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# Welcome to Raveley Wood Wildlife Trust nature reserve

**Raveley Wood is a remnant of the ancient wildwood that covered most of this region in Saxon times. The wood lies on impermeable boulder clay overlying Jurassic Oxford clay, which can cause waterlogging in some areas in winter. A large bank of earth found close to the wood's entrance is part of a medieval wood bank that defined the woodland boundary. This bank is intersected by an ancient moat on the east side.**

Oak, ash, elm and field maple are the main trees growing in the wood with narrow-leaved elm dominating the most southern and northern parts. Dutch elm disease killed many elms in the 1970s. We have coppiced some of the surviving trees, which helps to reduce the impact of this disease.

In spring, you will see bluebells, wood anemone, goldilocks and stunning early purple orchids, as well as the locally scarce wood speedwell. During the summer you may glimpse purple hairstreak butterflies flitting around the canopy of the mature oak trees. Watch too for white-letter hairstreaks associated with elm trees on the grassy rides and glades.

The blackthorn and hawthorn scrub in the heart of the wood are important to a variety of breeding birds as they provide nesting areas and food. In winter look out for goldcrests and long-tailed tits flocking together. You may also be lucky enough to spot tree creepers climbing up trees in a spiral motion looking in the bark for insects to eat.

Maintaining the structure of the wood by coppicing allows more light to reach the woodland floor and encourages the beautiful carpets of wildflowers to grow. We also cut the grass in the glades and rides to keep them clear of scrub. New growth from the coppiced trees and the wildflowers cannot withstand grazing by muntjac deer so we closely monitor deer numbers.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire works to make our three counties a place where nature can flourish and enrich the lives of the people who live here. With your help we care for local wildlife and more than 100 nature reserves.

To find out more or to become a member visit [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org). Volunteering your time or donating money to us will directly benefit local wildlife.

