

Habitats

Woodland

The woodland is dominated by oak, but you can also see silver birch, ash, holly, elder and blackthorn. The northern-most area is mainly hawthorn scrub. Various ferns, mosses and flowers, such as bluebells and foxgloves, can be found on the woodland floor.



Meadow grassland

Visit in spring to see a magnificent display of cowslips, or summer for tufted vetch. The meadow is mown once a year after the flowers have seeded. This retains its huge diversity of wild flowers and importance for wildlife.



Wetland

The ponds support a variety of wildlife, from beetle and caddis fly larvae to frogs, newts and dragonflies. The two smaller ponds often dry up in the summer which means that fish cannot survive there, so predation is less for animals such as newts. The stream through the Dell and the Coventry Canal support other animals and provide corridors along which species can move.



Location



Hodge Lane Local Nature Reserve is situated in Amington, in the north east of Tamworth. There is no car park at the LNR but there is limited parking on Chandlers Drive.



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust manages over 2,000 acres of land within the County for the benefit of wildlife and people. We are a registered charity (No. 259558) whose income depends largely on the support of our 11,000 plus members. If you care about wildlife and the environment, then why not join us today? To join, or for other information, contact: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0WT.

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Tamworth Borough Council are the landowners of the site and are working in partnership with the Wildlife Trust to support the community in improving the environment for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Tamworth Borough Council, Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, B79 7BZ.

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Staffordshire

Wildlife Trust



Explore

Hodge Lane

Local Nature Reserve

Wildlife Walks in Tamworth





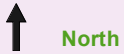
Hodge Lane Local Nature Reserve

The Brick Works

The woodland area was a site of clay extraction and brick making in the late 1800s. Evidence of this can be seen by all the dips and hollows. The brick works were in use for about 80 years, when a narrow gauge railway operated and wagons were pushed by hand or drawn by horses and a coal-fired engine was used to transport the bricks.

Key

-  Surfaced Path
-  Unsurfaced Path



North

Approx 0.1km

Birds

Look and listen out for birds as you walk around. Some distinctive calls include the chiff chaff, the tapping of the great spotted woodpecker or the great tits' 'squeaky hacksaw' call. Many birds ringed here have migrated to Africa for the winter, and then returned to Hodge Lane LNR year after year.



Bats

Pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats are common here and some of their roost entrances can be seen high up in the trees. Visit the site on a summer's evening and watch them flying and catching insects over the pond.

Fungi

An autumn visit to the woodland is more colourful than you may expect, with a large variety of fungi to look at. Look out for fly agaric under the birch trees, Jew's ear fungus growing on elder and puffballs on the woodland floor.



Insects

Thousands of insects are resident at Hodge Lane LNR. You can watch showy damselflies and dragonflies, such as the common blue damselfly, darting over the water, or look out for more secretive invertebrates hiding under dead logs. On the meadow in spring and summer many butterflies fly from flower to flower; yellow brimstone butterflies are often the first seen in spring.



Hodge Lane Conservation Group

This group of local residents carries out vital conservation work once a month to maintain and improve the site. If you would like to get involved, please contact Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on 01889 880100.

