



Your local Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and countryside for people to enjoy in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We are a charity dependent on voluntary contributions.

To contact us about this reserve or about how you can support us please write to: The Wildlife Trust, Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton NN3 8BE, or telephone: 01604 405285 E-mail:northamptonshire@wildlifebcnp.org @wildlifebcnp.org

To join the Wildlife Trust please contact the Membership Manager, The Wildlife Trust, The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB3 6DH, or telephone: 01954 713500. E-mail:cambridgeshire@wildlifebcnp.org Website: www.wildlifebcnp.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Registered charity no: 1000412

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# Welcome to Southwick Wood

This nature reserve is a surviving fragment of a vast mediaeval hunting ground known as the Rockingham Forest that once spanned northeast Northamptonshire. It is an important example of ancient woodland, which is a rare and declining wildlife habitat in the UK. While other woods have been lost by clearance and to agriculture, Southwick Wood has retained its valuable wildlife since at least 1600 AD.

## What to look for

The impressive large oaks provide habitats for great spotted woodpeckers, roosting pipstrelle bats, fungi and wood-boring beetles. Look out for the glorious red leaves of wild service trees in autumn. These trees and the spectacular carpet of bluebells and wood melick are indicators of the wood's ancient origins.

Bluebell



meadowsweet. Along with bramble these provide nectar for insects like butterflies, including the yellow winged brimstone (one of the first butterflies to emerge in spring) and speckled wood. If you're quiet you may come across fallow deer grazing.

## How the Trust cares for this reserve

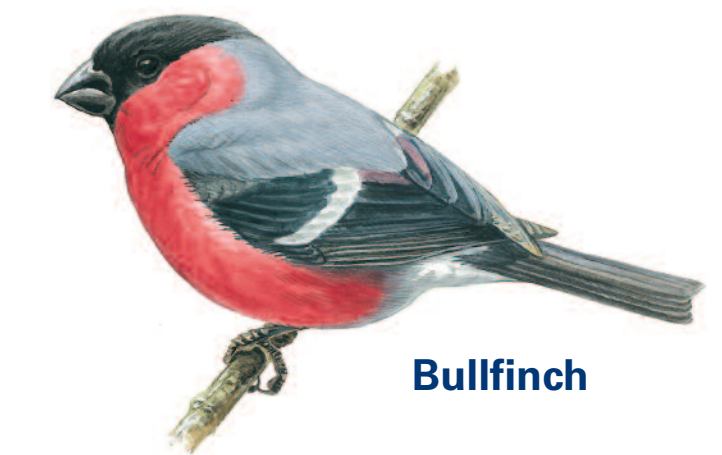
Rides and glades are mown in late summer to encourage wildflowers. Ride-side trees and shrubs are cut back periodically to create sheltered, sunny conditions that allow insects to thrive.

We are gradually removing guards from planted trees. Some trees will be removed to encourage a varied age of trees and permit more light to the ground flora.

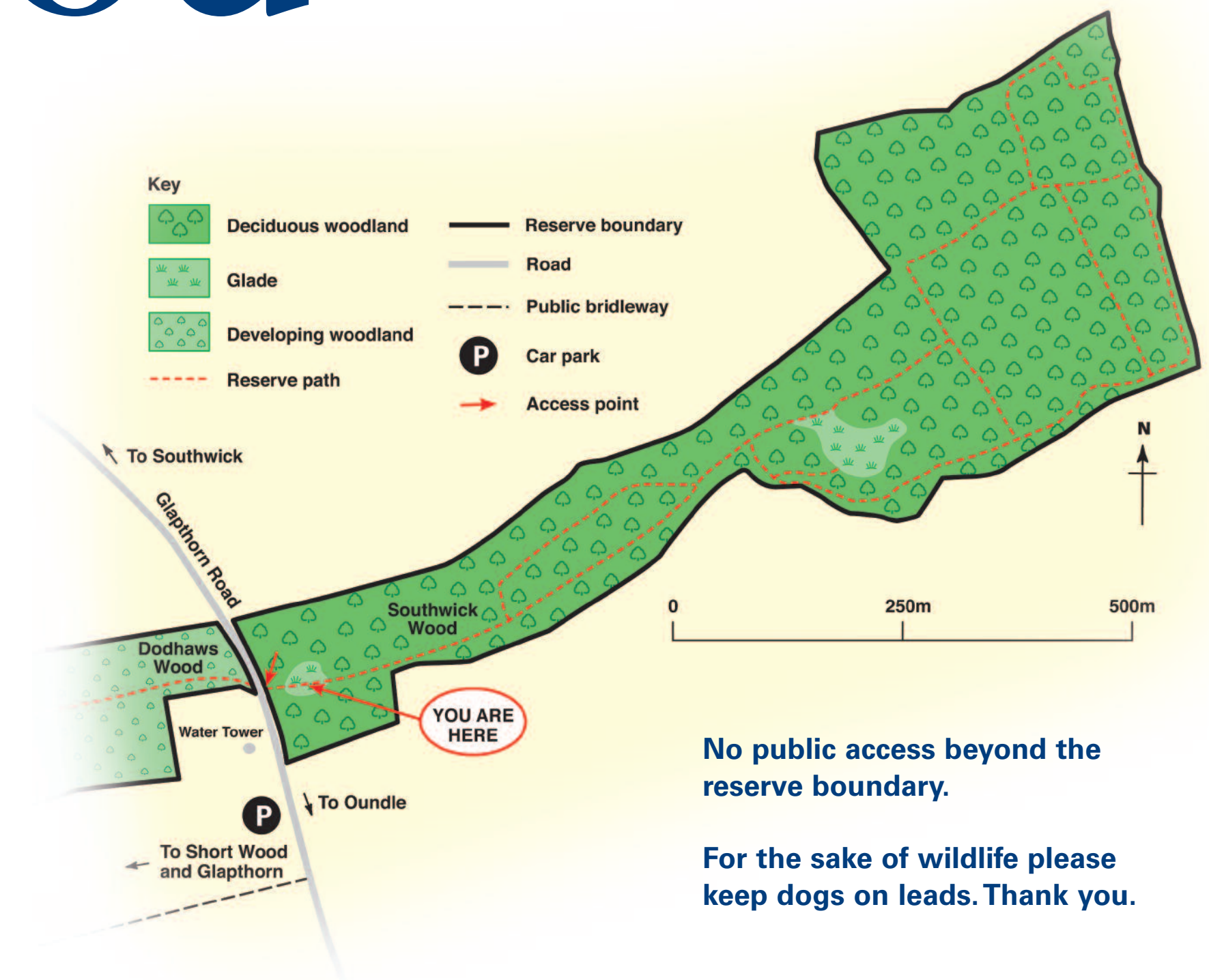


Wild service-tree

The damp rides and glades hold a myriad of summer wildflowers, including wild angelica, ragged robin and



Bullfinch



No public access beyond the reserve boundary.

For the sake of wildlife please keep dogs on leads. Thank you.

We monitor the wood to ensure our management is conserving the important wildlife you find here.

To reverse the loss of woodland we are creating new woodland on an arable field, where Dodhaws Wood once stood. In time it will develop naturally to link Southwick and Short Wood, making the woodlands more robust to climate change and creating a wildlife corridor for species to move freely.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Brimstone