

# Bluebell Wood Local Nature Reserve

Twelve years of work and still going strong. The wood is managed as part of a long term project to ensure its survival and improvement.

The benefits for both people and wildlife are already apparent. 12 years ago you would not have been able to stand here and now you can smell it, touch it and be a part of it!

If you would like to know more please contact the Ranger Service at the Hayfield Countryside Centre or call 01663 746222 [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside)

## Woodland Management

For a woodland ecosystem to run it requires the right conditions. Therefore woodland management is chiefly about managing these.

Habitat management work often appears to be very invasive and to some can look a mess. However, given time nature takes advantage and the benefits become apparent.

The presence of key ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebells, wood anemone and yellow archangel shows that our approach is working.



## Wet Woodland

Mud, mud glorious mud..... so why haven't we sorted out the drainage in this area?

Wet Woodland is a rare and important habitat and Bluebell Wood is lucky to have a small amount of it. We have created dams to manage the water levels. We know we have the correct conditions because of the presence of Marsh Marigold, a key indicator species.

We built the board walks so that you can enjoy this extremely sensitive habitat without impacting on it.

## The Value of Deadwood

Deadwood is a vital part of natural woodland. A dead tree, if it is allowed to rot down, is just as important to the woodland ecosystem as a live one. In fact, in completely natural woodland as much as 60% of the wood would be dead.

As the wood rots and is broken down by fungus and invertebrates, the cycle of life begins again. Deadwood provides habitat for almost a thousand animal species, from insects and other invertebrates to hole nesting birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches, and, of course, bats.

Ideally, there should be both standing and fallen deadwood. Also, there should be a variety of sizes of deadwood, from small twigs to huge tree trunks, since different creatures require different conditions.

So, as part of the management of Bluebell Wood, we are helping nature along by providing more deadwood. Even the base on which this notice is placed is itself deadwood, and therefore part of the ecosystem.