

Meeting Rooms

We have three meeting rooms for hire; great for running courses, meetings, parties or even band practice! The rooms vary in size, seating up to 50 people. Please contact Reception for more information and prices.

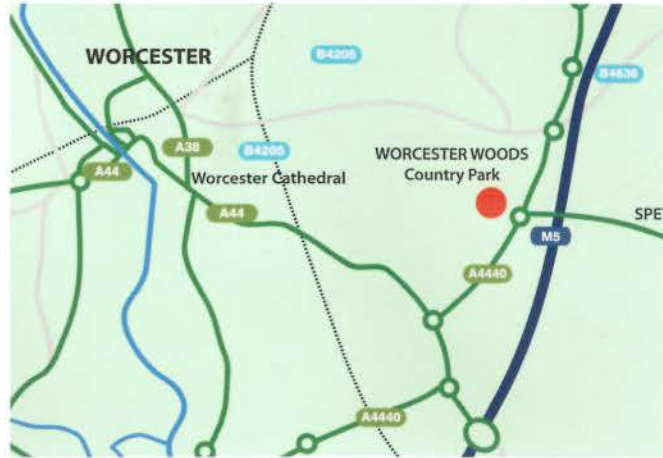
Wood Sales

We sell wood for all different uses. Our coppice produce is great for bean poles, hedging stakes or forest schools materials. We also sell logs of varying sizes, available on our wood pile. Please contact Reception for more information and prices.

Events Field Hire

We hire outside space for parties, shows, training and events. With the award winning Orchard Café on site, this is an ideal place to host your event.

Location



Worcester Woods Country Park, Wildwood Drive, Worcester WR5 2LG

Facilities

Worcester Woods Country Park is 38 Hectares in size and is a great place for a family friendly visit.

There are two play areas, catering for younger and older children, the award winning Orchard Café and two easy access trails.

The site has a large car park and the toilets are located in the foyer at the front of the café.

The park has two Local Nature Reserves, Hornhill Meadows and Nunnery Wood, plus a large flat mown field area called The Events Field. This is a great space to let children run around and play games.

There is a large picnic area by the café and benches dotted around the two trails.

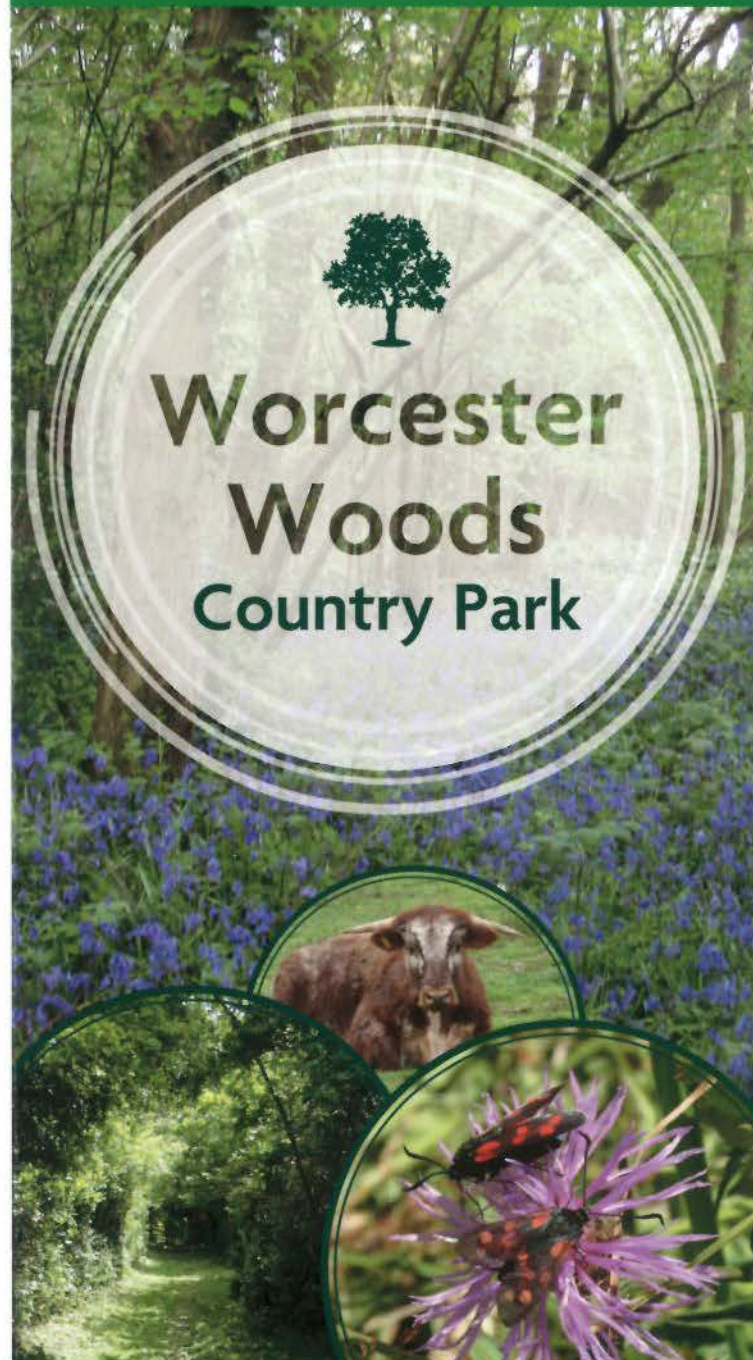


 01905 766155

 Search 'Worcester Woods Country Park'



Find out more online at:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside




**Worcester
Woods
Country Park**





On Site Activities

We have two circular easy access trails, the Meadow Trail and the Woodland Trail. More information can be found overleaf.

Why not try our on-site orienteering trail?

There are varying games of different skill levels that can be played. Packs can be brought from Reception.

How about joining our weekly volunteer group?

This takes place every week and involves practical outdoor tasks in and around the Country Park.

Dog wash

Dogs are welcome on site and there is also a dog wash situated by The Orchard Café.

Events

There are lots of events and activities that take place at Worcester Woods Country Park. For up to date information check our Facebook page and website.

The Orchard Café

Why not pop in and visit our award winning café in the park. With indoor and outdoor seating, hot and cold food, great coffee and yummy cakes, the café is open seven days a week, all year round.

We do food all day with a fantastic seasonal menu and free range, locally sourced fair trade food and drink.

Why not hire our BBQ for your event?

We provide a large BBQ in the picnic area, ideal for gatherings and parties. With access to the toilets, play areas and field it's a great place to let the children run about. For prices and bookings please contact The Orchard Café.

Having an event?

We do catering for events and meeting rooms. We can provide hot and cold buffets, tea, coffee, cakes and lots more. Visit our website or contact us for further details.

Looking for activities to do during the school holidays?

Try our treasure hunt or check on our website for an up to date list of children's holiday activities in the Pond Room.

 01905 766492 |  www.theorchardcafe.co.uk

 The Orchard Café



Worcester Woods Country Park

A history

The area containing Worcester Woods Country Park was previously a Medieval farmstead. This farmstead covered the whole site and evidence of this can still be seen in the form of ridge and furrow undulations found in Nunnery Wood and Hornhill Meadows.

After the Black Death wiped out a significant proportion of the population there weren't enough people left to manage the land, and Nunnery Wood was left to convert into woodland. At this point the oldest tree in the wood, which is on the eastern boundary, would have been a sapling.

Nunnery Wood has remained a wood ever since, first owned by the nuns of White Ladies Aston and then passed over to Christchurch College after the reformation.

Hornhill Meadows remained cultivated, and in the 1700's the Hornhill Farmstead was built. This area remained a farm until after The Second World War when the farmstead was demolished. The fields were probably then used for grazing.

Nunnery Wood was acquired in 1979 by Worcestershire County Council. The meadows followed in 1990 and the area has been a Country Park ever since.





Meadow Trail

1. Welcome to the Meadow Trail. This ½ mile self-guided trail will take you past Hornhill Orchard and into Hornhill Meadows Local Nature Reserve. Follow the arrowed disks across the events field and through the gap in the hedgerow.
 2. This fenced enclosure is where the old Hornhill Farm stood. This post Medieval farmstead was demolished after the Second World War but the remains can still be clearly seen beyond the fence line. The path you are stood on was originally part of the old Hornhill farmstead and the stones laid down can still be seen in places along the path. Continue to the right, following the arrows past The Orchard. The Orchard was originally part of the Hornhill Farm and contains apple, perry pear and damson trees. If you continue past this you'll reach Hornhill Meadows.
 3. Hornhill Meadows is very rich in wild flowers. The grassland is unimproved grassland, meaning that fertiliser has never been added. This results in the soil being nutrient poor, which favours the wild flowers whilst suppressing the weeds. The Meadows are grazed by cows, which contribute to the valuable management of this fragile habitat. The meadows are rich in Yellow Rattle, Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw and Red Clover. In May you could be lucky enough to see the rare Green Winged Orchids, whose purple flowers are dotted around the fields.
- In some of the fields the ground can be seen undulating. This is called ridge and furrow and was a Medieval farming method of ploughing, which turned the fields into a series of high 'ridges' and low 'furrows'. Evidence of this farming practice can still be seen throughout the Meadows.

4. Hornhill Meadows are rich in other wildlife. Bullfinches and Goldfinches can be seen flying around in flocks. A green flash and cackling laugh denotes a Green Woodpecker flying past. These forage in the Meadows for insects. The Meadows are rich in mammals with voles, wood mice and shrews. In summer many butterfly and day flying moth species can be seen feeding on the nectar of the flowers. The Speckled Wood, Marbled White and Meadow Brown butterflies and Six Spot Burnet Moth and Cinnabar Moth are all common visitors.

5. The Meadow pond is rich in wildlife. This pond would have originally been put in to provide livestock with drinking water. This pond is now fenced as a wildlife pond and contains Great Crested Newts, Common Frog and Common Toad. Various dragonflies can be seen in summer including the Broad Bodied Chaser and as the months get drier the pond provides a valuable source of drinking water for birds.



Key

- Meadow Trail** (1/2 mile, 30 minutes)
- Woodland Trail** (1/2 mile, 30 minutes)
- Cycle Way**
- Public Footpath**
- Public Bridleway**
- Permissive Horse Route**



Toilets



Car Parking



Information Point



Cafe



Countryside Centre Offices and Meeting Rooms



Woodland



Small Children's Play Area



Big Children's Play Area



Points of interest around Meadow Trail. (See numbers in trail text)



Points of interest around Woodland Trail. (See numbers in trail text)



Woodland Trail

1. Welcome to the Woodland Trail. This is a 1/2 mile circular trail through Nunnery Wood. Nunnery Wood is an ancient semi-natural woodland which means that it has been there since at least the Middle Ages and is valuable for wildlife. The wood consists of mostly mature oak trees, with the smaller shrubs being Hazel coppice.
2. Nunnery Wood is a working woodland. Most woodland work takes place in winter when the trees are dormant. The Hazel is coppiced in certain areas every six to seven years. Coppicing is the process of cutting down the trees to produce rods and binders which are used around the site or sold. Hazel is a good plant for this because it produces straight but bendy rods. Once coppiced the Hazel quickly regrows and after a couple of years is easily taller than the average person. If you're lucky enough to visit the Wood in May you will see a mass of Bluebells throughout the woods. These tend to be at their best in the areas coppiced the previous winter.
3. The woodland pond is a valuable habitat for many creatures. Great Crested Newts breed here, and there are pond snails, water beetles and dragonfly larva. The green coating on top is duckweed and although this can clog the pond up, it tends to get washed downstream by frequent storm events, which keeps it at manageable levels. The woodland pond was formed by an old marl pit. Marl was a type of nutrient-rich clay which was dug up and used to fertilise fields. This would have been dug out in the Medieval period forming the pond.
4. As part of the ongoing work in Nunnery Wood, the Oak trees are periodically thinned out to allow more light into the woodland. Allowing more light to reach the woodland floor benefits the other plants and the coppice, which need light to grow. It also encourages the acorns dropped by the Oak trees to sprout and grow new trees. This is called natural regeneration. The wood from the Oak trees is either used on site to make site furniture or sold as firewood. Any small bits are left in piles in the Wood as habitat for birds, mammals, insects and fungi.
5. This enormous Oak tree is a veteran tree. It is at least 550 years old and is one of the largest Oak trees in the area. Its gnarled appearance is great for nesting birds, insects and fungi. Ancient trees make very valuable habitats in woodlands. This tree is fenced off to protect it from damage and prevent the wildlife being disturbed.