an orchard and seen trees by the river, but at the top of Papermill Meadow we're heading into woodland.

We manage our woodland by coppicing. This is where we cut down a tree almost to the ground. Amazingly the tree re-grows lots of shoots! Imagine if we could do that...! Coppicing is great for wildlife and creates sunlit glades for bluebells and other plants.

## Why not try our Knapp version of Sudoku?

It's really simple – honest! You need to make sure that each line (across and up/down) and box contains one of each of the 6 symbols. No line or box should contain the same symbol twice. I've filled in some of the squares to get you going!






beech mast

The easiest way to find our only **beech** tree is by looking for the 'mast' (seed) but they're not produced every year. The tree is on the left as you walk through Tor Coppice.

You're unlikely to see a **dormouse** but you may spot nibbled hazelnut shells. Dormice create perfectly round holes in the shells to get at the nut.



dormouse



bluebell

The woodlands at the Knapp look like they've been carpeted with **bluebells** in spring.

You may hear tawny **owls** calling to each other.



tawny owl

**Wild service trees** indicate very old woodland and there are lots of them in Tor Coppice.

**Treecreepers** have long, pointy beaks to help them find insects in tiny holes and under the bark of trees.



treecreeper



wild service tree

# Wow!

That's it then! Well done! You've walked around the Knapp and hopefully discovered lots of new things. The big question is though... have you remembered anything?



I thought I'd test your memory if that's okay? Can you remember which animal or plant is found where on the reserve – without having to look back through the book or trace the lines to match them up?

A large matching game board on a yellow background. It features several circular images of nature scenes and animals, each with a label below it. The images are connected by dashed lines of various colors (green, blue, red, pink) that form a path across the board. The labels are: bee, dormouse, demoiselle, meadow, bluebell, red admiral, orchard, river, woodpecker, orchid, kingfisher, and woodland. A small ladybug is also visible at the top of the board.

bee

dormouse

demoiselle

meadow

bluebell

red admiral

orchard

river

woodpecker

orchid

kingfisher

woodland

I hope you've had fun exploring today. Will you come back to visit the Knapp again?



# Love wildlife?

Then join Wildlife Watch, the UK's leading environmental action group for children and young people. Members receive regular newsletters and posters as well as the chance to join one of several active Watch groups around the county. There's also access to a funky online world of nature.

**Check out our website or visit**

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)



[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk)

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