

# SAVAGES CREEK & ANCIENT WOODLAND

## WONDEROUS WOODLAND

Savages Creek Hide is located on the edge of Savages ancient woodland; British ancient woodland is a scarce habitat and home to many rare and threatened species of native plants and animals. Springtime brings wonderful displays of bluebells; a valuable indicator of the ancient status of this woodland. A number of orchid species including the early purple orchid and twayblade may also be spotted here. Unfortunately, the woodland is threatened by introduced muntjac deer. In an effort to protect delicate saplings and woodland plants, protective fencing has been erected to restrict deer access across the woodland. The woodland is also managed through selective thinning of larger trees, allowing light to penetrate down through the canopy, encouraging a rich and diverse understory. This increased diversity attracts a wide range of woodland birds including the woodcock, nuthatch and the rare and elusive lesser spotted woodpecker. In spring and summer, the grassy woodland margins are filled with nectar sources and home to many colourful butterflies, including the familiar peacock and brimstone.



Clockwise: Lesser spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and the male goosander



Left to right: Twayblade, brimstone butterfly, early purple orchid, the peacock butterfly and the native English bluebell.

## DIVE, DABBLE AND DIP!

Savages Creek Hide overlooks the north-west side of the reservoir and offers views of a diverse array of wildfowl, particularly in the winter months. Dabbling ducks such as the coot, tufted duck, mallard and pintail can be seen upending in the shallows, dabbling in the mud for food. Out in the open water, diving ducks such as the smew, scaup and the handsome goosander, with its long serrated bill, can be seen on the hunt for fish.



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