

Welcome to Wappenbury Wood

This nature reserve is one of the largest remaining areas of ancient woodland in Warwickshire. The wood was purchased in 1996 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to ensure that it remains a haven for wildlife for years to come.

The Domesday Book of 1086 AD records Richard of Wappenbury as having modest rights to this wood. By the 15th Century it was known as Wappenbury Wood and provided a source of fuel, building materials and hunting opportunities for the local community. Medieval plough markings, ancient bank boundaries, and the age-old pathway known as Nunwood Lane all provide evidence of the wood's age. Sitting on clay deposited by glaciers during the last Ice-Age, the wood was almost clear-felled twice around the Second World War, before being allowed to regenerate naturally.

The Trust now owns and manages the wood for the benefit of people and wildlife, creating a mix of habitats to support a wide variety of birds, insects and wildflowers. By continuing the ancient practice of coppicing (cutting the hazel understory on rotation), the extra light encourages a greater diversity of woodland flowers and insects, whilst nesting birds and small mammals benefit from the dense coppice re-growth. After a few years, the understory is then cut again to provide wood for fencing, tool handles, furniture and fuel.

Look out for

Insects

White admiral and other butterflies can be seen along the wide grassy rides.

Trees

The trembling leaves of the aspen tree.

Wildflowers

Bluebells, primrose and wood anemone create a blaze of colour in spring.

Fungi

Fly agaric and other fungi provide a vibrant autumn display.



Wood anemone © 2017 Darin Smith
Fly agaric © 2017 Anna Jennings



White admiral © 2017 Steve Cheshire
Primrose © 2017 Alamy








Bluebell Wappenbury Wood
© 2017 Alamy

Bluebell © 2017 Emma Richmond
Aspen © 2017 Steve Cheshire

Things to do

Please note that the wood is closed to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays due to a third party holding the shooting rights to the wood.

-  Explore the wood on the two waymarked trails. The Long Loop is 2.75 kilometres (1.75 miles) long, and takes up to an hour. The Short Loop is 2 kilometres (1.3 miles) long and takes up to 45 minutes.
-  Enjoy watching the changing seasons in this wonderful woodland.
-  Listen out for the mew of the buzzards and the wind rustling the aspen leaves.
-  Pause for a moment and take in your surroundings. Use all of your senses.
-  Please note that no dogs are allowed except on the bridleway on a short lead.

Places to visit nearby

Bubbenhall Wood and Meadow

Enjoy the contrast of ancient woodland and new meadow with ponds and pools. Walking distance from here: **1.1km / 0.7 miles / 15 mins**

Ryton Wood SSSI

Very large semi-natural ancient woodland, rich in birds, wildflowers and butterflies. Walking distance from here: **1.1km / 0.7 miles / 15 mins**

Ryton Pools Country Park

Excellent, all access paths provide opportunities to view a wide range of birds in the large pools. Visitor centre, toilet facilities and car parking (fees apply) available. Walking distance from here: **1.3km / 0.8 miles / 20 mins**

Welcome to Dunsmore Living Landscape, a precious slice of countryside rich in wildlife and accessible to all.

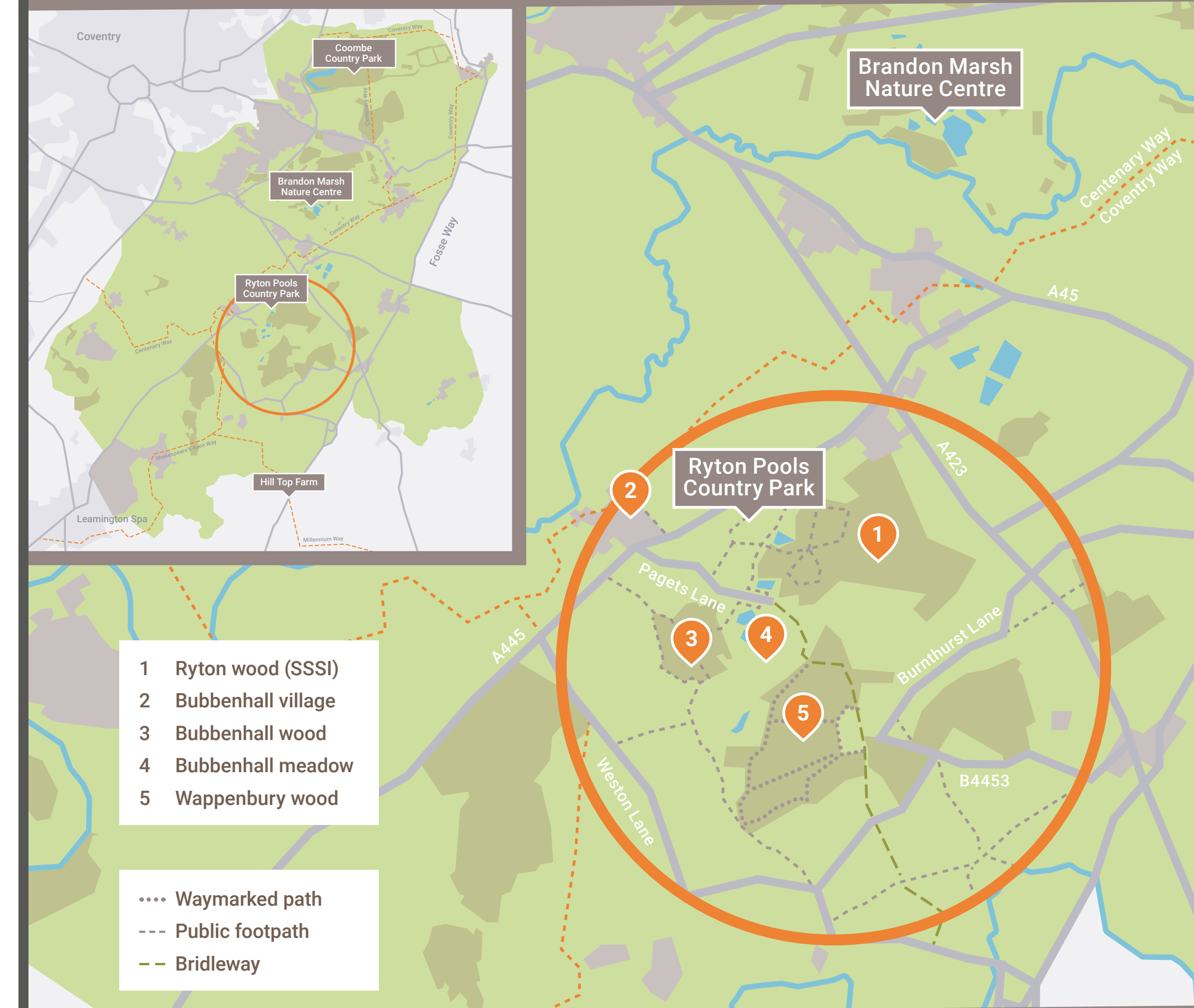
From the outskirts of Coventry and Leamington over to the ancient Fosse Way, discover a wooded heartland bursting with life, linked by a network of hedgerows and meadows.

Get up close to nature, immerse yourself in the past and find your own connection to the landscape.

Yours to Explore

Find out more at:
exploredunsmore.org

The Dunsmore Scheme Area



Loved it, treasure it, support it!

Support it vital to protect this wonderful place and its wildlife for future generations.

www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support

