

The Plantation



The Plantation and Plantation Nature Area at Writhlington

Somer Community Housing Trust has produced this free download as an addition to information which appears on the signage in 'The Plantation', You can read a little more about the plants and animals which visit and keep up to date with future information and news about the project by logging on to our website.

Here's a little about the **history** of the plantation...

The land was originally part of the Amerdown Estate.

It passed to Bath and North East Somerset Council who then built the surrounding housing in the 1960's. Over the years the site became filled with rubble, rubbish and dog mess.

Somer Community Housing Trust aquired the land in 1999 and in 2002, began working with local residents and partner

agencies to clean it up and create a wildlife friendly environment for the local people to enjoy...**The Plantation was born**

A big **thank you** to all our Volunteers...

Somer Community Housing Trust thanks everyone who has helped to improve the Plantation especially local residents, the Community Play Rangers, Norton Radstock College, the Sustainability Forum, the Community Payback Team, Community Service Volunteers, Avon and Somerset Police, St Mary's Primary School Writhlington, S.R.Leggett, and Cam Valley Wildlife **and a particular thank you to all the local children and young people who have given so many ideas and so much practical help.**

Finding your way around The Plantation

- 1 Carved entrance archway
- 2 Sculpture 'Animal Kingdom' by Yusupha Jawara
- 3 Bike trail
- 4 Throne sculpture
- 5 Log Play
- 6 Den building area
- 7 Stage
- 8 Picnic area
- 9 Nature area

Please tread carefully
as small creatures live here

Mammals



Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

The Hedgehog has a rather rounded body covered in short, dark, yellow-tipped spines, and a short tail. Its face and underside are covered in coarse hair. Hedgehogs are common throughout Britain and live in gardens, hedgerows and woods. In summer they shelter in leaves and grass, and forage for food at night. In autumn they find a sheltered spot and hibernate for the winter.

Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

The Fox has an easily recognised dog-like appearance, with orange-red fur and bushy, white tipped tail. It grows to 100-120 centimetres in length. It spends most of the daytime underground in an 'earth' and scavenges for food at night.



Look out for..

Mammals

Fox
Hedgehog

Amphibians

Toad
Grass Snake

Reptiles

Slow Worm

Rodents

Wood Mouse
pipistrelle Bat

Insects and

Molluscs

Ladybird
Red admiral butterfly
Brown Lipped Snail

Birds

Tree Creeper
Goldfinch

Trees

Hornbeam
Ash
Sycamore

Flowers

Woody Nightshade
Cuckoo Pint
White Dead Nettle
Lesser Celendine
Wood Avens
Wild Garlic

Fungi

Bracket Fungus

Amphibians

Common Toad

Bufo bufo

The Common Toad is an Amphibian that lays its eggs in water, but spends most of its life in swamp areas of woodland and grass. Toads tend to walk, not jump. Toads hibernate in winter and can grow from 8-13 centimetres.



Reptiles



Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

The Grass Snake is non-venomous with a yellow or cream and black collar around its neck. Its sides are olive green with distinctive bars across its body. The Grass Snake is the largest native reptile in Britain and can grow up to 130 centimetres in length. Grass Snakes favour rough land and pastures, ideally near ponds.

Slow Worm

Anguis fragilis

The Slow Worm is not a snake, but a harmless, legless lizard. Females have a dark back stripe. The sides are flecked or striped with dark brown or black. Males are more uniform in colour on back and sides. Slow Worms can grow up to 45 centimetres in length. Their habitat is woodland areas and waste ground.



Rodents

Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

The Wood Mouse has a brown coat with a white belly and grows to 10 centimetres in length. It can be found in woodlands and hedges, and makes its nest wherever it is warm and there is cover. The woodmouse is nocturnal and lives off berries and small insects.



Insects and Molluscs

Ladybird *Two-spot Adalia bipunctata* *Seven-spot Coccinella septempunctata*

Ladybirds are easy to recognise. They have bright red wing cases with black spots. The most common species is the two-spot, which grows up to 4 millimetres long, whereas the seven spot grows up to 8 millimetres long. The adults hibernate in tree bark and leaf litter in the winter, and emerge in April.



Birds

Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*

The Tree Creeper is small, very active, bird that lives in trees. It has a long, slender, down-curved bill. It is speckly brown above and mainly white below. Best looked for on the trunks of trees in suitable woodland. It looks for food by climbing in spirals up the trunk of one tree before flying down to start on the next one. Although quite common, it is only seen by patient watchers. They eat insects and spiders, and some variety of seeds during winter.



Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

These are tiny bats with reddish brown coats and blackish ears, nose and wing membranes. They are common throughout Britain, are nocturnal and emerge at dusk to feed, before returning to roost. The Pipistrelle hibernate in trees and buildings in winter.



Brown Lipped Snail *Cepaea nemoralis*

The Brown Lipped or Grove Snail can be commonly found in hedgerows and woodland. With an average diameter of 20mm, the shells are ideally camouflaged to avoid predators. They are a favoured food of the Song Thrush.

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Red Admiral Butterfly *Vanessa atalanta*

Red Admirals have dark black-brown wings, each with an orange-red band. The forewing tips are black with white spots; their underside is orange, blue and white. Females lay their eggs on nettles in summer. After about a week, the caterpillars, which are bristly and dark with a pale yellow stripe down each side, hatch, and each spins a tent around itself by fastening to a young leaf with silk. Adults hibernate in tree trunks during winter.



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

The Goldfinch is a highly coloured bird with a bright red face and yellow wing patches. Sociable, often breeding in loose colonies, they have a delightful liquid twittering song and call. Their long beak allows them to extract the seeds from thistles and teasels. Common wherever there are scattered bushes and trees with thistles and other seeding plants nearby. It eats various tree seeds, such as alder and birch and particularly likes thistle, teasel and dandelion seeds. It will eat some insects in the summer months.

Flowers

White Dead Nettle

Lamium album

The White Dead Nettle produces clusters of white flowers in early spring. The leaves are opposite to each other, oval in shape with toothed edges. They have no sting like normal nettles, and grow upto 50 centimetres tall in woods, ditches and hedges.



Wood Avens

Geum urbanum

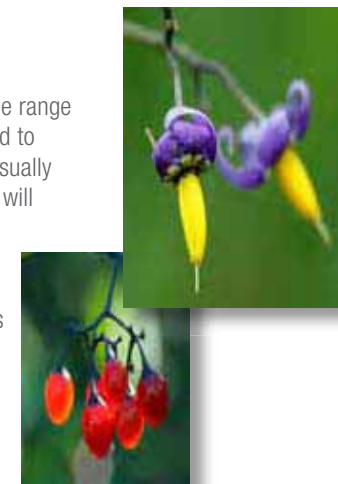
A widespread and common herbaceous perennial of shady hedgerows and woodland; also known as Herb Bennet. It will grow up to 50cm tall with colourful yellow flowers throughout summer.



Woody Nightshade

Solanum dulcamara

This plant occurs in a wide range of habitats, from woodland to hedges and marshes. It usually grows up to 2m high and will scramble over other plants. All parts of the Woody Nightshade are poisonous and the berries must not be eaten.



Wild Garlic

Allium ursinum

It can be found growing wild in many parts of the country, usually in shady, damp spots such as woodlands. It can be harvested in spring and early summer, with all parts of the plant being edible, and dies down completely after flowering until returning again early the year after.



Cuckoo Pint

Arum maculatum

A stem-less herbaceous plant with tuberous roots and large, heart-shaped leaves often with black or purple spots. The flowers form in May and June and have an extraordinary pitcher-shaped, white 'spathe' which surrounds the flower. The scent is faintly unpleasant to humans but highly

attractive to insects. Cuckoo Pint or Lords and Ladies grows in woodlands, hedges and ditches. It is common in most of Britain. In summer, all that remains of the plant is the pretty fruiting stalk with bright orange-red berries. These berries are very toxic and must not be eaten.

Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria

The Lesser Celandine, is a low-growing, perennial plant with fleshy dark green, heart-shaped leaves and glossy, butter-yellow flowers.



Bracket Fungi

Bracket Fungi have shelf like fruit bodies that generally grow from trunks or branches, they usually have a skin like upper crust, and a spore producing lower crust.



The Plantation Nature Watch

Trees



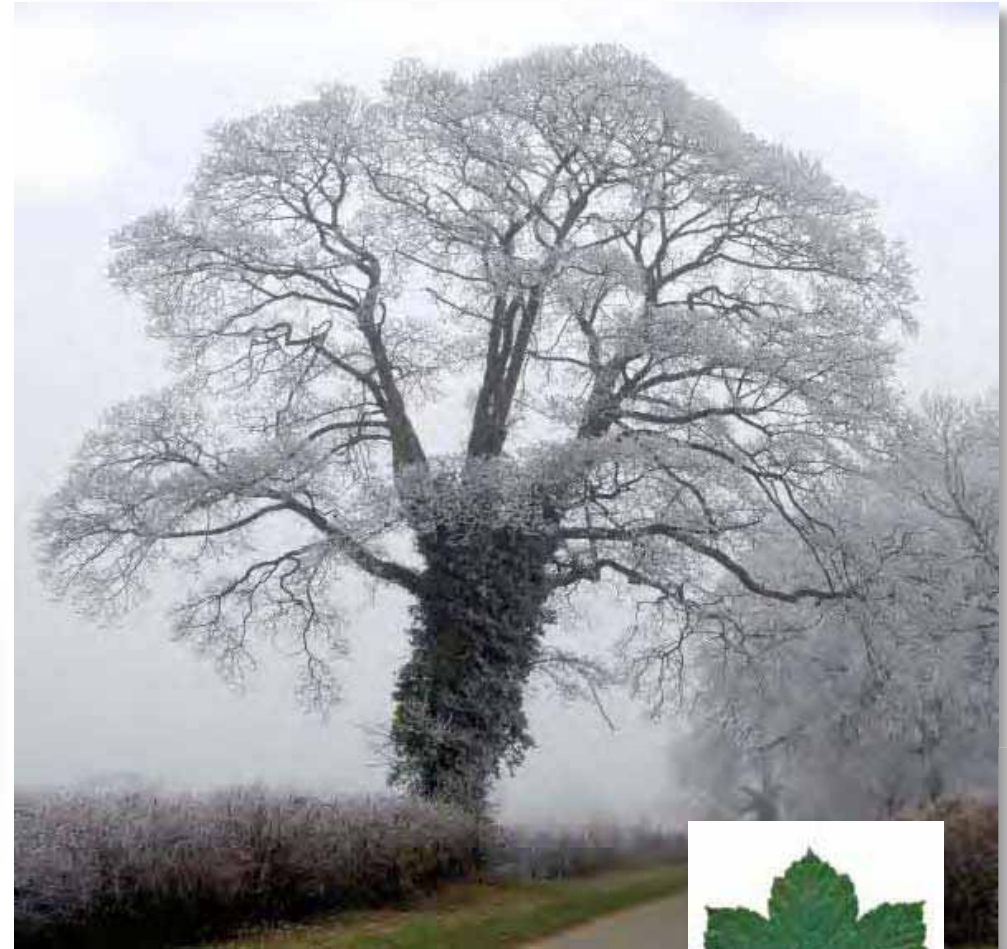
Hornbeam
Carpinus betulus

The Hornbeam is a native deciduous tree that loses its leaves in winter. It is a round-headed tree with a grooved trunk and smooth bark. It grows up to 30 metres tall and bears green catkins in spring and winged nuts in the autumn.



Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

The Ash is a native deciduous tree. It has a light domed canopy. The trunk of the tree is grey and smooth, although cracks do appear in the bark as the tree gets older. The tree grows up to 40 metres tall and has pairs of leaflets rather than single leaves, and produces distinctive seeds, called 'Keys' or 'Spinners', in the autumn.



Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

The Sycamore is not native to Britain. It is a large round topped tree, which can reach up to 40 metres tall. It has smooth grey-green bark, turning flaky in older trees, and produces 5 lobed, dark green leaves.

