Welcome to Pamber Forest, an ancient historic wildlife reserve around this beautiful and historic wildlife reserve.

What makes Pamber Forest special...
- The Forest is over 800 years old and has many oak trees over 300 years old
- It contains many trees and plants only found in ancient woods – such as crab apple, wild service tree and wild daffodil!
- Over 700 kinds of moths and butterflies live in the forest, including white admiral, purple emperor and silver-washed fritillary
- Pamber’s highlights
  - Spring – carpets of wild daffodils and the morning chorus of bird song
  - Summer – buzzing insects and dancing butterflies along the rides
  - Autumn – purple haze of heather and trees turning red and gold
  - Winter – sunlight through naked trees, and animal tracks in the frost

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has managed the Forest since 1997 with funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The forest is owned by Englefield Estate.

If you enjoyed your visit to Pamber Forest you may like to...
- Come back with friends and family – the Forest is always changing, so you’re bound to see something different next time.
- Enjoy a guided walk – join our experienced reserve staff and volunteers on one of our many walks and family events run throughout the year.
- Become a volunteer – you can help us look after the Forest; help with events here and at other Trust reserves and centres.
- Become a Trust member – support us in protecting wildlife for the future. By joining the Trust you are doing your bit to help local wildlife.

Find out more...
Visit our website at www.hiwwt.org.uk or ring 01489 774 400 or the Pamber Forest Reserve Officer on 07770 891126

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Pamber Forest

Welcome to Pamber Forest, an ancient woodland with heath and wood pasture rich in butterflies and birds. This nature reserve is managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, a charity that works for a better future for wildlife and wild places in Hampshire and the Island. This leaflet describes the things you’ll find to see and do...

Walks – There are numerous surfaced paths around the Forest, including a 2 mile marked trail described inside this leaflet. Follow the blue markers.

Cycling and horse riding – There are numerous surfaced paths around the Forest, including a 2 mile marked bridleway passing through the eastern edge of the Forest and a circular permitted route.

Cycling and horse riding – There is a red markers.

Trails described inside this leaflet. Follow the blue markers.

Find out more...

If you enjoyed your visit to Pamber Forest, you may like to...

Become a member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and support the work we do. Enjoy guided walks and family events run throughout the year. Volunteering at the Forest is a great way to learn and meet new people.

Become a volunteer – support Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and help us look after the Forest. Experience nature up close and help us care for it.

Enjoy a guided walk – you can walk with experienced reserve staff and learn about the history and wildlife of the Forest.

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Pamber's highlights

Purple emperor and silver-washed fritillary butterflies along the rides in summer.

Silver-washed fritillaries are one group of large butterflies with orange and brown ‘chequered’ wings. Adults feed on the nectar from bramble blossom during their brief 4-6 weeks of life. Look for them gliding along the woodland rides during mid summer.

Blackcaps are one of a group of birds called warblers, so called because of their melodic songs. Most spend the summer in this country, raising their young on insects, before returning to Europe. Listen for the male’s fluty song.

White admiral caterpillars feed on honeysuckle within the shady woodland. Adults hatch in late June/July spending much time gliding around sunny rides. Look for them along the rides drinking nectar from bramble blossom.

Honeysuckle is common in both shady and open areas of the woodland. This shrub will climb trees to 8m. Dormice use its bark to construct their nests. Look out for and smell its familiar fragrant flowers along the rides in summer.

Green woodpeckers are the largest of the three British woodpeckers. They can be seen on the open heath and grass, digging holes into ants’ nests. Listen for their laughing ‘yaffle’ call.

White oak is one of the most common and oldest trees at Pamber. Some trees are over 300 years old and so were around at the birth of the British parliament. Older trees are better for wildlife as many have cracks and holes that bats and birds nest in. Look for the tassels of tiny yellow flowers in spring.

Wild service tree is also called ‘chequers’ because the bark peels off in rectangular pieces leaving a chequered effect. This tree is only found in ancient woodland – those more than 400 years old. Look out for and smell its familiar fragrant flowers in spring.

Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire SO32 2DP. Tel 01489 77 4 401. Fax 01489 77 4 400. Email feedback@hwt.org.uk or the Pamber Forest reserve Officer on 07770 891126. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales Regd Charity No 201081, Company Limited by guarantee and registered in England No 676313, printed on 100% post consumer waste paper.

What makes Pamber Forest special...

– the British parliament. Older trees are better for wildlife as many have cracks and holes that bats and birds nest in. Look for the tassels of tiny yellow flowers in spring.

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Points of interest

1. **Stream valley** – the soil has naturally washed into this valley making it deeper than on the higher ground. This deep soil can support willow, alder and ash that could not grow on the shallow sandy soil elsewhere in the Forest.

2. **Donkey tree** – this oak tree is one of the oldest in the Forest at more than 300 years old. It is said locally that a man once hung his donkey from this tree when it refused to go any further.

3. **Heath** – trees have been cleared here to allow heather and bilberry to grow on the sandy nutrient-poor soil. Reptiles, such as adders, need to warm their bodies before hunting and prefer the warmer open heath.

4. **Rides** – these sunny tracks through the Forest attract butterflies and other insects drawn by the many flowers such as bramble and foxgloves. Animals use these corridors to travel between clearings.

5. **Coppice** – the trees here have been pruned to allow violets to grow in the open ground. The leaves of these purple spring flowers are the only thing caterpillars of the rare silver-washed fritillary butterfly will eat.

6. **Pond** – This pond dries out in the summer and so many young insects are killed. This is good news for toads because some young insects, such as dragonfly nymphs, eat spawn and tadpoles of toads and frogs.

7. **Wood pasture** – The trees here are widely spaced, so that grass and heather can grow between them. Cattle graze the grass, but can't reach the tree leaves as the branches are pruned out of their reach.

Getting Around

All the paths are firm in dry weather and are more than 1m wide. The path from Impstone Road to the forest entrance has a 10% gradient for 200m, but all other paths on the trail are more gently sloping - less than 2% gradient. There are benches at 300m intervals around the trail. There is one gate between points 5 and 6 another between points 7 and 2. More information on access around the reserve is available from the Trust head office on 01489 774400.