

Trees & Shrubs



Dog Rose

A common plant, scrambling over hedges and in open woodland. Large red "hips" in winter. Flowers June—July.

Hawthorn

One of the main hedgerow shrubs. Originally used because it made an excellent "stock-proof" hedge. It provides protection for nesting birds, nectar for insects in May and berries in winter.



Blackthorn

Another common hedging plant, but can form thickets from its suckers. The entire bush turns white with blossom in early spring.



Willow

There are many species of Willow to be found in the Borough. Two of the commonest are Crack Willow and Goat Willow. Willows prefer wet ground. Important, early nectar source.



Oak Apple

The Oak Apple (shown) is not a fruit, but is actually a Gall. This is produced by the tree in response to a hormone injected by a tiny wasp. The larvae of the wasp then develop inside the Gall.

Wonderful Woodlands

Woodlands and old hedgerows are important for all kinds of wildlife. They provide shelter, homes, food and form corridors for animals/plants to move/spread. We have many good examples of old woodlands in the Borough.

Palmers Rough—Two areas of woodland, including pond. Access off Jacey Road or Northbrook Road.

Yorks Wood—10 ha of Oak woodland. Access from Babbs Mill LNR.

Millisons Wood—10.67 ha of mixed broad-leaf woodland. Access off Albert Road near Meriden.

Elmdon Park Wood—Mixed, wet woodland adjacent to Elmdon Park lake.

Meriden Park Wood—A small remnant of the Chelmsley Wood. Access from Meriden Park.

Cold Lands Wood—3.7ha Oak & Beech woodland. Access off Buryfield Road.

Dorridge Wood—5ha Mixed broad-leaf woodland with Pine plantation in Dorridge Park.

Bills Wood—6.6ha broad-leaf woodland with good bird community. Access off Bills Lane.

GAF 2005

Native Woodland Plants

Solihull MBC commissioned a consultancy to produce management plans for our woodlands in 2004/2005. The purpose of the plans is to allow informed management of our woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Speckled Wood Butterfly

For more information contact
Solihull Park Rangers 0121 704 8472

Solihull Park Rangers Guide To

Woodland Flowers Of The Borough



THERE IS MUCH MORE TO A WOODLAND THAN THE TREES. MANY FLOWERING PLANTS ARE FOUND IN OUR WOODLANDS AND OLD HEDGEROWS. SOME OF THESE PLANTS INDICATE THAT THE HABITAT IS VERY OLD. THIS LEAFLET WILL AID THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOME OF THE RARE AS WELL AS COMMON SPECIES FOUND IN THE BOROUGH. IT ALSO GIVES EXAMPLES OF WHERE AND WHEN THEY MAY BE FOUND.

Wild flowers Of Woodland & Hedgerow

Many species of flowers associated with woodlands can be found in our hedgerows. Certain species of plants, such as Bluebells and Wood Sorrel indicate that a hedge is very old.

Lords & Ladies



Many alternative names—Lords & Ladies, Cuckoo Pint. Attracts flies for pollination. Common. Flowers April—May. Berries red—Summer.



Giant Bellflower

Very attractive, looks more like a garden plant. Found in wooded areas along the Blythe. Rare. Flowers July—Sept .



Foxglove

Usually biennial. It can be abundant in newly cleared areas due to the fact that its seeds can persist in the soil for many years. Wide spread. Flowers from June.



Bluebell

Woodlands filled with bluebells are a familiar sight to most of us, yet they are almost unique to Britain. Their main threat is inappropriate management and trampling. Flowers April—May.

Herb-robert

This hairy, little Geranium was once used to treat blood disorders because its stems turn deep red in Autumn. The name Robert comes from *ruber* the latin for red. Flowers May-September



Lesser Celandine

An alternative name is Pile-wort from its bulbils, which (apparently) look like haemorrhoids and so were used to treat the ailment. Flowers Jan—June.

Goldilocks

This unusual little Buttercup is easily overlooked. Its flowers look, at best like they've been chewed. Flowers from April.



Primrose

This once common plant is now only found adjacent to a few old hedgerows around the Borough. Flowers March—June.

Broad-leaved Helliborine

A rare, relative of the orchids. This species is easily overlooked and is only known from two of our woodlands. Flowers July—October.



Red Campion

A familiar flower of Hedge and woodland. Found all over the Borough. Flowers May—October.

Greater Stitchwort

A leggy, weak-stemmed plant with flower petals divided for half their length. Has been used to mend broken bones and ease stitch in the side. Flowers April—June



Wood Anemone

A flower of ancient woodland sites. Can be abundant in coppiced woodland. Flowers March—April.

Ramsons

Forms a mat of white in spring. If the leaves are crushed a strong smell of garlic is given off. Flowers April—May.



Sweet woodruff

A rare plant locally. Another indicator of old woodland sites. Sometimes introduced from gardens. Flowers May—June.

Wood Sorrel

The fresh green, clover-like leaves appear in early spring in open woodlands and old hedgerows. Flowers April—May.



Snowdrop



Naturalised in many of our parks, under the cover of trees. Several species occur but *Galanthus nivalis* is the most common. Flowers January—March.