



Greyfield Wood and Withy Copse is a 37 acre woodland adjacent to Beenham villiage and owned by Douai Abby. It is a semi ancient woodland that contains mainly deciduous trees and some mature conifer plantations that are being replanted with native species.

The woodland is now managed by Greyfield Wood Community Interest Company. The company was recently formed to maintain the woodland as a social amenity for locals and to benefit wildlife. We have produced this pocket guide as an aid to your visit to the wood.



History: Woodlands on both sides of the Bourne stream are shown on a map of Berkshire published in 1761. Ash coppiced stools and ground flora close to the stream suggest this area has been coppiced for more than 400 years. There is also evidence of more recent sweet chestnut and hazel coppicing.

The Forestry Commission cleared and replanted large areas with coniferous trees in the 1960's. After abandoning the woods in the 1970's, the lease was eventually purchased by the Beenham Investment Group. That local company has been actively engaged in regenerating the woodland through voluntary effort in recent years. In 2020 the decision was made to change the company structure to that of a community interest company. Greyfield Wood CIC was founded and has taken over the management of our woods in 2021.

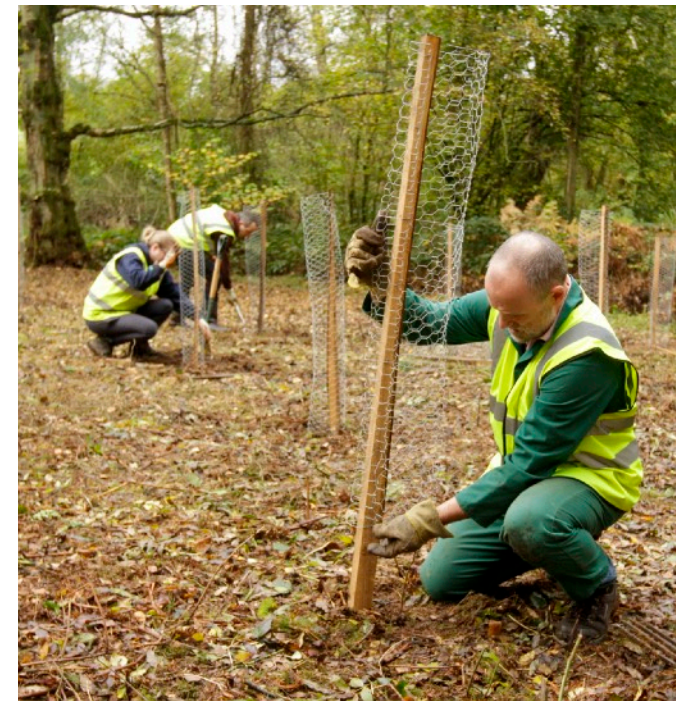


Look out for: Our majestic coppiced ash as well as our sweet chestnut and coppiced hazel. We also have oak, birch, wild cherry, alder, holly and our non-native Roble beech. Despite commercial felling there are still many Corsican pine and Norway spruce to be seen. Where the conifer plantations have been clear felled, you can see broadleaf saplings planted to replace them. Ash can be seen growing in abundance in Withy Copse, but please take note of the warning signs, as dieback is prevalent in our ash trees.

Ground flora is best seen in the spring and early summer, before the canopy is in full leaf. Bluebells flower throughout the wood, while close to the stream wood anemones, wood spurge, wood sorrel and townhall clock can be found.

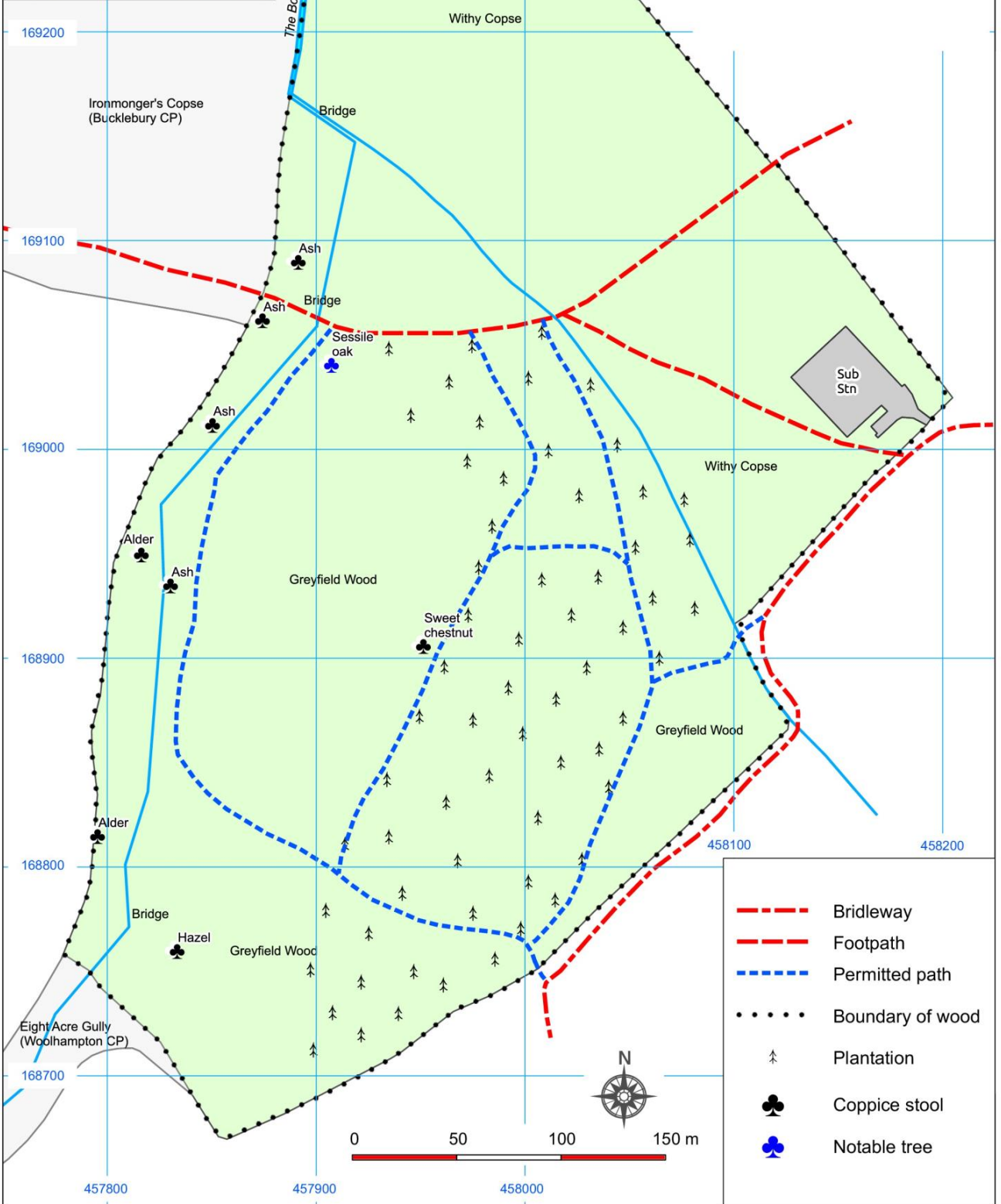
Wildlife, birds and insects can be more difficult to spot but deer, badgers, foxes, grey squirrels and bats are present. Nesting boxes for various birds have been introduced, sometimes even used by bumble bees, do also look out for the bug hotels to encourage beetles.

Get involved: You will see much evidence of recently planted trees and other good forestry management by volunteer groups. Please come and join in!



Find out more about us at beenhamonline.org/greyfield
You can also contact us at greyfieldwoodcic@gmail.com

GREYFIELD WOOD BEENHAM



- - - Bridleway
- - - Footpath
- - - Permitted path
- Boundary of wood
- ↑ Plantation
- ♣ Coppice stool
- ♣ Notable tree