

1. **Elm trees.** Once a common lowland tree, the English Elm has been decimated since the 70's by the onslaught of Dutch Elm Disease, a fungus spread by bark beetles.

2. **Turkey Oaks.** Although imported for their timber in the 19th century, it can be seen that the wood is of poor quality, by the fact that the majority on this site are delimbed.

3. **Hazel tree.** Since hazel is usually coppiced (periodically cut to produce a number of stems from the same stool) it is unusual to find a specimen that has reached such a height.

4. **Holly.** Although most hollies have prickly leaves near the bottom and smooth ones at the top this tree is a particularly fine example of this variation. It has been suggested that this is a defence against browsing animals.

5. **Bluebells.** A common woodland flower that is able to tolerate very low levels of light and is therefore often seen carpeting forest floors.

6. **English Oak.** This is probably the oldest tree on this site, as can be seen from its great girth and hugely spreading canopy. It is estimated at over 200 years old.

7. **Hartstongue Fern.** A primitive and moisture loving plant, these ferns are growing along the site of a disused watercourse. The dark spots on the leaves are not a disease but its spores.

8. **Logs.** These logs have the dual use of being natural play equipment for children and providing an important habitat for fungi, insects and small mammals.

9. **Ditch.** Since urban development has interrupted the watercourses of the region, what were once free-flowing ditches have become linear ponds.

10. **Snowberry.** This North American import is so successful at spreading from suckers that it is in danger of overwhelming the native ground flora. It must be kept in check by careful management of the site.

11. **Pond.** The willow that colonises this pond needs regular management to prevent excessive amounts of water being taken up by these trees. Due to this management the pond, which has been dry for a number of years, is beginning to re-establish typical pond species such as dragonflies.

12. **Oaks compared.** Here you can see the contrast between English Oak and Turkey Oak. The English Oak grows a spreading, domed crown whereas the Turkey Oak is narrower and upswept.

13. **Cuckoo pint.** Also known as Lords and Ladies or Arum Lily, this plant traps insects overnight to ensure pollination.

14. **Climax woodland.** This is the term to describe the final stage of plant growth in the English countryside if it was left unmanaged. In this case the climax cover consists mainly of Turkey Oak.

15. **Honeysuckle.** Besides being a attractive climbing plant, honeysuckle is the staple food of the White Admiral butterfly's caterpillar.

16. **Pond.** This pond differs from the other one in that it has remained wetter due to suffering less willow encroachment and has been able to support a greater range of species such as frogs, pond weeds and even Mallard ducks.

