

History

From prehistoric times to the present day, man's activities have left their mark on the reserve, the most obvious being the network of banks and ditches which denote the former extent of fields and copses – Roydon was much less wooded in the past than it is today.

Centuries of encroachment and purchase from the New Forest, farming, forestry and industrial activity have created the present landscape of Roydon. Early landowners included the monks of Netley Abbey.



Noah Parker and others charcoal burning near Ashurst Wood (1914). Hampshire Record Office: 105M93/1/40

Within the nature reserve there is evidence of cottages and fields as well as industrial relics from pit sawing, charcoal burning and brick making. The many humps and hollows provide mute evidence of a much busier past. In 1978 Roydon Woods was very generously gifted to the Trust by Peter Barker-Mill.

If you enjoyed your visit to Roydon Woods you may like to . . .

- Become a member of the Trust and help build a better future for our wildlife.
- Become a volunteer and be actively involved in looking after our reserves.

Find out more...

Visit our website www.hwt.org.uk or telephone 01489 774400.

You can buy wood products made to order and venison from this reserve. For details telephone the Reserve Officer on 07970 564525.

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Roydon Woods Nature Reserve is situated in the New Forest National Park, an historic landscape of ancient woodlands, open heath, distinctive villages, wildlife rich coast, and gentle farmland. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

Roydon Woods Nature Reserve

A brief guide to help you enjoy your visit
to this beautiful nature reserve



Image Alan Price

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Welcome to Roydon Woods Nature Reserve

Covering almost 1000 acres (400 ha), the reserve is a wonderful mosaic of woodland, heath, fields and meadows, with numerous streams, several ponds and a section of the Lymington River.



Walks

Public bridleways and a series of waymarked permissive footpaths provide access to much of the area while keeping disturbance to a minimum and maintaining the tranquility visitors enjoy.

A detailed guide to the waymarked paths can be downloaded from the Trust's website (look for Roydon Woods).

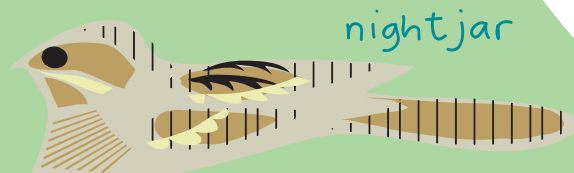


Wildlife

The wide range of habitats support a huge number of species, including nationally rare plants, insects and fungi. Badgers are numerous, while fallow and sika deer can be seen throughout the reserve.

Bluebells carpet some of the woods in spring. White admiral and silver washed fritillary butterflies can be seen flying along woodland rides in summer and the heath becomes purple with honey scented heather.

The woods provide nest sites for buzzards and sparrowhawks and all three British species of woodpeckers. Nightjars can be heard churring on the heath on warm summer evenings and dragonflies are seen almost everywhere.

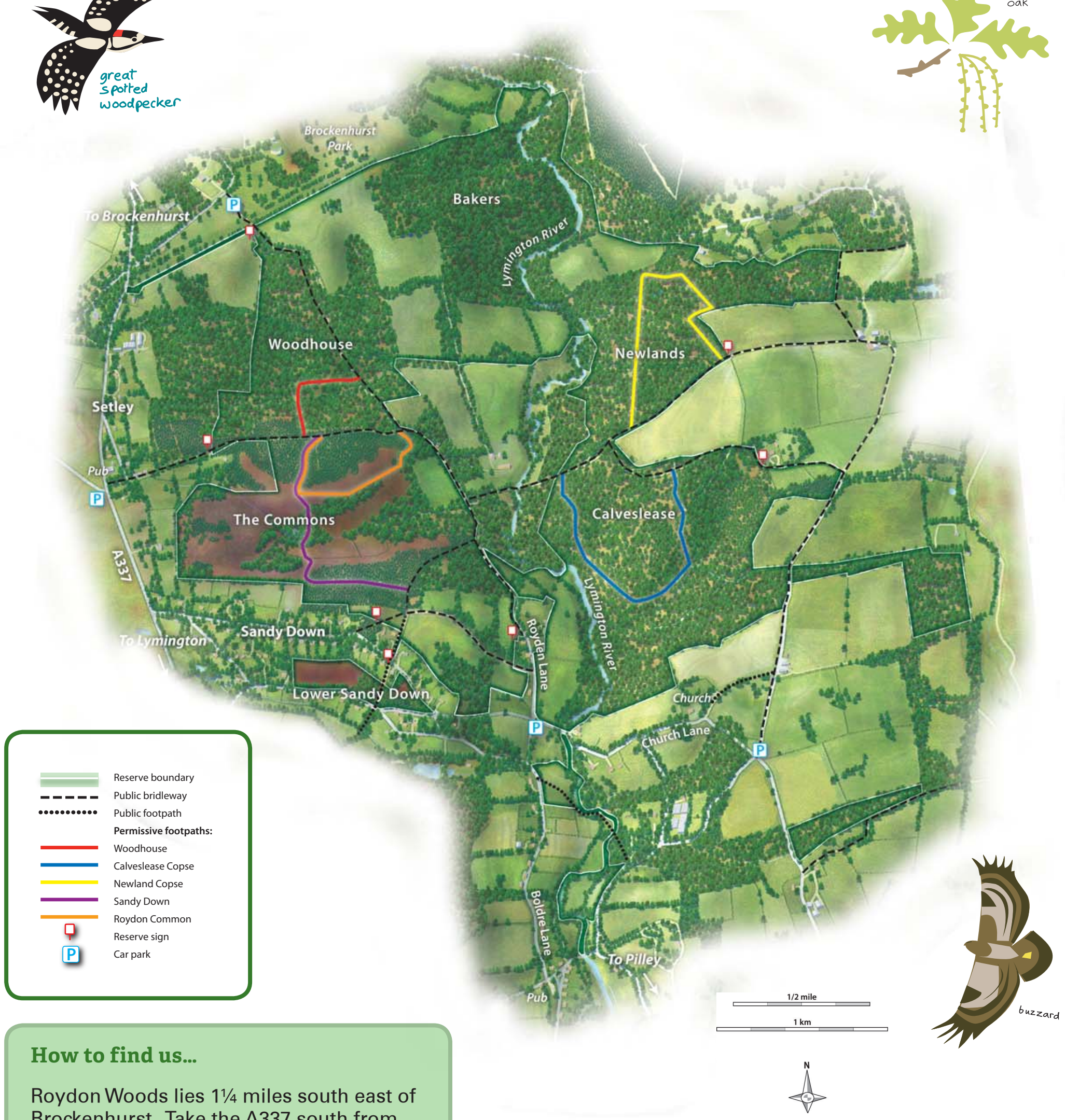


What to look out for

- **Spring** Bluebells, Brimstone butterflies, the arrival of migrants including chiff-chaff, blackcap and garden warbler.
- **Summer** Dragonflies and damselflies, soaring buzzards, nightjars churring on the heath at dusk.
- **Autumn** Fungi - there are over 900 species, glorious autumn colours, the groaning and whistling of rutting fallow and sika deer.
- **Winter** Flocks of fieldfare and redwing, mixed parties of tits, the deer in grey winter coats.



Roydon Woods Nature Reserve



artwork :- www.gregpoole.co.uk

How to find us...

Roydon Woods lies 1¼ miles south east of Brockenhurst. Take the A337 south from the village to Setley. Parking is very limited but roadside parking can be found nearby. The reserve is located at the end of a gravel track.

Getting around...

The bridleways are all gravelled tracks, but the permissive paths are unsurfaced and can be muddy in wet weather.

Free running dogs cause stress and disturbance to livestock and local wildlife. We therefore ask that your dogs are kept on a lead when near livestock and close to you or on a lead at all other times. Temporary restrictions may be put in place in some parts of the reserve during the bird breeding season and when cattle are calving. Please look out for and take note of signs on the reserve.

