



**Dunsmore Living Landscape area**

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  
 Brandon Marsh Nature Centre  
 Brandon Lane  
 Coventry  
 CV3 3GW

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warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk  
 exploredunsmore.org



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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 historic 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?



© Wildnet

Common Spotted Orchid



© Kathleen Everitt

Great-spotted Woodpecker



© Chris Gomersall

Teasel



© Dan Loveard

Heron



© Richard Burkmar

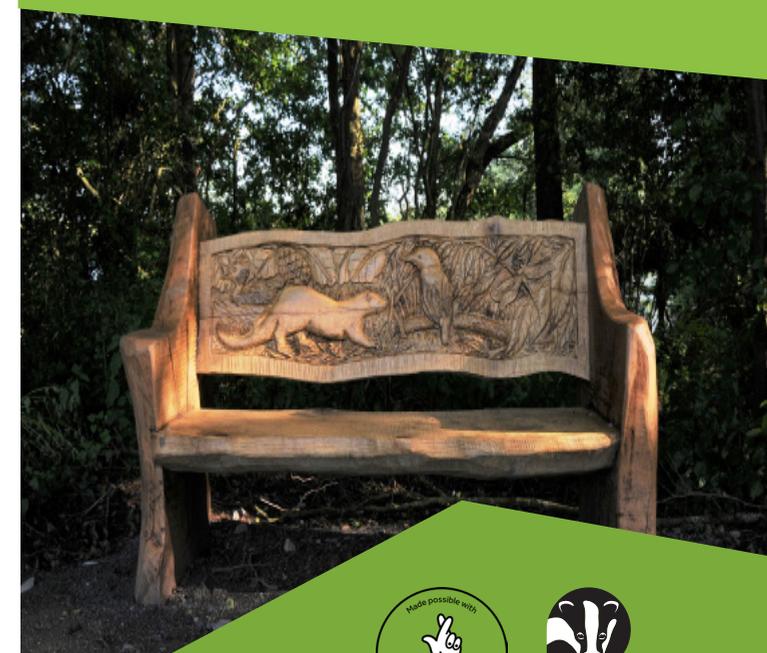
Peacock butterfly



**Dunsmore Living Landscape**

## Brandon Marsh

A guide for parents of children with autism



**Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**

# Welcome to Brandon Marsh

*...a tranquil nature reserve with much to see...*

Lying south-east of Coventry and flanked by a meandering stretch of the River Avon, Brandon Marsh offers tranquil walks amongst a patchwork of habitats including pools, woodlands and grassland. An extensive network of surfaced paths and marked nature trails provide the opportunity to explore the reserve and experience its wide range of wildlife. A free map, showing the paths and hides is available from the Visitor Centre.

When you first arrive, park in the main car park and access the Reserve through the Visitor Centre.

The Sculpture Trail follows the Woodpecker Trail and is 1,325m long. It features carved benches and sculptures including a giant alder cone which can be sat on. Details can be found here: [www.exploredunsmore.org/walks/woodland-sculpture-trail](http://www.exploredunsmore.org/walks/woodland-sculpture-trail)

There is a family bird hide, with disabled access, next to the Visitor Centre. This overlooks the bird feeding area which can also be viewed from the café. Here children can watch a variety of birds at close quarters in winter and spring. Staff in the Visitor Centre can give you advice about what to look out for. In May, listen out for the cuckoo which visits the site.

Wright Hide is another accessible bird hide 580m from the Visitor Centre. It overlooks East Marsh Pool and the sand martin 'hotel'. In the summer, the birds can be seen flying in and out of it, feeding their young. There are other bird hides elsewhere on the site. Please note, that if no one else is in a hide, they will be dark when you first enter as all the viewing hatches should be closed when it's not in use.

There are four easily seen pools and some children may prefer to spend time looking at these open areas of sparkling water. There are locations around Grebe Pool which are particularly good for this and Visitor Centre staff should be able to point them out on the free map.

There are lots of rabbits on the reserve and you may see one of the muntjac deer which hide in the woods and reedbeds. If you're really lucky,

you may see an otter in one of the pools.

Next to the Visitor Centre is an Education Garden with a mud kitchen, a quiet Sensory Garden and a geology wall, complete with a fossilized tree trunk and ammonites. There is a den building area in Top Willow Wood, but please take dens down afterwards.

The café has both indoor and outdoor seating in the courtyard. It can become busy at lunchtimes during the school holidays, especially if family events are on in the morning. Schools visiting the site may also be using the courtyard area for lunch during term time.

Only Guide/disability dogs are allowed on the reserve and are rarely present.



© Steven Cheshire

## Info:

Entrance is on Brandon Lane: what3words: palm.smug.potato, postcode: CV3 3GW, grid reference: SP385761

Open 7 days a week. Opening times vary through the year and can be checked on the website: [www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/BrandonMarsh](http://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/BrandonMarsh)

Admission charges apply for those not members of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. See above website for details.

Free car parking.

Facilities include Visitor Centre with shop, toilets and café.

Play areas: mud kitchen, den building area, mouse maze

Pools: not fenced but most have trees/scrub/brambles around to form a natural barrier around majority of the perimeters. Some sections of water are accessible. Dipping pond in Education garden has low fence.

Terrain: some surfaced paths, mostly level. Some unsurfaced and can become muddy in wet weather

Dogs: only Guide dogs allowed.

