



WOODLAND
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Lineover Wood Cheltenham



Site of Special Scientific Interest

Management

The wood had a long history of coppicing. Trees were cut regularly near the base, allowed to regrow and harvested every 7-10 years to provide a good source of wood poles.

Coppicing has been reintroduced along the edges of paths, with wildflowers responding well to the extra light and butterflies flourishing. Other areas of broadleaves will be maintained to provide a continuous canopy.

From the late 1940s to early 1970s, trees on the lower slopes were felled and replanted with conifers. We are restoring these areas to broadleaved woodland through thinning, felling and regeneration. Some specimen conifers will be retained.

Local community involvement

We are grateful for the support of the local volunteer group who carry out tasks such as coppicing, path clearance, stone walling and hedge laying to improve the habitat for people and wildlife. Monitoring butterfly sightings has shown how the group's involvement has improved flower cover and therefore butterfly abundance!

If you would like to become involved, please use the details on the back of this leaflet.



Treecreeper: © Jakob Sigurdsson



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woodlandtrust.org.uk/lineover

Do you love trees?

You can help us protect native woodland and its wildlife, find more wonderful woods to explore and get inspiring ideas for woodland adventures, when you visit woodlandtrust.org.uk or call 033 033 33 300.

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG31 6LL**



Community Woodland Network was set up by the Woodland Trust to support woodland groups in managing and conserving woodland

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Explore Lineover Wood – beautiful ancient woodland on your doorstep



Situated on the Cotswold scarp close to Charlton Kings, Lineover Wood is an impressive 50-hectare (123-acre) woodland. You can explore ancient semi-natural woodland, planted ancient woodland, limestone grassland and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This mix of habitats provides a very valuable resource for wildlife.

History

Lineover means 'lime bank' in Anglo-Saxon. Lineover Wood was first recorded around 800AD as part of the Dowdeswell Estate, and remained so until the late nineteenth century when it was bought by the Cheltenham Borough Council as part of the catchment area for Dowdeswell reservoir. Severn Trent Water Authority bought the estate and wood in 1974, later selling the wood to the Woodland Trust in 1986.



Great spotted woodpecker: WTPL/Maurice Walker, silver-washed fritillary: WTPL/Patrick Roper, bluebell: WTPL/Steven Kind and spotted flycatcher: © Jakob Sigurdsson

Special features

Lineover is blessed with many ancient large-leaved limes, one of Britain's rarest trees. The South Walk will take you past a lime coppice stool which is thought to be at least 1,000 years old! Its age is attributable to centuries of coppicing (repeatedly cutting young tree stems to the ground) to provide a valuable habitat for wildlife and a source of wood. Another spectacular tree is thought to be the third largest beech in England, estimated at over 600 years of age with a circumference of around seven metres – see photo on the right.

Broadleaf tree species

Mixed deciduous woodland at Lineover is dominated by ash, oak and lime with occasional beech, birch, rowan, wych elm and whitebeam. Shrubs are diverse too with hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, field maple, spindle, willow and elder. A 15-acre addition to Lineover, acquired in 1990, has been planted with oak, field maple and shrubs to create new native woodland. This will form part of the new wood pasture habitat.

Flora and fauna

The wood has a colourful display of flowers in the spring. Mixed among the carpets of bluebell and dog's mercury, you can find other notable woodland flowers, such as lily of the valley, toothwort and angular Solomon's seal. The Cotswold Fungus Group reached a real milestone when they recorded the 500th species of fungi at Lineover Wood!

Many moths and butterflies have also been recorded here, including the silver-washed fritillary; as well as some uncommon beetles. The abundant insect life attracts a variety of birds, such as the spotted flycatcher, green and great spotted woodpecker and treecreeper. The Hawk and Owl Trust installed tawny owl boxes which are now monitored by the volunteer group.



Lineover Wood

