

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.



raking grass in a glade

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 Nature Reserve Guide

*How to find your way
around this beautiful and
historic wildlife reserve*



PHOTO BY DRUMMAGES



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

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 red markers.

Cycling and horse riding – There is a bridleway passing through the eastern edge of the Forest and a circular permitted route. Follow the blue markers.



Hazel Coppicing



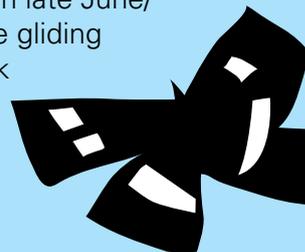
Cattle grazing the wood pasture

Things to look and listen out for ...

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 its vivid blood red leaves along many of the rides in autumn.



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.



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.



Honeysuckle is common in both shady and open areas of the woodland. This shrub will climb trees to 6m. 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.

Silver-washed fritillaries are one of a 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.



Oaks are 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.



Pamber Forest Trail

Distance: 2 miles (3.5km)
+ shorter options

Time: allow an hour for the full trail at a leisurely walking pace

The trail takes you across the Bowmount's Brook through an area of young coppiced hazel, sweet chestnut, and birch under taller oak trees. You will pass through an area of pine before reaching the open heath at the crossroads. Carry straight on to the Forest edge through more coppice to cross the central ride for the second time.

Look out for the crab apple and rowan on the ride edge before reaching more heather beneath oak trees and a small pond. Beyond the pond you will reach a wood shed where firewood extracted from the reserve is stored until it is needed. The path gets more uneven as it passes through grassy heath with more widely spaced oak trees.

Points of interest

1 Stream valley – 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.

