

Devonshire Road Nature Reserve

Please feel free to wander around the nature reserve at your own leisure. However, if you prefer, this leaflet will guide you around the nature reserve using 10 numbered markers. Each of these markers will indicate where there are plants and animals of interest.

The nature trail starts at the gates towards the bottom of the wildlife demonstration garden. As you enter the main nature reserve you will see a large fallen ash tree on your right. This is **Point 1**. In the spring there are large areas of wild garlic or ramson on both sides of the path. The leaves smell strongly of garlic and white flowers can be seen in March-April. After flowering it dies back until the following spring.

Turn left along the path. **Point 2** is by a small glade where there is a lot of cow parsley. You might see butterflies here such as the holly blue, comma, red admiral, brimstone and peacock.



Wild garlic or ramson



Holly blue



Comma



Red admiral



Peacock



Brimstone

As you continue on, look out for a patch of lungwort on your right. This is a low growing herb with broad green leaves, which are spotted white. As with many herbs it dies back in winter. On the left there is a patch of wild strawberries.



Lungwort



Wild strawberry

Point 3 is marked by an arch covered in ivy. Ivy is a very important plant for wildlife because it flowers in the autumn/winter when there is less food available for invertebrates. Bats also make use of ivy clad trees for their summer roosts. Once through the arch you come to another butterfly glade, bordered by hawthorn, oak and ash trees. Old man's beard (clematis) with fluffy flower heads is very abundant in this area. It is invasive and has to be managed throughout the reserve so that it does not smother other shrubs. Moving on through the woodland the canopy opens up and old man's beard and honeysuckle grow over bramble on either side of the path. There is a horse chestnut tree on your left.



Hawthorn



English oak



Ash



Sessile oak



Yellow loosestrife



Bloody cranesbill



Greater knapweed

At **Point 5** you have reached the North meadow. On the right you can see a sessile oak, distinguished from the English oak by its stalked leaves and stalkless acorns. This meadow is most colourful in late spring and early summer. Yellow loosestrife grows in the drainage ditch here. Bloody cranesbill, agrimony, marjoram and greater knapweed may also be found in the meadow.

Continue past the yellow flowering and prickly gorse to **Point 6**. The path to the right will lead you back to the entrance. If you continue to **Point 7** you will be at the bottom of the central meadow. Look out for a patch of stinking iris.



Stinking iris



	WOODLAND
	MEADOW
	WILDLIFE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
	VISITOR CENTRE
	POND
	FOOTPATH
	GORSE
	STEPS & BRIDGES
	RAILWAY

Point 8 is in the southern most meadow. There are prominent ant hills here made by the yellow meadow ant, a favourite food for green woodpeckers. Lizards also use this area for foraging and sunning themselves. From here the path leads away from the railway past stands of rosebay willowherb and back towards the woods.



Southern hawker dragon fly



Green woodpecker



Common lizard



Rosebay willowherb



Clematis

To the right of **Point 4** there is a seasonal pond, it holds water in the winter and spring but dries up in summer. From here look across the railway line to Garthorne Road Nature Reserve where you will see a stand of silver birch. These trees indicate that the site is on more acidic soil.