

Gatwick Woodlands Biodiversity Area

Gatwick Airport works with Gatwick Greenspace Partnership to manage this area for wildlife

Gatwick's woodlands and grasslands

Gatwick has a mosaic of fragmented ancient semi natural woodland, formed of mature Oak and Ash trees with a Hazel and Hawthorn understorey.

The ground flora of these areas is species rich, with several ancient woodland indicator species such as Wood Anemone, native Bluebell, and Ramsons.

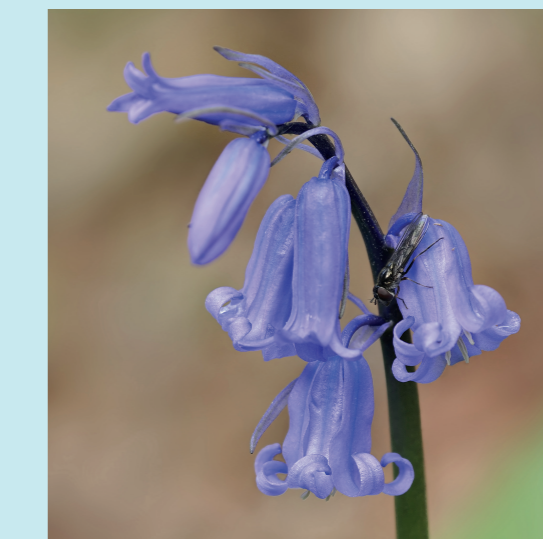
The woodland and grassland clearings provide sheltered areas for butterflies and bees.



Tree Creeper
(*Certhia familiaris*)

Resembling a mouse more than a bird in its behaviour, it never stops moving, landing on the trunks or large trees and jerkily running up them before taking off and flying down to the base of the next tree. Its brown back blends in well with tree bark, but its underside is a brilliant white.

Lower Picketts Wood



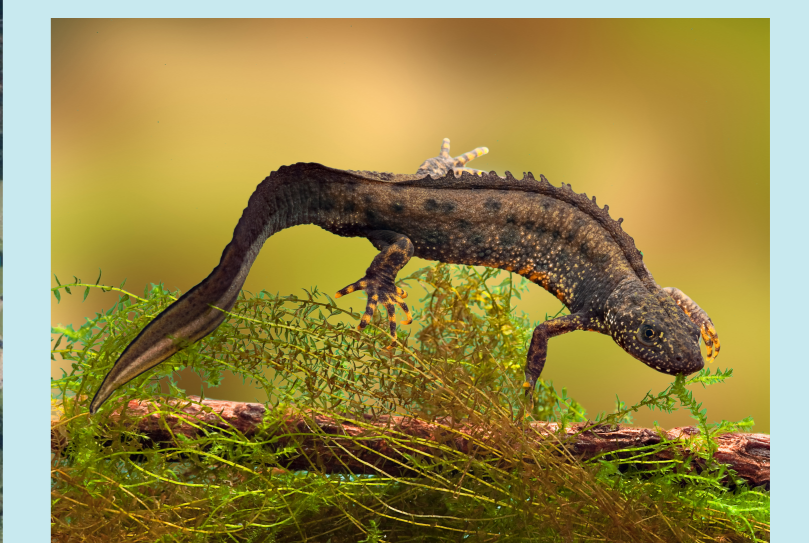
Bluebell
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

The native English Bluebell forms a purple woodland carpet in early summer, before the trees are fully in leaf. The heady scent of these beautiful flowers peaks around April and May and they provide a rich nectar source for pollinating insects.

Horleyland Wood

Goat Meadow

Upper Picketts Wood



Great Crested Newt
(*Triturus cristatus*)

Our largest newt species in the UK, they grow up to an impressive 15cm and have very dark, warty skin. They only spend the breeding season in ponds, the rest of the time hiding out under logs and mostly moving around at night to feed. This species is still declining across Europe and is highly protected.

Ashley's Field



Brown Long-eared Bat
(*Plecotus auritus*)

A charismatic flying mammal, with massive ears that it can fold back over its body when at rest. In the day they roost in small groups in tree holes, at night they fly around the woodland canopy, listening for invertebrate prey moving over the leaves.



Hazel
(*Corylus avellana*)

This small woodland understory tree provides the tasty nuts for Dormice and other small woodland mammals. They were traditionally coppiced in the past for charcoal making, fencing and buildings with wattle and daub. Coppicing benefits a variety of woodland wildlife, stimulating new growth of ground flora and lengthening the life span of the Hazel.



Grass Snake
(*Natrix natrix*)

This reptile can grow to over 100cm in length, but is a constrictor and completely harmless to humans. It has a distinctive yellow and black collar, with disjointed black markings down the length of the body. On sunny days they bask at the edges of log and brush piles, slipping away at the first sign of danger from a bird of prey or a nosy mammal.



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