

Welcome

Wildlife of Fox Hagg & Wyming Brook Nature Reserves

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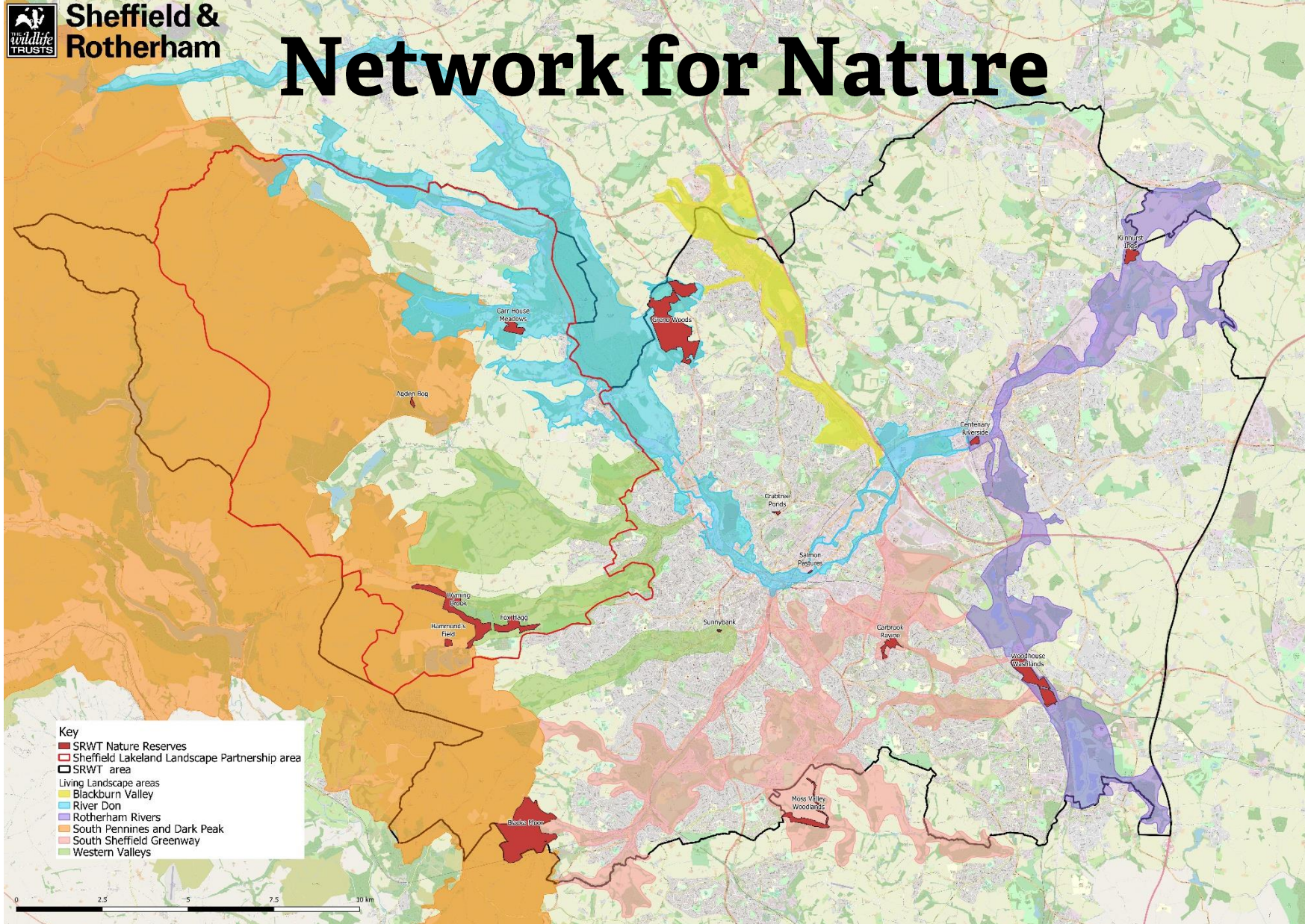
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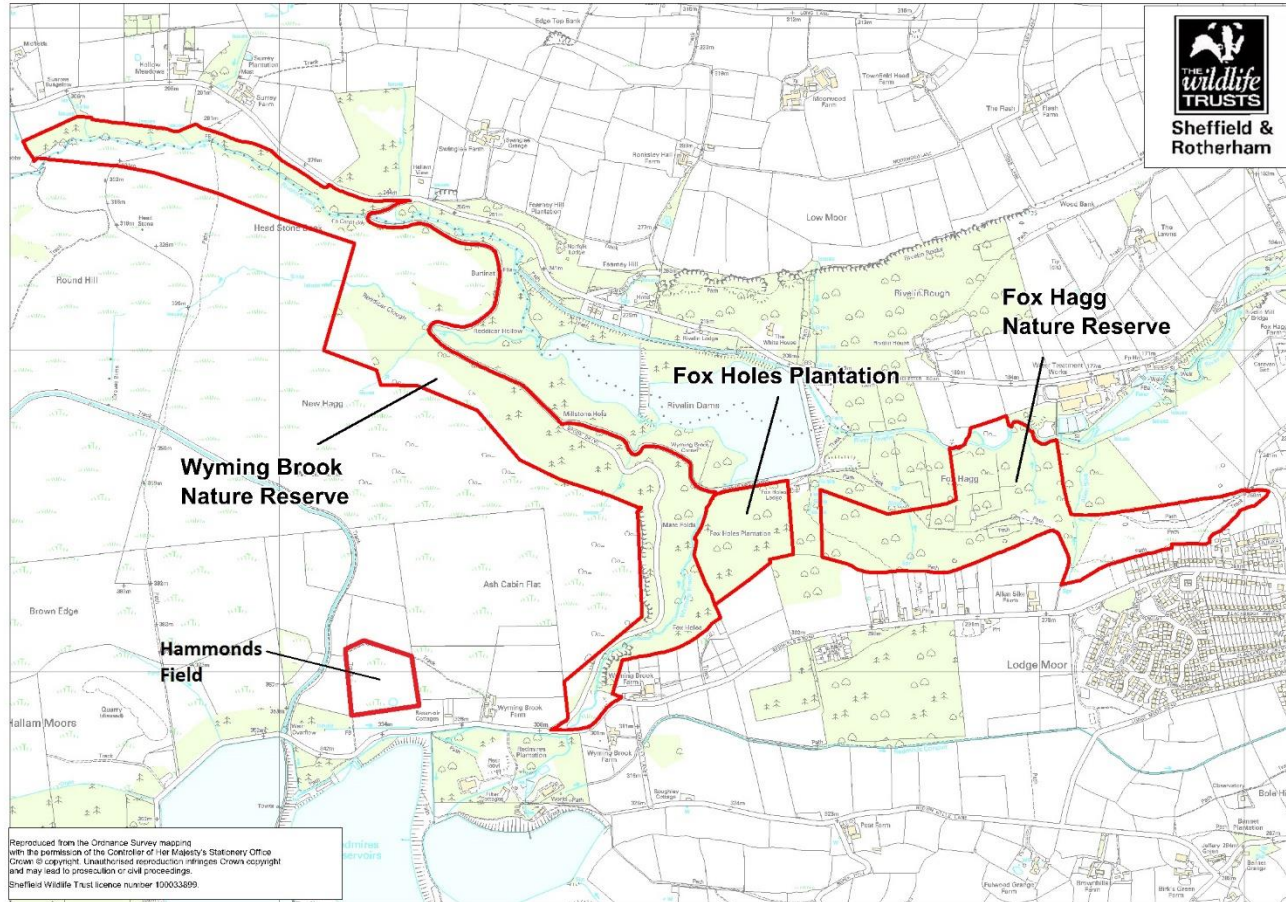
Network for Nature



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Fox Hagg & Wyming
Brook Nature
Reserves form part
of the Western
Valleys corridor
highlighted in green.

Reserves Location



- Fox Hagg & Wyming Brook Nature Reserve complex covers approximately 100 hectares in combined size.
- Hammonds Field Nature Reserve also forms part of the complex and is owned by SRWT.



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A View from Fox Hagg

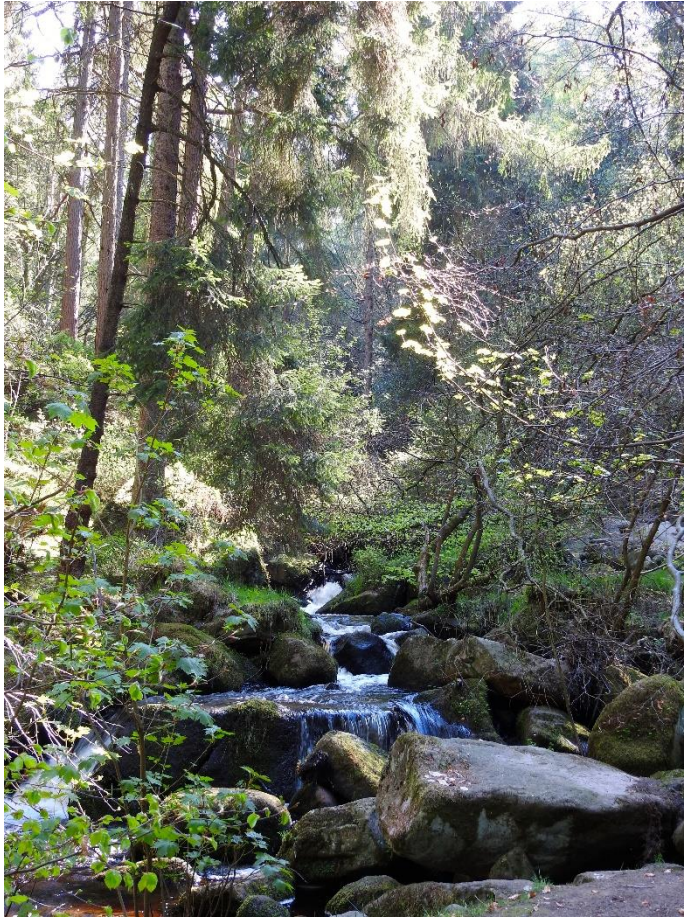
Photo credit – Robert Miller



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Fox Hagg & Wyming Brook



- Fox Hagg is a mosaic of heathland & young deciduous woodland habitat containing numerous wet flushes.
- Wyming Brook habitat type is predominantly a mix of mature deciduous & coniferous woodland fading into heathland on the western fringe.
- Part of Wyming Brook is classified as a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI).

Photo Credit – Robert Miller (Wyming Brook).



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Wildlife Focus – Fox Hagg

- Around 40 species of bird have been recorded nesting on the reserve.
- Notable species include migrant warblers such as blackcap, willow warbler and chiffchaff alongside other species such as goldfinch, long tailed tit, bullfinch, tree pipit, song thrush, woodcock & sparrowhawk.
- Additionally the wider complex plays an important role for many species during autumn/winter migration such as redwing, fieldfare, lesser redpoll and brambling.

Photo Credits – Robert Miller (goldfinch, long tailed tit, bullfinch, willow warbler).



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Willow Tit – Fox Hagg



- Our star species for the reserve is the willow tit and we have been carrying out a variety of habitat improvement works for this species over the last x6 years.
- These works have included woodland thinning, woodland scalloping, glade and dead wood creation, high stump retention and scrub planting.
- It is hoped that these improvements will benefit the species in the coming years.

Photo credit – F.C. Franklin.



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Wildlife Focus – Wyming Brook

- The rivers and brooks of the reserve provide excellent habitat for a variety of species.
- Under the surface brown trout and bullhead thrive in the ample pools.
- Above the surface you might be lucky enough to see the bobbing dipper or the flitting of a grey wagtail feasting on aquatic invertebrates.
- The elusive and shy water shrew has also been recorded on site.
- Periodic woodland thinning along the watercourses help to maintain the habitat in good condition to support a variety of species.

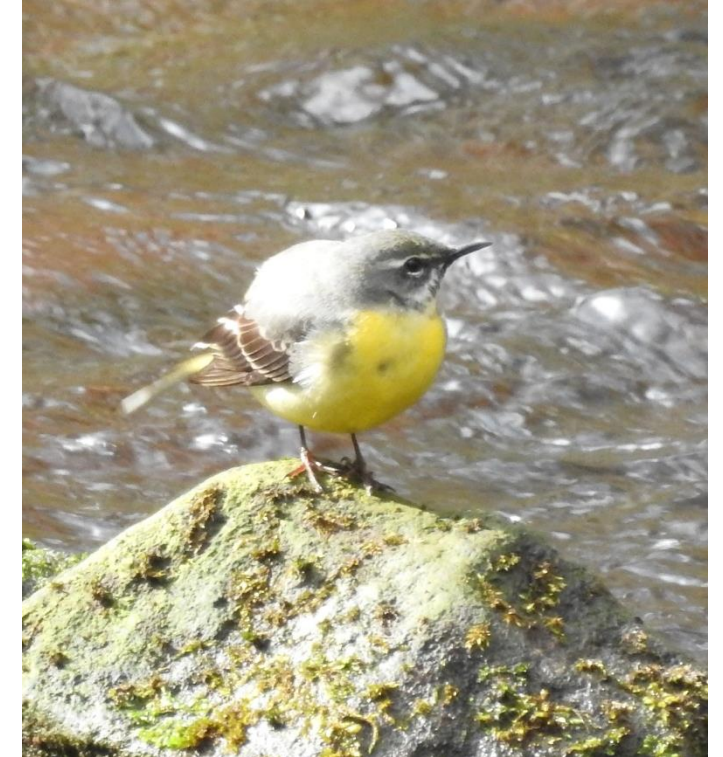


Photo Credits – Kevin Bower (dipper) & Robert Miller (grey wagtail).



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Wyming Brook - Woodland

- The mix of mature deciduous & coniferous woodland on the reserve supports a wide variety of woodland birds including 11 red listed and 15 amber listed species recorded on site.
- The most notable bird species include wood warbler, spotted flycatcher, pied flycatcher, woodcock, crossbill, goldcrest, siskin, lesser redpoll, greater spotted woodpecker, tawny owl and sparrowhawk.
- A variety of targeted woodland management work including thinning, selective felling, glade creation and standing dead wood creation has taken place over the last 15 years to help support these birds.



Photo credits – Robert Miller (wood Warbler, spotted & pied Flycatchers).



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Wyming Brook - Heathland



- The heathland & woodland interface along the western fringe provides a valuable but dynamic habitat to many species and requires ongoing management to maintain a mosaic & prevent succession to woodland.
- The open glades and scalloped edges are utilised by reptiles such as the common lizard & many invertebrates including butterflies such as small heath, small copper & occasionally the rarer wall brown.
- A summer twilight visit may provide opportunity to hear churring nightjars, see roding woodcock and get a glimpse of an elusive tawny or long eared owl.
- Other bird species that utilise this habitat are meadow and tree pipits, cuckoo, linnet and many raptors including kestrel, buzzard and sometimes merlin & hobby.

Photo Credits – Mike McKenzie (cuckoo), Paul Green (common lizard), Robert Miller (linnet, kestrel, small heath & wall brown).



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Working with Sorby Breck Ringing Group

- Sorby Breck Ringing Group have been involved with monitoring nest boxes and carrying out monthly mist netting at Fox Hagg & Wyming Brook for many years.
- This monitoring work provides us with some useful information with regards to bird populations and alongside other monitoring on the reserves this data can help us understand the impact / consequences of our management & develop effective conservation strategies in our fight to reverse the national decline in wildlife as highlighted in the State of Nature 2019 report.

Photo Credits – Robert Miller (p. flycatcher) & Kevin Bower (SBRG) (siskin, tawny owl, long eared owl & nightjar).



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Thank you

Photo Credit – Robert Miller



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