

Carpenters Wood is an ancient woodland as it has been wooded for at least 400 years. The woods are located in Hertfordshire within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and are of County Importance for their wildlife. Although collectively known as Carpenters Wood, there are three distinct areas – Hillias Wood, Whitelands Wood and larger Carpenters Wood.

Public Access

Carpenters Wood is owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council and there is a clear path around the perimeter. Although the public are free to explore all areas by foot, access for horse riders and cyclists is restricted to the Public Bridleways marked on the map.

Wildlife

The majority of the mature trees in the woods are Beech and are around 150 years old. Other types of naturally occurring tree include Oak, Cherry and Hornbeam.

The wide paths provide sheltered sunny glades for insects such as Speckled Wood butterflies, and rare wildflowers such as Coralroot Bitter-cress and Wood Sanicle. In April and May the woodland floor is carpeted with English Bluebells.

Veteran trees and standing dead wood provide nest sites for Lesser and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and a whole host of other organisms including fungi and specialist insects.

History

Chilterns Woodlands used to support a wide range of woodland industries including chair-making. Pits found on the eastern boundary are thought to be old sawpits used by foresters to saw trees into planks to make them easier to remove.

An ancient hedge bank and ditch is still visible in places on the edge of the wood, which would have defined the woodland boundary.

In the past some areas were planted with a mixture of Birch, Beech and Oak, and most notably in Hillias Wood, Larch, a deciduous conifer planted as a timber crop in the 1980s.

Today, the woods are still harvested sustainably for timber, but management for the wood's recreation and wildlife value is equally important.



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Key

- Permissive horse riding trail
- - - Public Footpath
- - - Public Bridleway
- District Boundary
- Compartment Boundary
- △ Access Point