

Orchards

There have been orchards in Haslemere for many hundreds of years, but sadly virtually all of them have disappeared as the town has expanded. Many of the trees that grew in them and species of wildlife that utilised them have become extremely rare or disappeared altogether. In the latter half of the twentieth century the orchard fell into disuse and now only five of the original trees remain. However, in 2002 The National Trust started an orchard restoration scheme. Over 20 new trees have been planted, all rare or endangered traditional varieties of apple, pear, plum, damson and cherry. The grassland under the trees is being grazed with sheep and cattle to restore the wild flowers and the wildlife is starting to move back in.

Ponds and Streams

Species such as the Southern Hawker, Emperor and the endangered Golden Ringed dragonfly can all be seen in these areas. Plants such as the Marsh Marigold, Yellow Iris and Ragged Robin thrive in the wetlands. Amphibians, such as newts, frogs and toads, depend on the ponds and streams and their spawn can be seen in the water's edge during the spring.

Both ponds have been recently rebuilt and dredged to improve the habitat. This will ensure the ponds maintain their levels and survive into the future. Moorhens and Mallards nest on the ponds. Herons are a common sight and kingfishers can often be seen darting along the water's edge.

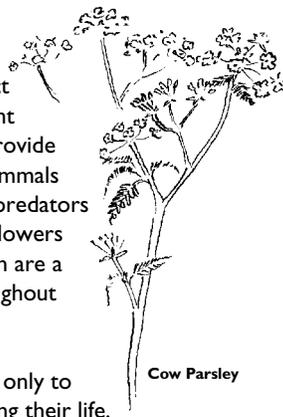
Hedgerows

If you consider the woodlands as towns, the hedgerows are the roads that connect wood to wood. They are a crucial element of the overall farm habitat. Hedgerows provide food and nesting sites for many birds, mammals and reptiles and allow safe passage from predators for animals such as the dormouse. Wild flowers flourish along the base of the hedge which are a riot of Cow Parsley and Stitchwort throughout the summer.

Hedges require regular maintenance, not only to prevent stock escaping, but also to prolong their life. This is achieved by rotational coppicing, layering and planting up the gaps. The Trust aims to plant more hedges and sensitively manage those that are already here to increase the benefits for all the wildlife.



Marsh Marigold



Cow Parsley

Woodlands

The woodlands here are ancient in origin, at least 400 years old; they may well even date back to prehistoric times. The species that depend on them have greatly declined over recent years. Dormice, bluebells, white admiral butterflies and greater spotted woodpeckers rely on these woods and the traditional management that takes place within them for their survival.

The National Trust manages these woods for the benefit of the wildlife by removing non-native softwoods and invasive exotics like rhododendron. The Trust will also be reintroducing a coppice cycle within the wood, whereby a proportion of the trees are cut each year and allowed to regenerate naturally. This type of management has been happening here for many hundreds of years. It greatly prolongs the lifespan of the individual trees and provides the ideal conditions for the wildflowers, insects, mammals and birds to thrive.

Grassland

The fields here have been farmed over many hundreds of years. During the twentieth century management intensified and many species of wild flower were lost.

The National Trust aims to reverse this process by returning to traditional hay cropping and grazing. These measures will significantly improve the grassland for flowers, insects, mammals and birds. Look out for Ladies Smock and the beautiful orange tip butterfly in the spring. Throughout the summer the fields are awash with buttercups and meadow brown butterflies and alive with the buzzing of bees. With the reintroduction of hay cutting you may even be lucky enough to see a barn owl hunting for small mammals.

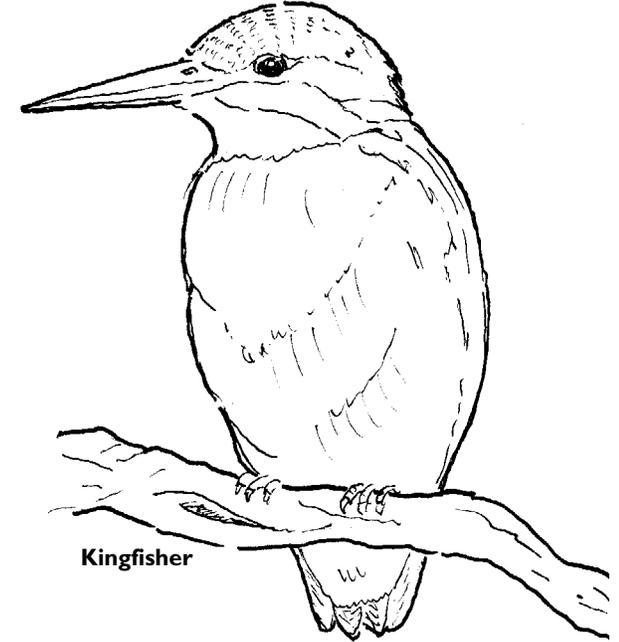
Travel & Local Information

For information on Haslemere and the local area and other walks contact:
Haslemere Visitor & Local Information Centre at
(Funded by Haslemere Town Council & Haslemere Initiative)
at
Haslemere Museum,
78 High Street,
Haslemere
tel: 01428 645425
www.haslemere.com/vic

For local train and bus information call Travel Line South East on 08706 082608 or visit their website: www.travelline.org.uk

Parking and refreshments are available close by in Haslemere town centre.

Swan Barn Farm Walk



Kingfisher

*A charming walk from
Haslemere High
Street, through field,
farm and wood*

Compiled by: **Haslemere Visitor & Local
Information Centre**

Published by:

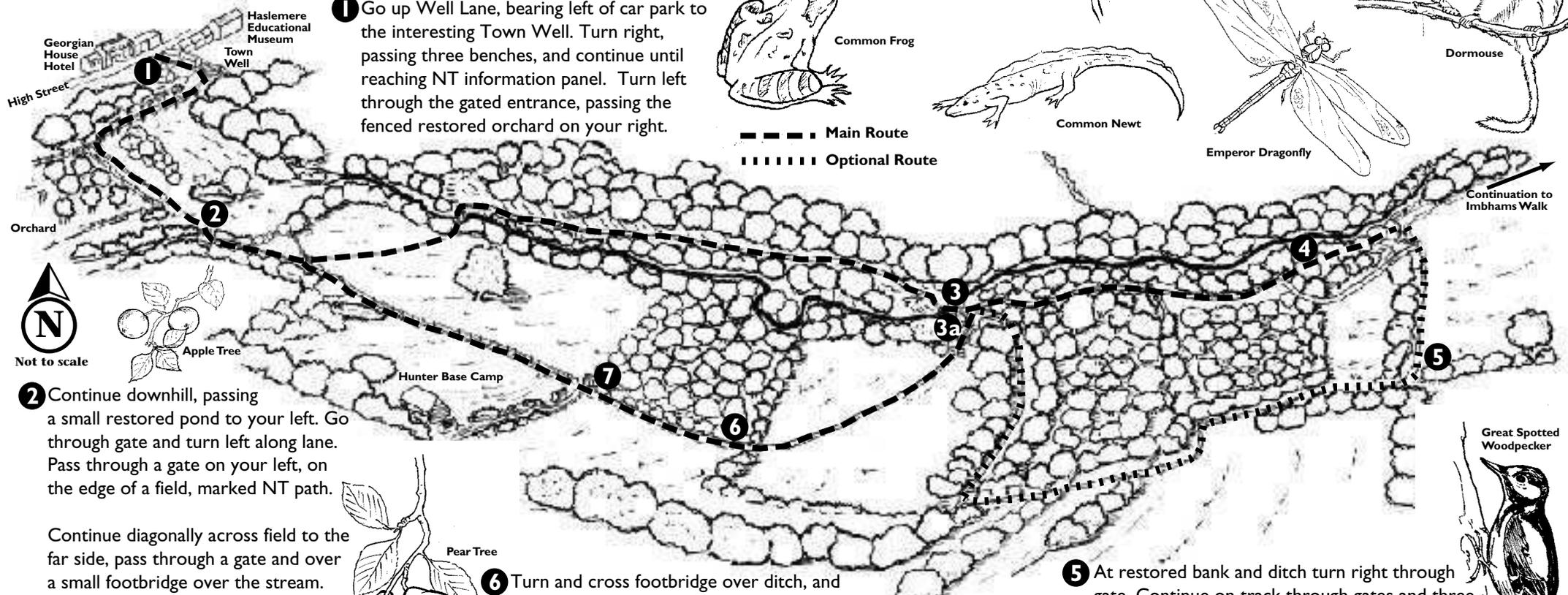
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Swan Barn Farm Walk

The walk starts from Well Lane, off Haslemere High Street. It will take approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour. The optional extension to the walk is not over a right of way but over farmland. During and/or after wet weather this area can become particularly muddy, so appropriate footwear should be worn. Parts of this walk are over uneven ground and there are a number of narrow gates to go through. It is therefore not recommended for pushchairs, wheelchairs or anyone with walking difficulties.



1 Go up Well Lane, bearing left of car park to the interesting Town Well. Turn right, passing three benches, and continue until reaching NT information panel. Turn left through the gated entrance, passing the fenced restored orchard on your right.



Not to scale

2 Continue downhill, passing a small restored pond to your left. Go through gate and turn left along lane. Pass through a gate on your left, on the edge of a field, marked NT path.

Continue diagonally across field to the far side, pass through a gate and over a small footbridge over the stream. Turn right, ignore path straight ahead.

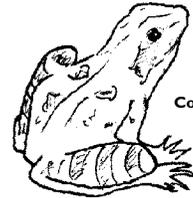


Pear Tree

6 Turn and cross footbridge over ditch, and go through gate. Continue ahead on path across field. Pass through gap in fence, bearing right along edge of field.

7 Go through gate and pass the black barns. Turn right and immediately left, along lane, back to No.2, passing a restored pond on your left. (*Hunter Base Camp can be seen on left uphill*) Continue along lane, retracing your steps to No.1.

3 Follow main footpath through wood. Cross over the stream in a dell and bear left through Witley Copse and Mariners Rewe (two wooded areas) along footpath. (*There is the option to bear right to follow the footpath on a short circular route back to Well Lane.*) **3a** Turn right at fingerpost See No.6.)



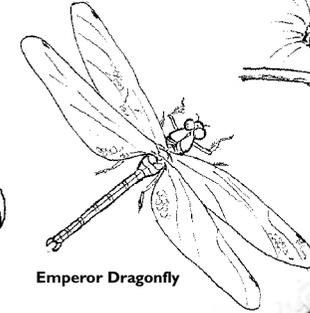
Common Frog



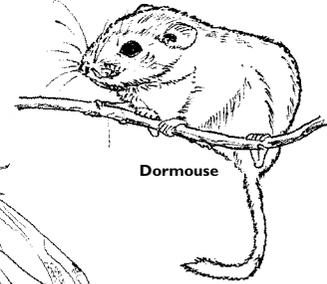
Common Newt



Bluebell



Emperor Dragonfly

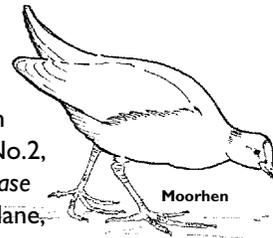


Dormouse

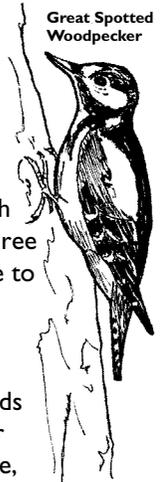
4 Continue on footpath through wood until reaching a gate with a bench beyond. At this point there is the option to return along the footpath to No.3, or continue on a "permissive" path, mainly through farmland. Cross over a small footbridge and turn up and right along field's edge with trees on your right.

5 At restored bank and ditch turn right through gate. Continue on track through gates and three fields until arriving at a locked gated entrance to Longmoor Wood.

Turn left through gap into field and turn immediately right. Continue along path in fields with fence on your right, through three 5 bar gates. After third gate turn right, through gate, ignoring track ahead and path to left. Continue through wood to fingerpost at No.3a. Turn left.



Moorhen



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Continuation to Imbhams Walk

----- Main Route

..... Optional Route