

Feathered cornucopia

The woodlands of Wyming Brook offer a feast for many different species of birds. Amongst the conifers, coal tits and goldcrests forage with agility. The crossbill with its specialised bill often visits the reserve to feed on the seeds that it prises out of pinecones. In the broadleaf trees, willow warblers, chiffchaffs, wood warblers, bullfinches, siskins and blackcaps sing with gusto to defend their territories.

Alongside the rushing stream (from which Wyming Brook, or ‘Winding Brook’ gets its name), the flash of black and white dippers is often seen. These small birds live exclusively along fast flowing streams and rivers, foraging for aquatic insects that abound in these waters.

The open heathland of Fox Hagg, together with the dense woodland, means that a whole host of wildlife thrives on the site, including meadow pipits, tree pipits, redstarts, linnets and a variety of warblers which flit between the scattered birch and the woodland edge.



Male crossbill
©Paul Hobson



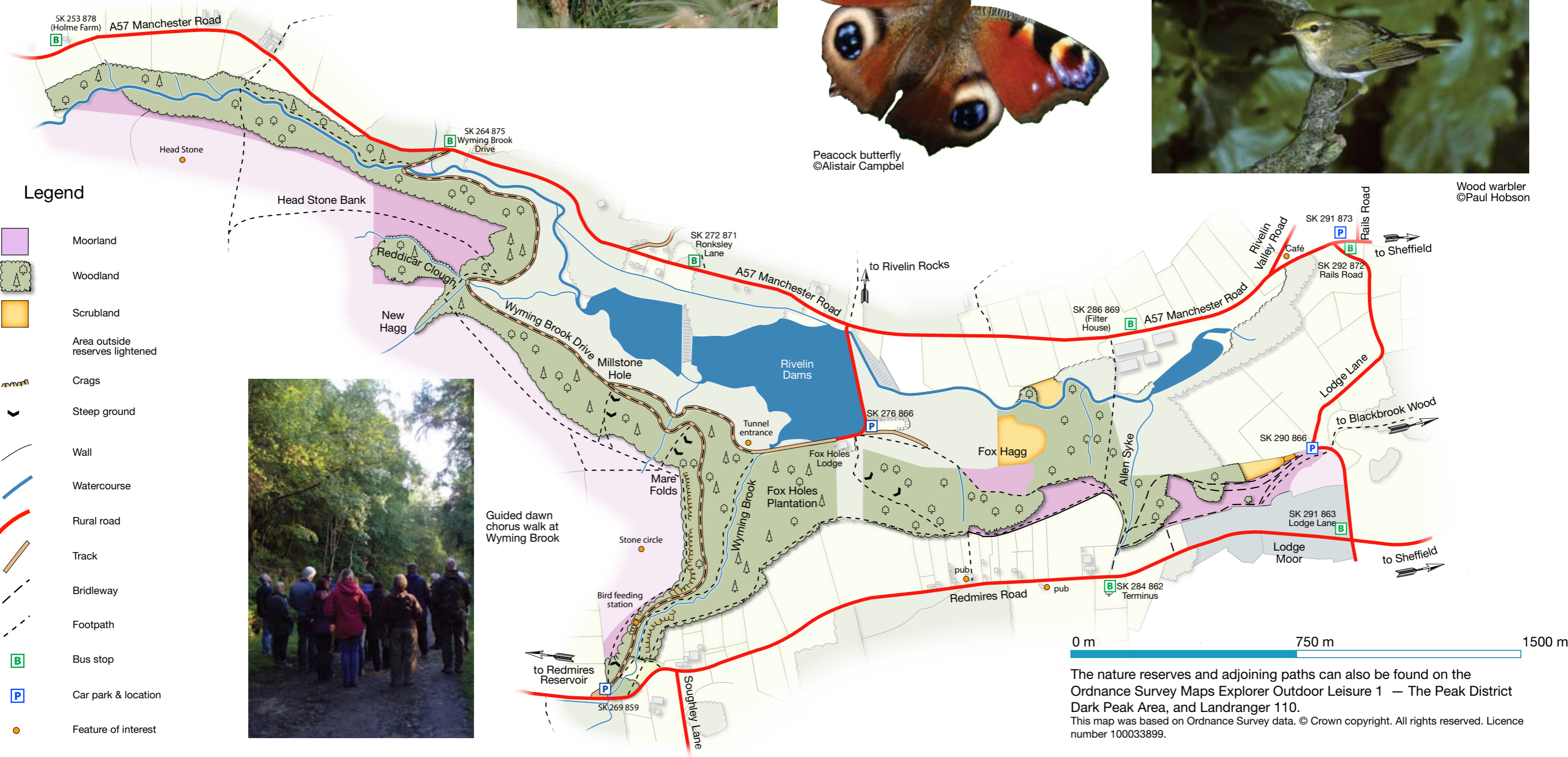
Peacock butterfly
©Alistair Campbel

A healthy heath

Since shepherds ceased grazing their sheep and cutting the holly for winter fodder on Fox Hagg, the heathland is gradually becoming dominated by birch trees. If left unchecked, this would in time lead to the loss of the mix of open heath and scrub and the associated wildlife. To maintain this mosaic of different habitats, small areas of scrub are cut on a 5-year cycle. In some areas of the reserve bracken is also being controlled to prevent the heather from being choked out. This will ensure that the heathland remains an area rich in wildlife for years to come.



Wood warbler
©Paul Hobson



The nature reserves and adjoining paths can also be found on the Ordnance Survey Maps Explorer Outdoor Leisure 1 — The Peak District Dark Peak Area, and Landranger 110. This map was based on Ordnance Survey data. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100033899.



Sheffield & Rotherham



Wyming Brook and Fox Hagg nature reserves

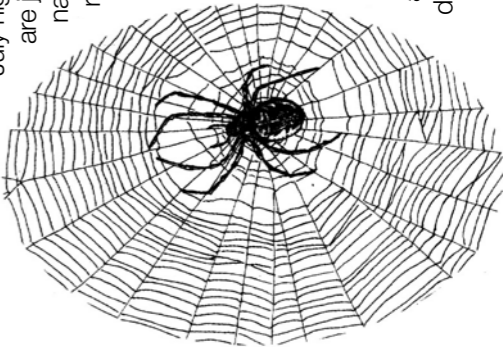
Wyming Brook

Cloaking the hillside with a rich mix of sweet-smelling pines, moss-clad crags and babbling streams, Wyming Brook nature reserve has a feeling of wilderness, just a stone's throw from Sheffield, on the edge of the Peak District National Park.

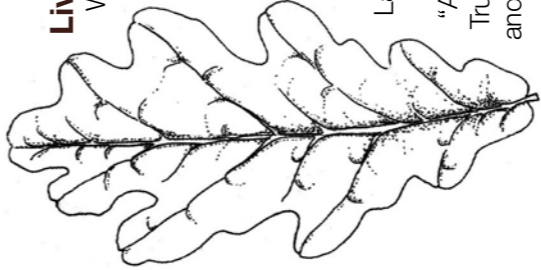
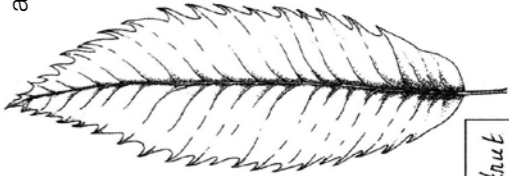
Wyming Brook Drive runs through the nature reserve, and offers stunning views of the Rivelin Dams and the city beyond. For those a little more adventurous or able, the footpath along the crags takes you past the moorland edge, or you can follow the boulder-strewn route beside the stream. These old paths transport you to a time before the taming of the British countryside, when myths and legends were born in primeval forests inhabited by wolves and bears.

The site was once reserved for the nobility as part of the Rivelin Chase, a hawking and hunting ground for the lords of Sheffield. These lords and their hunting paraphernalia may have long since disappeared, but still the wildlife is much prized. Common luteating,

July highflyer, and northern spinach are just some of the bizarrely named moths at the nature reserve, which add to the diversity of wildlife for which the reserve is protected. In the autumn months the fungi are abundant, and even the least fungal-inclined visitor can appreciate the variety, which includes Jew's ear, plums and custard, and amethyst deceiver.



Sweet Chestnut
Castanea sativa



Common Oak
Quercus robur

Living Landscapes

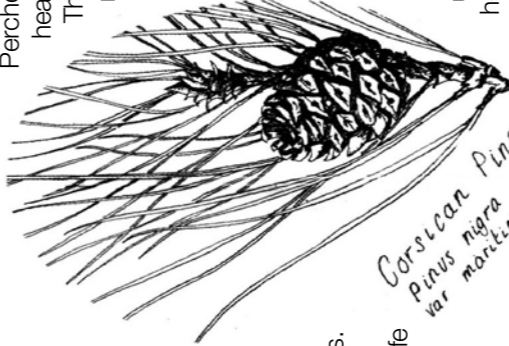
Wyming Brook and Fox Hagg nature reserves are treasured havens for people and wildlife alike, but beyond their boundaries, the value of these special places is strengthened by close links to other high-quality habitats in the area, forming the Living Landscape of the Western Valleys.

"A Living Landscape" is the Wildlife Trusts' vision to connect, protect, and enhance wildlife-rich areas.

We want to see a diverse national landscape that will be full of trees and flowers, alive with birdsong, and bursting with wildlife. Living landscapes connect small and isolated populations of plants and animals to each other, and connect people with nature.



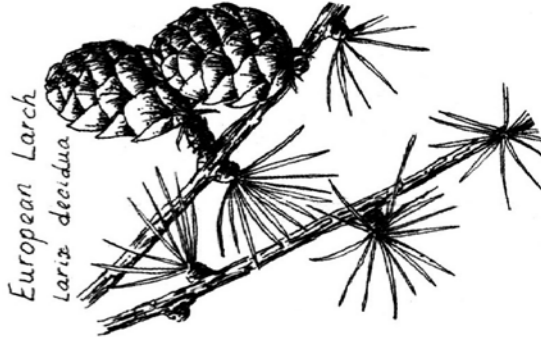
Crags above Wyming Brook
©rob.barker@talktalk.net



Corsican Pine
Pinus nigra
var. maritima

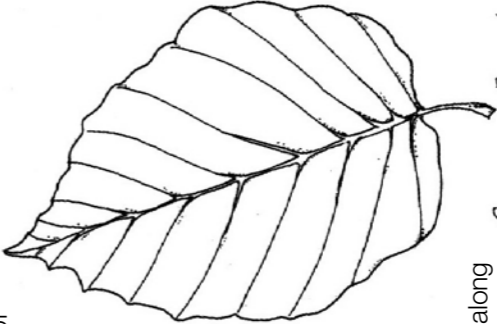
Perched on the hillside, Fox Hagg is a patchwork of heather, bilberry, bracken, scrub and woodland. This variety of habitats attracts many birds which roost and nest amongst the heather and birch. The summer months also attract small flocks of bilberry pickers.

The name Fox Hagg suggests that the land was once managed as a holly 'hagg'. The soft spikeless upper leaves of holly used to be cut as winter fodder for sheep and cattle. Remnants of holly can still be seen in the gully around the stream called Allen Sike, and along the north edge of the nature reserve



European Larch
Larix decidua

Common Beech
Fagus sylvatica



Illustrations by Sue James

View of Rivelin Dams from Fox Hagg
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How to get there

Fox Hagg

By bus:

Number 51 to Lodge Moor terminates on Rednires Road.
Numbers 274/275 to Castleton, stop along Manchester Road.

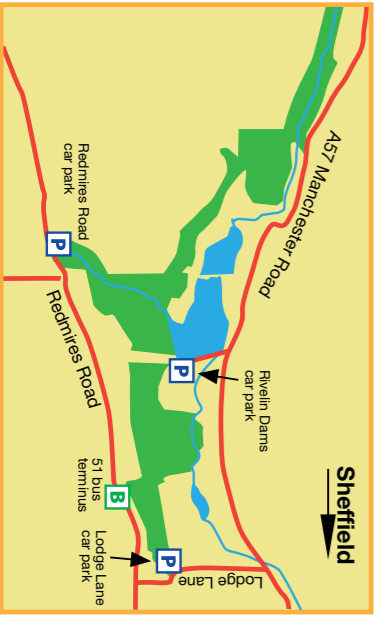
By car:

Three car parks give easy access to different points of each reserve.

Wyming Brook: From the A57 towards Manchester, take Sandygate Road through Crosspool and Lodge Moor. This road becomes Rednires Road, and a signed car park can be found approximately 3.5 miles from the turn onto Sandygate Road.

Fox Hagg: The car park on Lodge Lane can be reached via either the A57 towards Manchester, or by turning off Rednires Road approximately 2 miles from the turn onto Sandygate Road.

Rivelin Dams: Central to both reserves, from the A57 towards Manchester, turn left onto the road over the dam wall, and follow to the car park at the end.



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The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham is part of a national association of 47 local Wildlife Trusts, which work to protect wildlife in town and country.
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