

Dunsmore Living Landscape area

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## About Dunsmore

The Dunsmore Living Landscape scheme is a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust led project working to restore this important ancient landscape to one rich in wildlife accessible to all in the areas lying between east Coventry, Rugby and north Leamington. With the generous support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project is focusing on a landscape-scale level of action for wildlife in the area, allowing us to restore ancient woodland, historic hedgerows, ponds and flower rich grassland, creating habitat for iconic wildlife such as the hazel dormouse and purple emperor butterfly.

By working with local partners, landowners and communities we are improving these habitats, helping to conserve historical sites and improve access, interpretation and general information about the area. We are also providing learning and training opportunities and running a range of events and activities, designed to reconnect people with their local living landscape, green spaces and heritage sites.

This leaflet has been created to provide you with some information about the local area and provide you with an opportunity to get up close to nature and explore.

## Wildlife spotting



The Warwickshire countryside is filled with an abundance of beautiful plants, birds, animals and bugs all year round – particularly in the spring and summer.

Can you help Harry the Hedgehog find these lovely things?



© Steven Cheshire

Greater Stichwort



© Jim Higham

White Admiral



© Amy Lewis

Buzzard



© Margaret Holland

Raven



© Dan Loveard

Fly Agaric

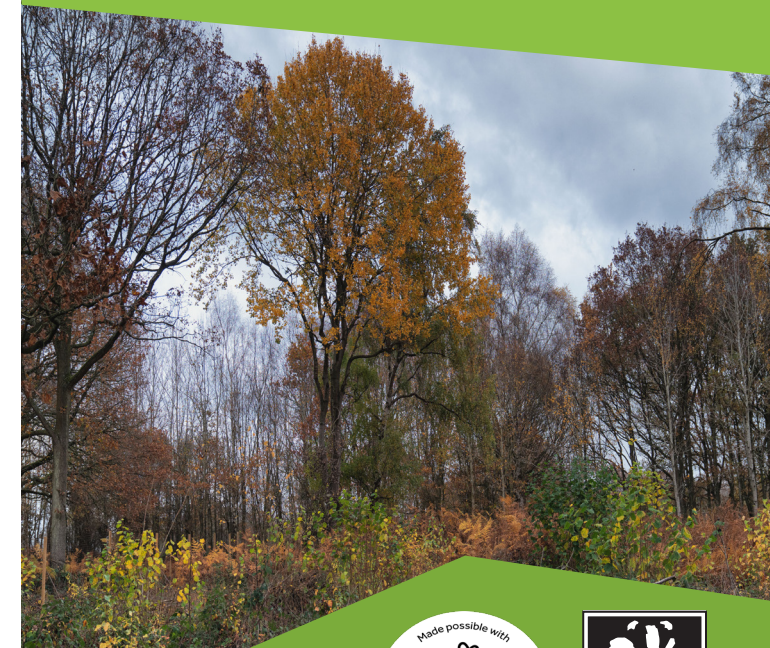


Dunsmore Living Landscape

## Woodland Lies Beyond Circular Walk

Ryton Pools Country Park and Wappenbury Wood

7km



© Joyce James



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 exploredunsmore.org



# Welcome

The Woodland Lies Beyond walk features two of our main sites in the Dunsmore Living Landscape scheme area. One is Ryton Pools Country Park, home to a wide range of habitats and wildlife. The excellent surfaced paths enable easy walking around the site and provide access to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust reserves Ryton Wood, Wappenbury Wood and Bubbenhall Wood and Meadow. Whilst you're in the Country Park, look out for the sculptures of a Straight-tusked Elephant adult and calf nearby the Sand Martin hotel. These reflect important paleontological finds made on site during quarrying. Why not take a picture and tag us @ExploreDunsmore.

The other site the walk takes in is Wappenbury Wood, which is a large semi-natural ancient woodland. With a network of grassy rides and glades, this beautiful wood offer tranquil walks through a wildlife treasure trove. On a sunny day you may spot butterflies like White Admiral and Purple Hairstreak. Historically, an impressive 88 species of birds have been recorded, with plentiful sightings of warblers, woodpeckers and Tawny Owl.

## Key

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Start / Finish |  Gate              |
|  Walk Route     |  Bench             |
|  Waymarker      |  Picnic Bench      |
|  Parking        |  Information Point |
|  Visitor Centre |  Viewpoint         |
|  Toilets        |  Nature Reserve    |
|  Play Area      |  Special Feature   |



# The walk

Length: 7km 

Start at Ryton Pools Visitor Centre and head past the miniature railway where you will reach an interpretation board by Ryton Pool. Take a moment to pause here, read the sign and look out across the pool and see what wetland birds you can spot. The path will then lead you around the pool where you'll get a closer view of the island. Follow the path past the Foothills Play Area and take a left and stay on the path until you reach Paget's Pool with a bench and interpretation board. Here you can spot a sand martin hotel beside our Straight-tusked Elephants. A great spot to soak up the history of the site.

Just ahead you'll find a bird hide, feel free to stray from the route slightly to stop off and see what wildlife you can spot. Rejoin the path and follow it round alongside the pool until you reach a gate. After you walk through, take a left and follow the sign towards Wappenbury Wood. After some time you'll reach another gate, waymarker 1 and an interpretation board. Follow the waymarkers to the left and round until you reach 3, head through the gate and continue along the path to 4. Beside it there is an interpretation board on coppicing at Wappenbury - a traditional technique important in woodland management. The grassland ride behind the board is a great area for spotting lots of wildflowers and insects in the spring and summer - especially butterflies and moths. At 5 you'll be taken off to the right and down the main graveled ride and continue along here until you reach 7. Take a right here and follow the path through the woods - a good spot for fungi in the autumn. Just before 9 you'll reach a break in the trees - take a minute here and listen out for the different birdsongs - croaking of Ravens or mewing of Buzzards.

As you continue along through the woods you'll pass a bench after 10. Soon you will reach the first gate again, head through it and back along the path towards Ryton Pools. Head through the same gate you used before to re-enter the park and continue walking on the path that runs parallel to Paget's lane. Eventually the path will loop you back towards the car park and visitor centre.