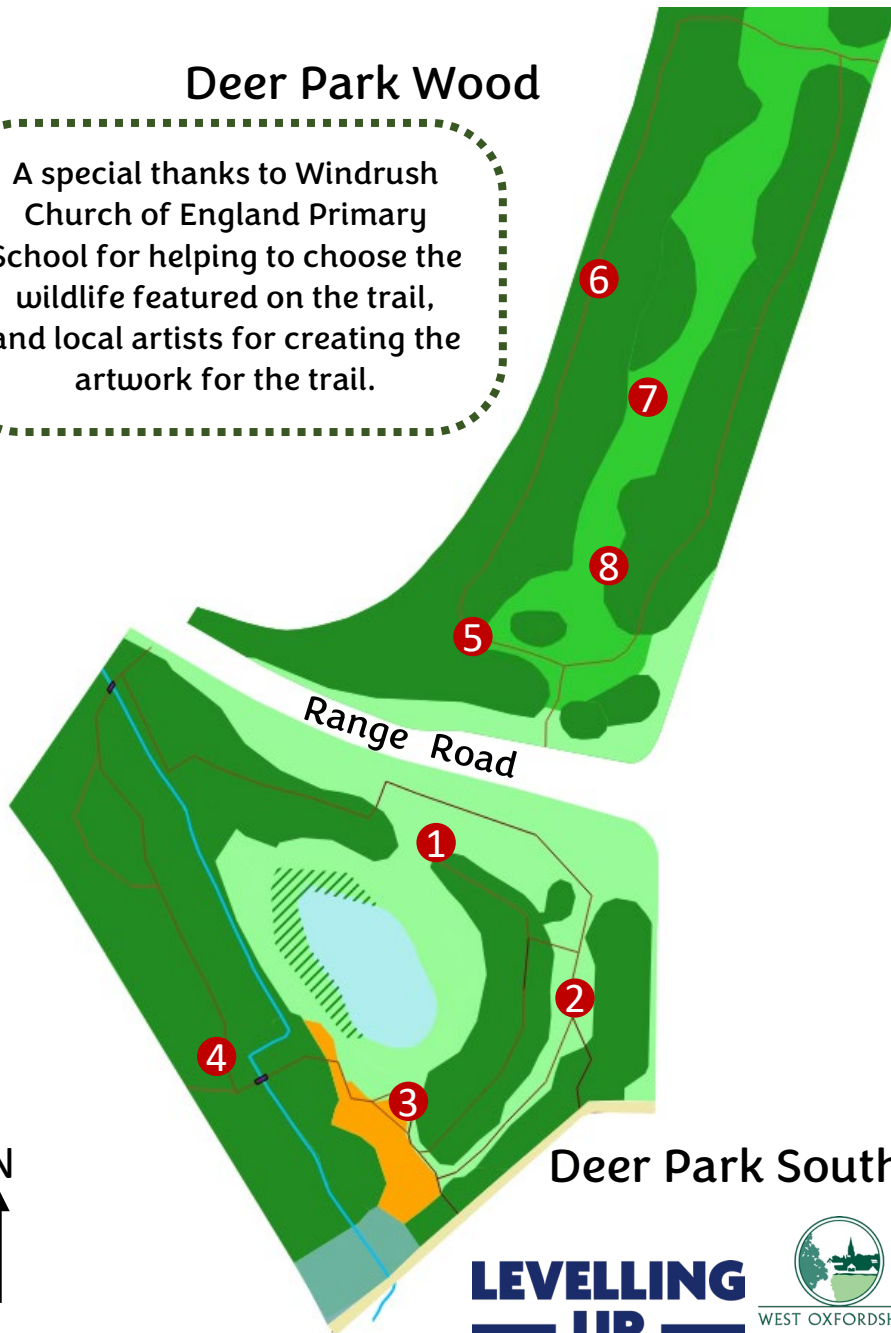


Deer Park Wood

A special thanks to Windrush Church of England Primary School for helping to choose the wildlife featured on the trail, and local artists for creating the artwork for the trail.



**LEVELLING
UP**



Deer Park Brass Rubbing Nature Trail



Deer Park Wood and Deer Park South are home to lots of different plants and animals - the woods, grassland and stream act as perfect places to forage and shelter.

Use a wax crayon to take a rubbing of each plaque next to its name and learn about the flora and fauna found at the site.

Please take care when crossing Range Road to access the two sites.

Deer

1

Until the 16th century, the sites were used as a Royal Deer Park, where a large number of deer provided by the King would roam for hunting. Today muntjac deer are often spotted in the woodland undergrowth - these deer grow to the height of a medium-sized dog and have a bark-like call.

Male muntjacs have short, unbranched antlers, and a long pair of canine teeth that protrude from the mouth.

Bramble

2

Bramble, the blackberry bush, is part of the rose family. Humans have been eating blackberries for thousands of years, and their seeds are often found in the human waste unearthed at archaeological digs. Britons used their thorny stems as a boundary or barrier in the way we now use barbed wire. Brambles are an important food source for lots of animals such as mice, birds and insects. They also act as shelter from predators for rabbits and hedgehogs.



Toad

Toads have dry, rough skin which has a warty appearance. Unlike their more athletic frog friends, toads move by short hops or by crawling instead of jumping, and catch prey with their long, sticky tongues.

Their eggs are laid in long strings instead of frogspawn clumps, and both tadpoles and adults contain poisonous toxins that make them unpleasant for predators to eat.



Robin

Robins are the UK's favourite bird, distinctive with its bright red breast. They make nests out of moss and dead leaves which they line with soft hair or wool. The 4-6 eggs they lay are bright blue!

Robins are much tamer than other bird species and will often follow gardeners as they dig up worms. Their big eyes are perfectly adapted to spend lots of time in the dark, dingy understory of woodland and hedgerows.

Rubbing area

Bee

5

There are over 280 species of bee in the UK, from the tiny furrow bee to the giant violet carpenter bee. The bee on the rubbing post is a bumblebee, which are large and fuzzy and can be spotted lumbering from flower to flower in the warmer months of the year.

Bumblebees are important pollinators, both for wildflowers and crops such as tomatoes and strawberries. They use their long, hairy tongues to lap up the liquid nectar and the pollen baskets on their legs to store nectar.

Fox

6

The fox has distinctive orange fur and a bushy white-tipped tail. In the countryside, they create dens by digging in the ground or under hedgerows.

They are nocturnal, hunting at night for worms, mice, berries and insects. Urban foxes may also see if there is anything tasty for them to eat inside rubbish bins! The hearing of a fox is so good that it can hear rodents underground.

Apple



Apples are one of the most widely grown fruits in the world. There are a variety of different apples in this orchard, some of which were originally grown in Oxfordshire! As well as being tasty for humans, apples are an excellent food source for birds such as blackbirds, redwings, and fieldfares. It takes the energy from fifty leaves to make one apple. If you visit in the autumn when they are ripe, feel free to take an apple or two home!

Butterfly



Twenty different types of butterfly have been spotted in Deer Park, from the colourful Peacock to the delicate Small Skipper. The butterfly on the post is a Common Blue - it can be seen floating above the grassland areas in the summer. Only the male butterflies have the striking blue wings, which are used to impress the brown and orange-winged females. The males are very territorial and can often be seen chasing other males out of their chosen wildflower areas!