

As the weather warms up, the buds on the trees open up, filling the woodland with green leaves. Woodland flowers bloom and birdsong fills the air.

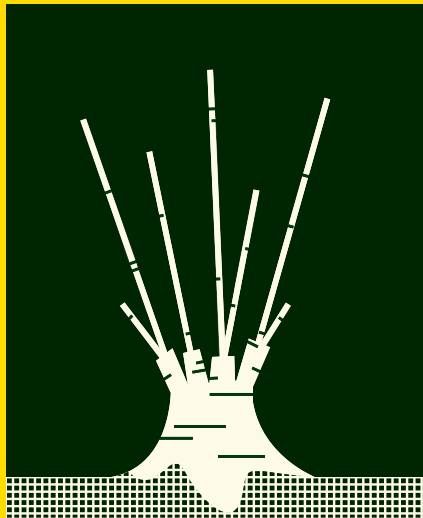
There is so much to see at this time of year. Can you spot everything shown below? Don't forget to take pictures to share with other woodland explorers.

#ecclesallwoods



Bluebells

May is usually the best month to see bluebells in the woods. These flowers love ancient woodlands like Ecclesall Woods and the display here is spectacular. Enjoy looking at and photographing the sea of purple created by these flowers, but please don't pick them or stand on them as they are delicate.



Coppiced hazel

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management, which has been used for generations. The hazel gets cut down to a stump, but this does not kill the tree. Instead, in spring, it produces new growth in the form of tall straight stems of wood. These stems can be used for hurdles, broom handles, fences, legs for furniture and many other things. When you see a coppiced hazel, see if you can count how many sticks of new growth you can see.



Treecreeper

The treecreeper is a small bird with a brown back, white belly and a white stripe over its eye. It has a thin beak that curves downwards, that it uses to probe insects and spiders out of the bark of a tree. Treecreepers travel up trees, going round the trunk, but they never travel back down – see if you can spot one going up a tree in the woods.



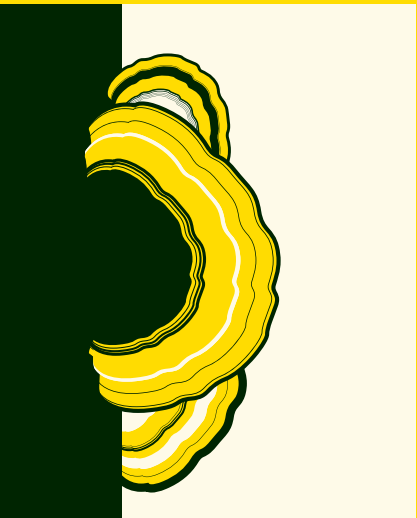
Speckled wood butterfly

Speckled wood butterflies are brown with creamy patches on their wings. These butterflies love partially shaded woodland with dappled sunlight and can often be seen spiralling in the air to chase each other. Species of butterfly you may also see in the woods are red admiral, peacock, orange tip and meadow brown.



Grey heron

This tall, long-legged bird makes a lot of noise when it is nesting season. Its call is like a loud squawk. The grey herons at Ecclesall Woods nest on the far side of the bird sanctuary in the tall larch trees that grow there. The most we have ever had here has been 9 nests – see how many you can count and if you can spot a huge heron flying overhead.



Bracket fungi

Bracket fungi feed on wood, either as living trees or dead logs, and the brackets are their fruiting bodies. They form shelf-like structures singly or in groups and normally stick out from the trunk or branches. Brackets can be as small as 1cm across or as big as 1 metre! As you walk through the woods see how many bracket fungi you can spot.



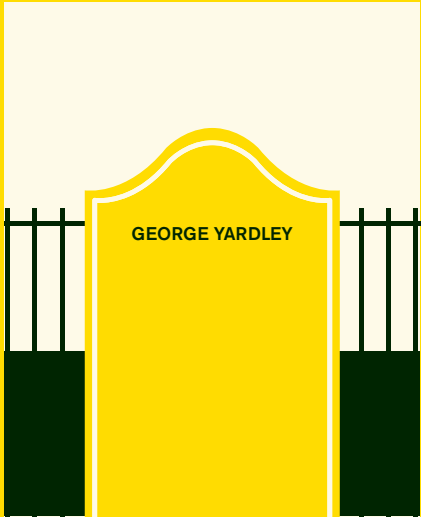
Wood anemone

These white flowers are one of the first to appear in the woodland in spring and cover the woodland floor like stars. They usually flower from March to May and have 5 to 8 petals. They are a good indicator that the woodland is an ancient woodland (meaning that trees have been here since the 1600s).



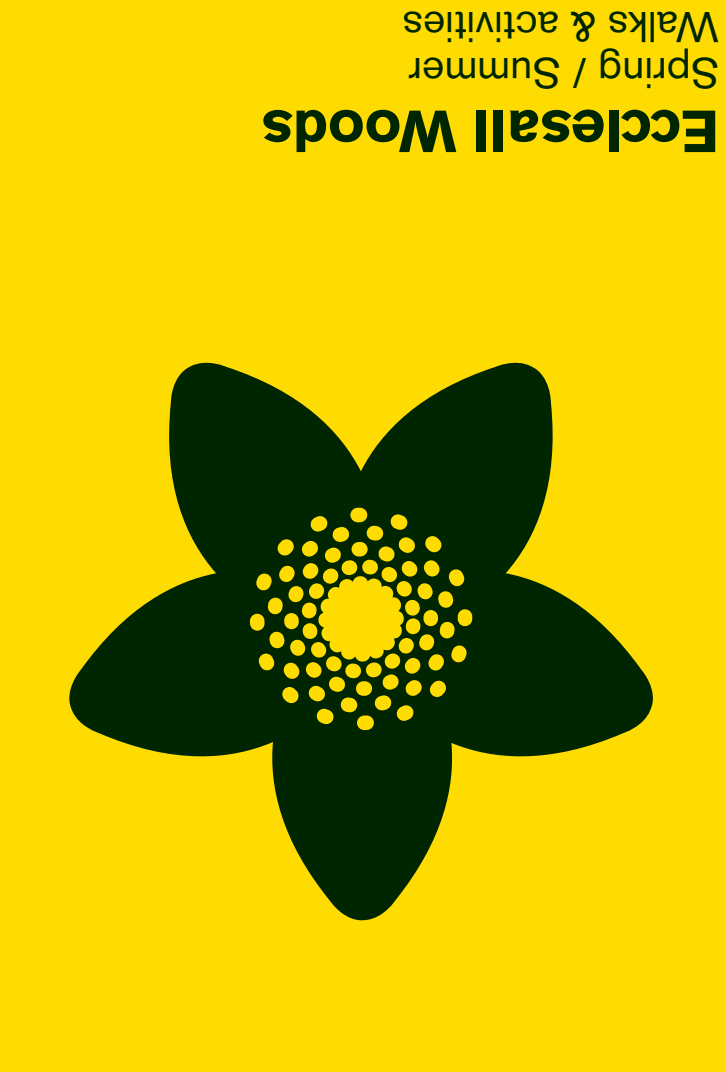
Leaves

Ecclesall Woods is home to over 15 species of trees – how many different leaves can you identify? Look out for the long, jagged edged sweet chestnut leaf, the lobed oak leaf or the paper thin beech leaf. Can you collect 15 different leaves?



Wood collier's memorial

The monument in Wood 2 says that "George Yardley, woodcollier, was burnt to death in his cabbin on this place Oct 11 1786". Wood collier was another name for charcoal burner, and there is a charcoal hearth very close to the memorial. It is thought that he fell asleep while at work and the fire got out of hand. Follow the map to find the wood collier's memorial. Can you read the names of his friends who paid for the memorial?



Ecclesall Woods is a wonderful place for a walk in all seasons. This leaflet includes three walks of different lengths, so you can choose one that suits you. It also includes activities and exciting things to look out for while exploring the woods.

Woodland Discovery Centre,
Abbey Lane, Ecclesall Woods,
Sheffield, S7 2QZ

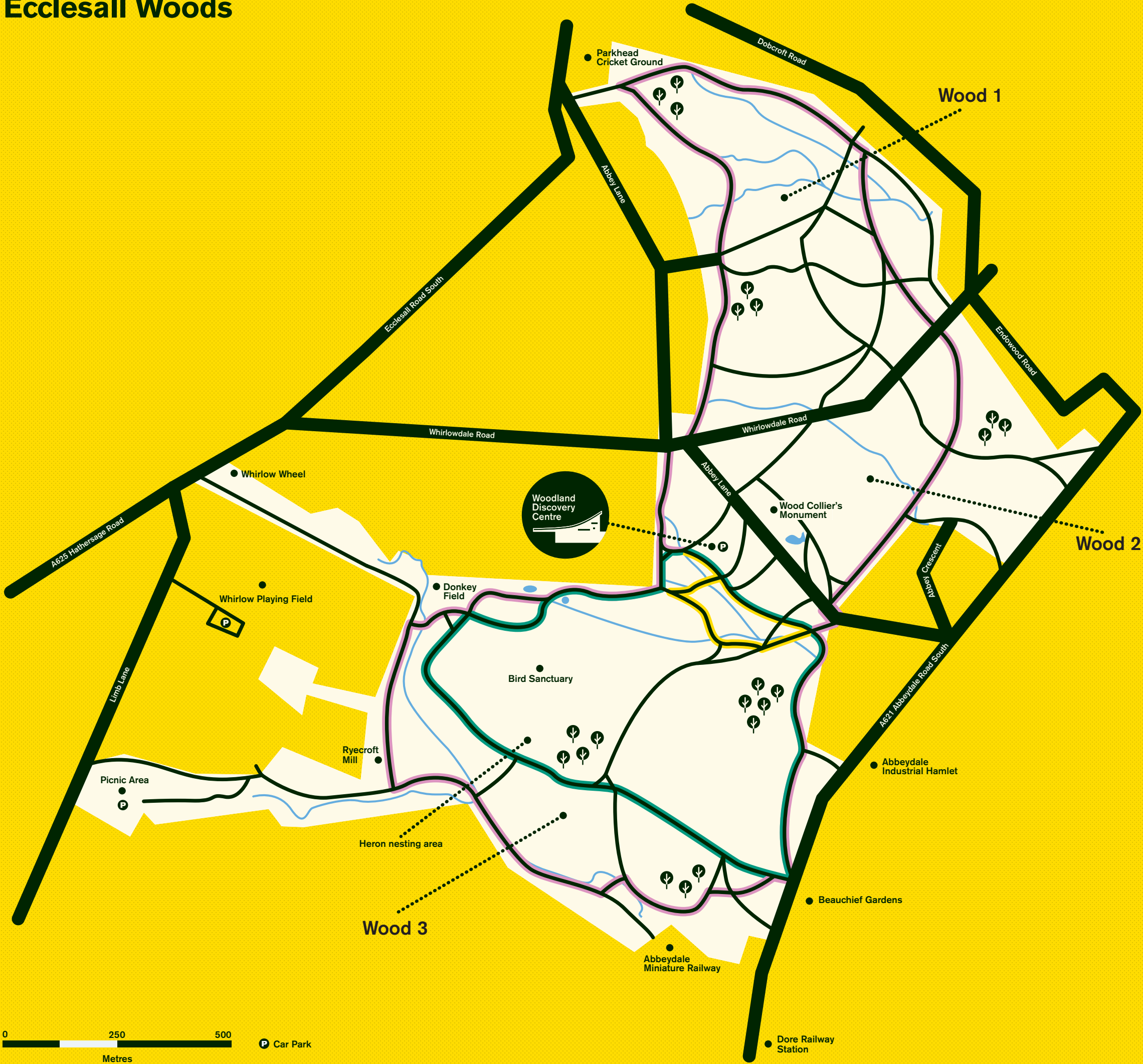
0114 235 6348
woodland.discovery@sheffield.gov.uk
@ecclesallwoods
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Listen to the woodland

Birds use their voices for lots of reasons – to guard their territories, to attract a mate, to announce a predator is near or perhaps just to sing! Listen and see if you can hear any of these birds:

- Chiff chaff – these birds sound like they are saying their own name "chiff chaff chiff chaff chiff chaff..." using two different notes again and again.
- Great spotted woodpecker – listen for them drumming on dead wood. It usually lasts only a few seconds with 8-12 beats and fades away at the end.
- Song thrush – these birds make a noise, then repeat that noise 3-4 times, then move on to a different noise.

Ecclesall Woods



Ancient woodlands. Enormous sweet chestnut trees. Q-pits. A rustic coffee stop. Birdsong. Whichever path you take through Ecclesall Woods, you'll discover something delightful.

Use this map to help you find a route that suits you.

30-minute stroll (suitable for pushchairs):

● Leave the Woodland Discovery Centre through the gate to the left of the car park and turn left. ● Continue down the slope until you reach a wonky crossroads, take the second path and pass the fallen tree on your left. ● Continue on this path, past the beech tree covered in fungi on your left. ● At the crossroads continue straight on. ● When you cross a small, planked bridge, turn right. ● Continue to a crossroads with a beech tree and go straight on. ● At the next fork, take the right path. ● At the next junction take a sharp right, down the hill. ● Continue to the crossroads, turn left and walk back up to the Woodland Discovery Centre, through the gate on your right.

1-hour wander:

● Leave the Woodland Discovery Centre through the gate to the left of the car park and take the path to the right over the little bridge. ● Turn left and bear left downhill to a bridge. ● Walk up the steps, turn right and follow the bridleway. ● Take the left fork uphill at the next junction. ● Turn left when you reach a fork in the path and continue uphill. ● Follow the path as it rounds to the left and begins to go downhill. ● Just before the next path on your right, look left to see the heron nests high up in the larch trees. ● Continue past the small path on your right. ● At the next fork, bear right. ● Go straight on at the next crossroads, signed to Abbeydale Road South. ● At the next junction bear left. ● At the gate turn left. ● Walk all along the bottom path until you get to a crossroads, go over the small, planked bridge. ● Continue over a crossroads, past a path on your right, and at the next junction take the second exit leading uphill towards the Woodland Discovery Centre, through the gate on your right.

2-hour explore:

● Leave the Woodland Discovery Centre through the gate to the left of the car park and take the path to the right over the little bridge. ● Turn left and bear left downhill to a bridge. ● Walk up the steps, turn right and follow the bridleway. ● At the next junction turn right and go through the gate into the Donkey Field. ● At the next gate turn right and go down the steps. ● Turn right across the bridge, immediately left, and left again following the sign to Abbeydale Road South. ● At the corner with three gates turn left. ● Continue, cross the stream, and reach a gate. ● Turn left, cross a stream and turn immediately right, following the bridleway to Abbeydale Road South. ● Continue along this wiggly path past a double trunked oak tree on the left. ● At the next fork, bear right. ● Continue at the next crossroads to a gate. ● Abbeydale Road will be in front of you, turn left. ● Continue along this bottom path until you meet a major crossroads. Turn right and cross Abbey Lane. ● Enter the woods and follow the bridleway through wood 2 and cross Whirlowdale Road. ● In Wood 1 follow the bridleway to the Dobcroft Road entrance. ● At the noticeboard crossroads go straight on, on the footpath signed to Abbey Lane. ● Climb towards the top corner of Wood 1 and turn left on the footpath signed to Whirlowdale Road. ● Continue at the two crossroads to the road and cross over Abbey Lane. ● Re-enter Wood 3 slightly to the right. ● Walk down the path and bear left to return to the Woodland Discovery Centre.

Enjoyed these walks? Look out for other leaflets in the Woodland Discovery Centre – try the archaeology trail or an audio trail through the woods.

There are lots of other ancient woodlands in Sheffield – why not try and visit three other ancient woodlands this summer?

For more information about the woods, events and workshops visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/discoverycentre

Don't forget to share what you discover using #ecclesallwoods