

Welcome to Primrose Hill Community Woodland



Goldfinch



Buzzard



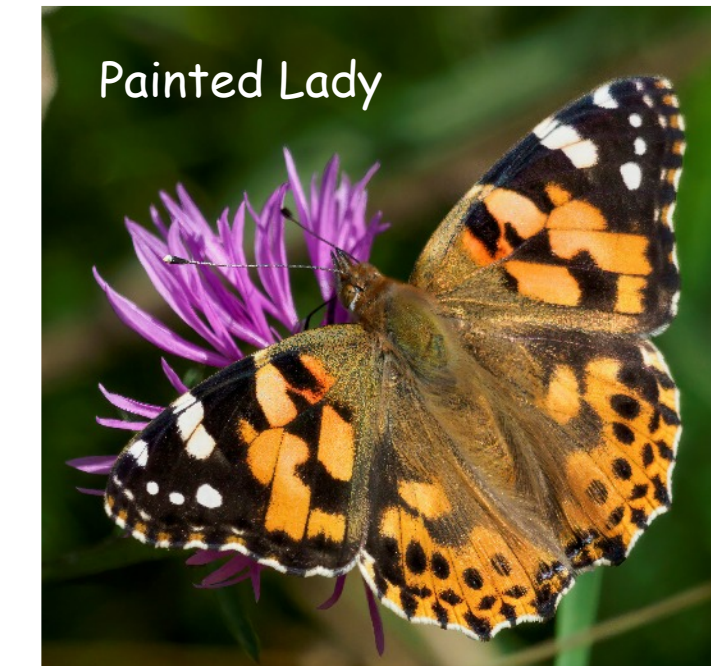
Orange Tip



Wren



Brown Argus



Painted Lady



Respect the wood so others can enjoy it:
don't pick flowers, climb trees or leave
dog poo on the paths.

Protect the wood so others can enjoy it:
don't drop litter, light fires, cycle

Enjoy the wood: be careful of slippery
surfaces, trip hazards and overhead
branches.

In January 2000 this 24 acre site was planted with over 20,000 trees and shrubs. The site was protected with a deer fence and this has created a haven for wildlife, especially, birds, small mammals, reptiles and insects including many butterflies. Of the original 40 species of plants and trees the ones that have thrived are shown in the map below and others are listed here.

Crab Apple	Alder Buckthorn	Burnet Rose	Spindle
Norway Spruce	Staghorn Sumac	Field Rose	Cotoneaster
Scots Pine	Common Buckthorn	Guelder Rose	Dog Rose
European Larch	Common Dogwood	Honeysuckle	Holm Oak

The trees in the wood have grown well and were beginning to crowd one another out. So in February 2016 we started a thinning programme and over the following three years 6000 trees were removed leaving more space for the healthier trees to thrive.

Now after being established for more than 20 years, we are faced with a new threat, that of Ash Dieback. We have approximately 4000 ash trees that are at risk. Once the diseased trees have been removed, we will be restocking both with sapling species that grow well on the site and with others that may be drought tolerant in light of the climate changes.

Many insect species are wholly or partially dependent on each species of tree. Native trees which re-colonised from Europe after the last ice age 12000 years ago provide niches for significantly greater numbers of insects than those trees introduced since the Roman times. Most insects are well camouflaged but you will see quite a range of butterflies as you walk through the wood - they prefer dry windless days.

In the Spring you are likely to see: Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Large White, Small White and Green-veined White. Then in the Summer there are: Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Copper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Comma and Painted Lady. If you are lucky, you may also spot the Dark Green Fritillary and the Silver Washed Fritillary - both have been seen in the wood.

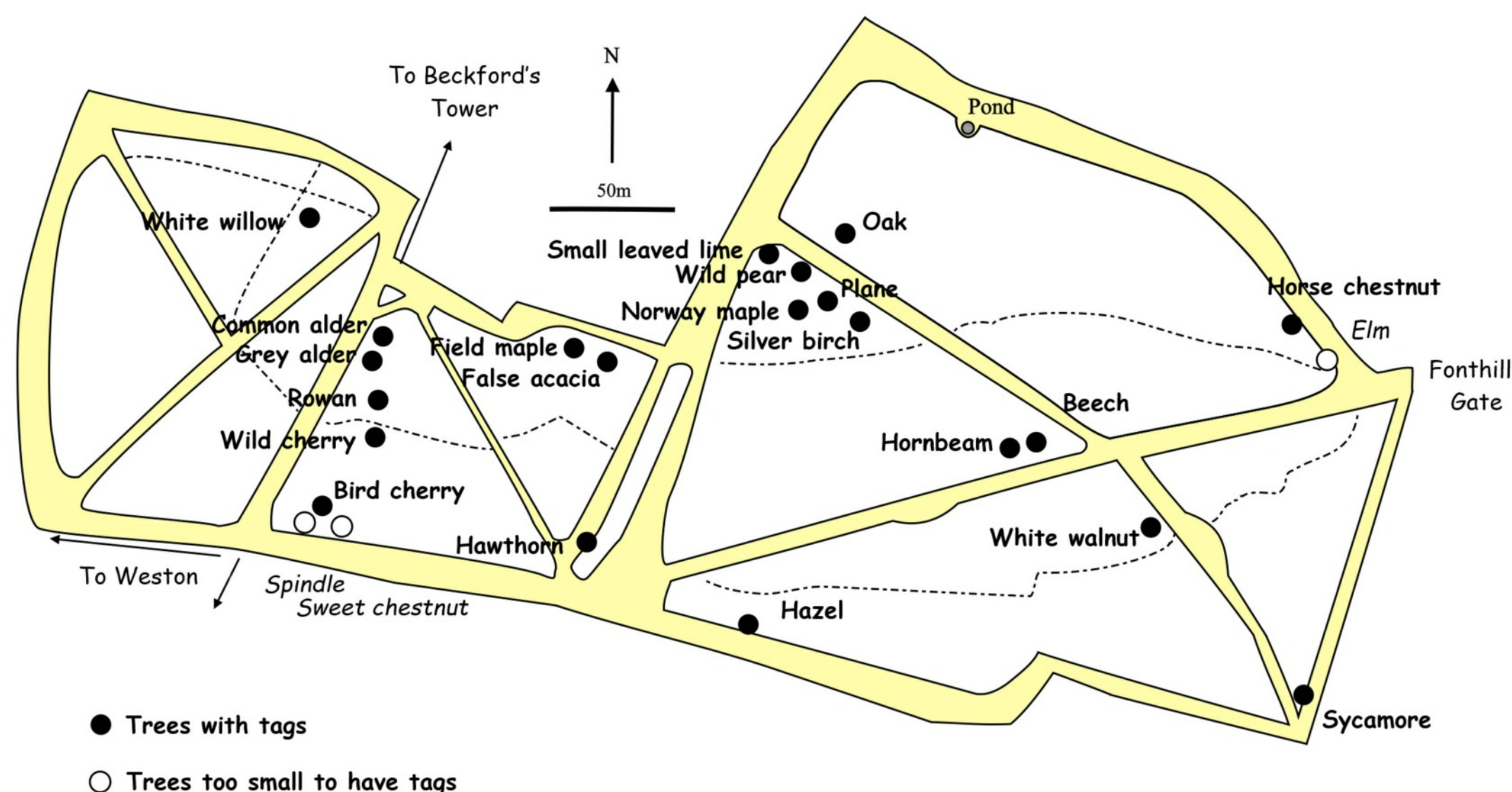
Fungi are a vital part of the woodland ecology and you will see the mushrooms and toadstools on stumps, stems and on the ground over where the roots go. The fungi help to decompose the dead wood so it can be adsorbed by other plants and trees. In recent years, it has been realised that mycorrhizal fungi play an important role in tree health and in how trees communicate in a wood. Not all fungi are welcome as we now have Ash Dieback in the wood brought by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which is carried on the wind. It enters the ash trees at the end of the branches and slowly, year by year moves down the trunk, killing the tree as it goes.

The woodland is home to a variety of birds from the tiny wren to the circling buzzard. Although birds are present all year round, the best time to see them is during the winter and early spring when the majority of trees have lost their leaves. Here are some birds that we have seen or heard at Primrose Hill. Common Buzzard, Tawny Owl, Jay, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Chiffchaff, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Fieldfare and Redwing.

There are not many small mammals in the wood as this is a dog walking space and large mammals are mainly kept out due to the deer fence. There are now quite a number of wood piles which can give hiding places for field mice, voles and shrews.



Oct 2001, looking up to Fonthill Gate



July 2020, looking up to Fonthill Gate

This woodland has been made possible thanks to the generosity of many people and organisations. In particular, the Trustees acknowledge the help given by Bath and North East Somerset Council, HSBC Bank plc and Moger Solicitors.

The trustees would like to thank the sponsors below for the Information Boards in the Wood and the photographs taken by Mr T Rogers. Primrose Hill Community Woodland Trust. Charity No. 1083553

