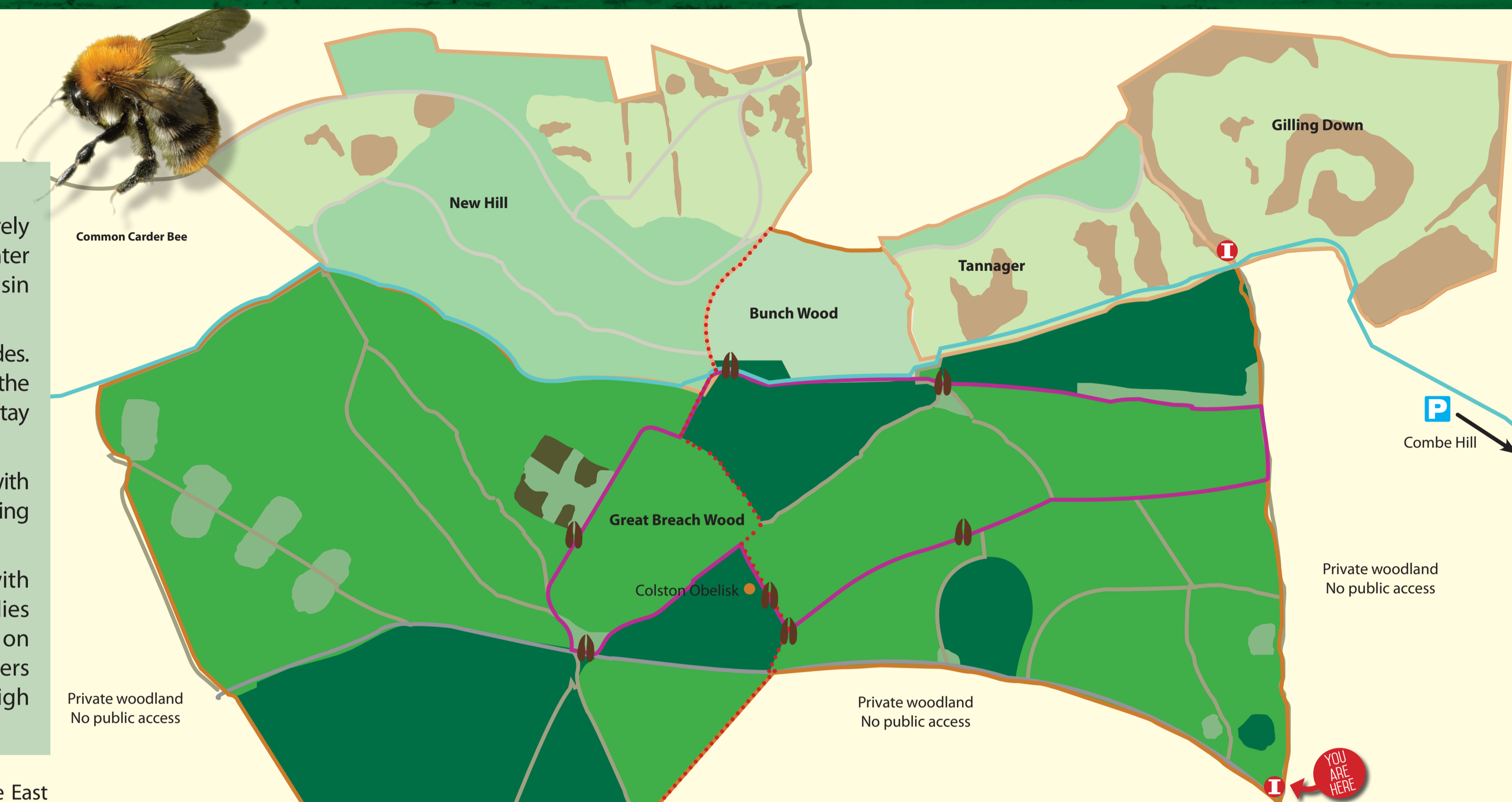


Welcome



Why this is a special place:

- Keep an ear out for the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Barely bigger than a Sparrow, these tiny birds make a lighter 'tapping' than the drumming of their Great-Spotted cousin which also breed here.
- If you are lucky you may see Roe Deer moving along the rides. In early Summer the doe leaves her young hidden away in the undergrowth whilst they feed, but the fawns instinctively stay so quiet and still that you are unlikely to be aware of them.
- In the Spring and Summer the glades are a riot of colour with Knapweed, Selfheal, Hawkbit, Cowslip and Fairy Flax, all vying for the sunlight.
- When the wildflowers are out, the glades come alive with Meadow Brown, Orange Tip and Marbled White butterflies and you will see Silver-Washed Fritillaries feeding on bramble flowers along the rides. Sharp-eyed observers may be able to spot the occasional Purple Hairstreak high up in the Oak canopies.

Part of a network of Somerset Wildlife Trust nature reserves in the East Polden Hills, Great Breach Wood comprises 148 acres (60 hectares) of varied, but predominantly Oak and Ash woodland, with a rich scrub understorey and an extensive network of rides and glades.



Native Woodland Restoration and Management

Historical planting of non-native trees for commercial reasons has been to the detriment of the site's overall value for wildlife. We are therefore working to gradually remove species such as Lawson's Cypress, Sitka Spruce and Beech encouraging natural regeneration of the woodland which then increases the amount of light let through to the forest floor. A few exotic trees which have some historical interest and which pose little risk of spreading uncontrollably, like the giant Wellingtonia, are being retained.

An extensive network of open rides and glades is maintained throughout the wood. These support good numbers of moths, butterflies, grasshoppers, bumblebees and other insects, as well as providing corridors for wildlife and people to move around the site.



Great Breach Wood Discovery Trail

This newly created route, just under 2 km in length and clearly way-marked by Roe Deer hoof prints, will take you on an accessible tour of Great Breach Wood. Seven information posts describe key features, habitats and some of the species that you are likely to find, and also features Wildlife Watch activities for younger walkers to join in with. Keep a lookout in the trees for carved sculptures of some of the species that live in Great Breach Wood.



wildlife watch

- The Wildlife Watch Hedgehog Award is a fun way to earn an award while exploring nature in different ways. Discover more about the wildlife of Great Breach Wood and complete the seven activities along the trail (plus the activity below).
- If you complete all eight wildlife activities then email enquiries@somersetwildlife.org with your name, contact details and tell us a bit about your walk and we will send you a certificate.

Here is the first activity to get you started:

- Choose one animal that would live in Great Breach Wood and move like it to the next post. You could slither like a snake, soar like a buzzard, flutter like a butterfly or scuttle like a mouse.

- Access and Safety**
- Walkers are welcome throughout the year. Please do not ride or cycle.
 - Beware of falling branches and dead wood, especially when windy.
 - Please clean up after your dogs and keep them under control.
 - Camping and fires are not permitted.
 - Be aware that machinery may occasionally be operating in the wood. Please follow any instructions given on temporary notices.

Are you able to help support our work?

Somerset Wildlife Trust works all year round to protect the wildlife you love in the county where you live. Alongside managing over 1700 hectares of land across the county, we also provide wildlife-friendly land management advice, campaign and educate to make sure Somerset remains one of the most wildlife-rich places in the UK. With limited resources and funding we are only able to do this thanks to the help we receive from our members and supporters - and people like you who visit these special places and understand their value.

For information about how you can get involved and support our work, including becoming a member or volunteering on this site and others, please go to www.somersetwildlife.org or call 01823 652 400.