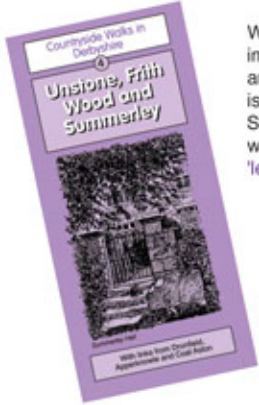


FRITH WOOD



Welcome to Frith Wood. The wood is known as both Frith and Firth Wood locally and is an important feature in the landscape around Dronfield. The woodland, field and pond here are owned by Derbyshire County Council and managed by the Three Valleys Project, which is part of the council's Countryside Service. Frith Wood is linked to the Unstone Line and Summerley by a circular walk. Please make the most of exploring the paths and enjoy the wildlife you see. Help us to take care of the countryside and remember ... 'leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories.'

History

The name Frith Wood comes from the Saxon 'fyrrhp', which means wood and the first written record was in 1359. Derbyshire County Council has managed the 14 hectares of ancient semi natural woodland since 1978. The larch and beech areas to the north and centre of the wood were planted around 1930. The timber produced was probably intended for the local mining industry.

The pond was dug before 1875 to supply clay to the now lost brick kilns on Bents Lane (Bridleway 45). You can still see Q pits and charcoal hearths throughout the wood, showing evidence of coppice management in the wood up to the 18th century. The charcoal and kiln dried wood was used in the local iron and lead smelting industries.

Fauna and Flora

This mixed woodland is rich in many species of flora and fauna. Sparrowhawks breed in the larch plantation each year and look out for the tawny owls roosting in the trees on the bank above. You should be able to spot nuthatch, woodpeckers and goldfinches in the wood, along with the more common blackbird, robin and colourful jay. In the winter visitors include redwings from Scandinavia, and in the summer warblers from Africa.

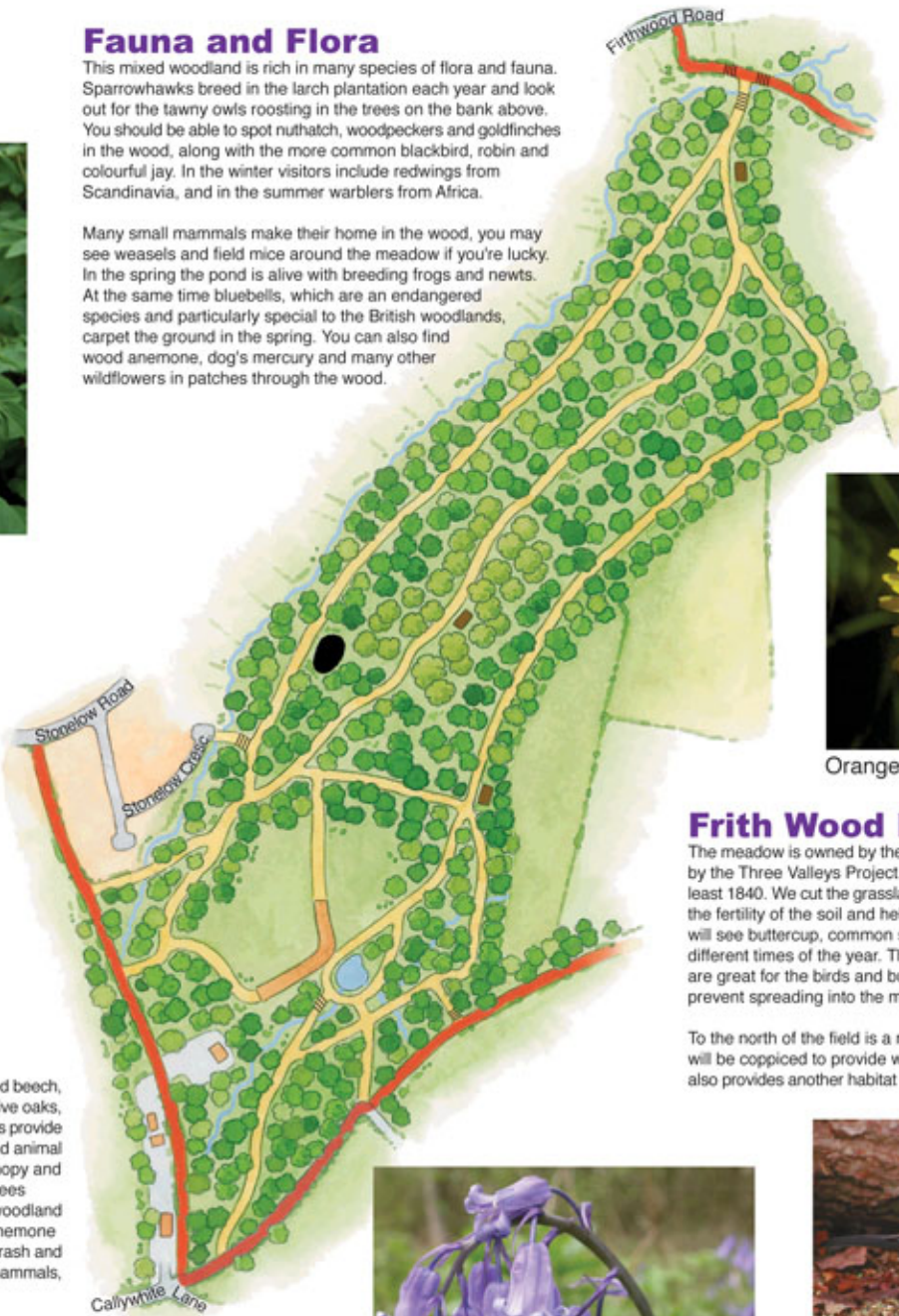
Many small mammals make their home in the wood, you may see weasels and field mice around the meadow if you're lucky. In the spring the pond is alive with breeding frogs and newts. At the same time bluebells, which are an endangered species and particularly special to the British woodlands, carpet the ground in the spring. You can also find wood anemone, dog's mercury and many other wildflowers in patches through the wood.



Wood Anemone



Weasel



Orange tip butterfly

Frith Wood Field

The meadow is owned by the Girl Guides and is managed by the Three Valleys Project. It has been there since at least 1840. We cut the grassland every year which reduces the fertility of the soil and helps wildflowers to thrive. You will see buttercup, common sorrel and cow parsley at different times of the year. The scrub and bramble, which are great for the birds and butterflies, are controlled to prevent spreading into the meadow.

To the north of the field is a new hazel plantation which will be coppiced to provide wood for traditional crafts. It also provides another habitat for small mammals and birds.

Woodland Management

Over the past 10 years we have removed beech, larch and sycamore. This helps the native oaks, rowan, birch, holly and hazel. These trees provide a better habitat for native insect, bird and animal species. Felling also opens up the canopy and allows more light to the ground. The trees regenerate naturally and we can see woodland flowers such as bluebells and wood anemone coming back. We leave some piles of brash and logs to provide ideal habitats for small mammals, insects and fungi to thrive.



Frith Wood pond



Bluebells



Jay



KEY

- Public footpath
- Concessionary footpath
- Collapsed mine entrance
- Seats
- Steps

DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people

THE 3 VALLEYS PROJECT
moss-drone-rother
COUNTRYSIDE & TOURISM

The Three Valleys Project is part of Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service. Our Rangers and Wardens care for the countryside in the river valleys of the Moss, Drone and Rother in the north east of Derbyshire.

Tapton Lock Visitor Centre, on the Chesterfield Canal, is the home of the Three Valleys Project. We have a wide range of books, maps and leaflets and can offer you advice on exploring the local countryside. You can reach us at the visitor centre on 01246 551035 or log onto www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside for more information.