

Access

The Trust is managing the wood to improve its overall wildlife interest. Access is via the entrance from the Glaphorn to Benefield road.

Please park considerately and don't park next to the reserve entrance as access is required to the farm at all times.

Nightingale

Bring stout footwear as the rides can be very wet. Please follow the county code; keep to paths and keep dogs on leads.

Thank you

How to find the reserve

Take the road from Glaphorn to Benefield, the reserve is about 1 mile from Glaphorn. Park on the lane to the south of the road opposite the woodland. Take care when crossing the road.

Common spotted orchid

We hope you enjoy your visit



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

More Information

Your local Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and countryside for people to enjoy in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We are a charity dependent on voluntary contributions.

If you would like more information about this reserve or about how you can support us please contact:

The Reserves Manager, The Wildlife Trust,
Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton NN3 8BE
or telephone (01604) 405285.
E-mail: northamptonshire@wildlifebcnp.org

To join the Wildlife Trust please contact:
The Membership Manager, The Wildlife Trust,
The Manor House, Broad Street,
Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB3 6DH
or telephone (01954) 713500.
E-mail: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcnp.org

This reserve is supported by:

www.wildlifebcnp.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Registered charity no. 1000412

Welcome to
**Glaphorn Cow
Pastures**

Illustrations by Mike Langman

Photograph by Jane Pearman

Protecting wildlife
close to home

A mix of developing blackthorn scrub and high woodland, this reserve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its wildlife value and particularly the breeding colony of black hairstreak butterflies.

At the turn of the century much of the reserve was pasture with scattered oaks, used for grazing cattle. When the grazing stopped blackthorn quickly covered the grassland to form the dense scrub areas, which are so valuable for breeding birds and the black hairstreak butterfly.

In contrast the northern part of the reserve is high woodland dominated by ash poles last coppiced in 1920. The regular dips and rises in the ground over this northern section are a sign of ridge and furrow indicating that perhaps many centuries ago this land, now under tree cover, was once ploughed.

Black hairstreak butterfly

What to look for

The black hairstreak butterfly is restricted to small patches of blackthorn in about 40 woods between

Peterborough and Oxford.

This rare butterfly, with its characteristic jerky flight, can generally be seen in mid June but this can vary according to the warmth of the Spring. At rest the black

Nuthatch hairstreak can be distinguished by a line of black spots along the inner edge of the orange band on its hind wings. In common with many butterflies the caterpillars have a different food plant from the adults, in this case blackthorn. It is the combination of blackthorn with small sunlit glades and rides which makes the reserve such a good spot for this butterfly.

An important nesting site for nightingales, three or four pairs usually breed in the reserve and can be heard singing during May and June. Many other birds breed here especially warblers and maybe nuthatches. A spring visit in the early evening maybe rewarded with the sight and sound of male woodcock roding overhead and uttering their characteristic calls as it becomes dark.

The ground flora of the wood and damp rides includes many wildflowers. Look out for primroses in the spring followed by bluebells, with bugle, greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, early purple and common-spotted orchids.

Early purple orchid

How the Trust cares for this reserve

Management of this reserve involves maintaining a balance of habitats to allow individual species to flourish. This includes coppicing of the blackthorn, on a long rotation, to provide the right conditions for black hairstreaks. In addition this long rotation provides suitable habitat for a wide range of woodland birds including the nightingale. Elsewhere in the wood the ash are being thinned to promote a better woodland structure, open grassy glades are being created and rides regularly managed.

Bluebells