

Welcome to Piper's Hill & Dodderhill Commons Nature Reserve



Worcestershire



These two old commons are former ancient wood pasture where, historically, livestock grazed on grassland with scrub and scattered large trees.

Today the nature reserve has over 240 veteran trees which have grown over several hundred years. These old trees support a huge range of wildlife as well as being historically and culturally significant in their own right. They grew in open space where they developed widely-spreading branches. Over time, as management has reduced, young vigorous beech trees have started to shade out the older oaks and sweet chestnuts. Left unchecked, this competition for light and nutrients can cause the veteran trees to die.

We're gradually restoring the wood pasture by felling carefully selected beech trees.

Did you know...?

Piper's Hill is regionally significant due to the high concentration of veteran trees and associated wildlife that includes hundreds of beetle and fungus species.

I-spy...

Look for jackdaws nesting in the tree hollows on the slopes of the common. Woodpeckers nest in dead trees where they are able to excavate holes in the soft decaying wood. Nuthatches will use old woodpecker holes to nest in, normally closing up the large hole with mud to stop unwanted visitors getting in. Keep your eyes open for fungus – more than 200 species have been recorded here!

Please remember...

You are visiting a nature reserve that is for the conservation of our local wildlife. For everyone to enjoy the reserve please respect the following:

- Keep dogs on a lead to avoid disturbing wildlife and please take away any mess
- Keep to the marked trails and public rights of way
- Motorbikes are not allowed on the reserve



Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

- Jackdaw • Nuthatch
- Great-spotted woodpecker

Look out for birds 'climbing' down the trunk of trees – nuthatches are the only UK bird that do this.



© Karen Summers

SUMMER:

- Dragonflies on the pool
- Insects and birds throughout the wood

There are good numbers of dragonflies and damselflies on the pond and in the woods from late spring to early autumn. Pictured: broad-bodied chaser.



© Peter Smith

AUTUMN:

- Fungi • Wonderful leaf colour

From the relatively common chicken of the woods (pictured) to the rarer *Rhodotus palmatus*, Piper's Hill is great for fungi.



© Gail Hampshire

WINTER:

- Fieldfare • Redwing

Watch out for redwings and fieldfares making the most of the resources here early in winter.



© Pete Widdicombe

This nature reserve is one of more than 70 owned or managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust that form part of our vision for a Living Landscape. By working with other landowners, managers and communities we aim to restore, recreate and reconnect fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead happier and healthier lives.

You can help protect wildlife by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation
- Volunteering to help
- Encouraging wildlife at home or work

If you'd like to make a donation for the upkeep of the reserve, please text WILD04 followed by the amount you'd like to donate to 70070 (e.g. WILD04 £15).

We are part of a national network of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

Supported by

