



# Lady Park Wood NNR

## Welcome to the National Nature Reserve

Lady Park Wood straddles the border between England and Wales in the beautiful Wye Valley 3 km north east of Monmouth. It forms part of the Wye Valley Woodland Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Lady Park Wood is a prime example of unmanaged, near natural woodland. The reserve was established by the Forestry Commission in 1945 as a long-term ecological project. Research aims to explore the natural processes that take place without human intervention like tree felling, thinning or coppicing.

### The reserve

The reserve is divided into two sections: a non-intervention and an intervention area. The non-intervention area forms the biggest part of the reserve. In the past, fallow deer have caused considerable damage through browsing, suppressing any saplings and new vegetation growth. Today, a high fence prevents any deer from entering the area, thus allowing natural regeneration to take place.

In the non-intervention area public access is restricted for Health and Safety reasons. This is due to a high proportion of dead wood in the canopy - part of natural woodland processes – which can cause injury when falling down. A public footpath is running on its perimeter, allowing a glimpse of the goings-on.

The intervention part of the reserve serves for comparison with the unmanaged area. Here, normal silvicultural practices are still carried out by the Forestry Commission - timber is removed and replanting takes place. There are public and permissive footpaths.

### Biodiversity

Lady Park Wood hosts an amazing array of biodiversity. Beside the common tree species of beech, oak, ash, wych elm and birch, it is also home to both native species of lime (small leaved and the rare large leaved lime) as well as a rare species of whitebeam (*Sorbus eminens*). The shrub layer is dominated by hazel but also contains dogwood, spindle, hawthorn, privet and holly. Ground cover mainly consists of dog's mercury and bramble but plants of interest include wood barley, fingered sedge, wild madder, bird's-nest orchid, toothwort, lily-of-the-valley and herb paris.

Lady Park Wood has a rich breeding bird community which includes all three woodpecker species, redstart, wood warbler, tawny owl, pied flycatcher and treecreeper. A variety of rare bats have been recorded in the NNR, in particular greater and lesser horseshoe bats which are found here in significant numbers.

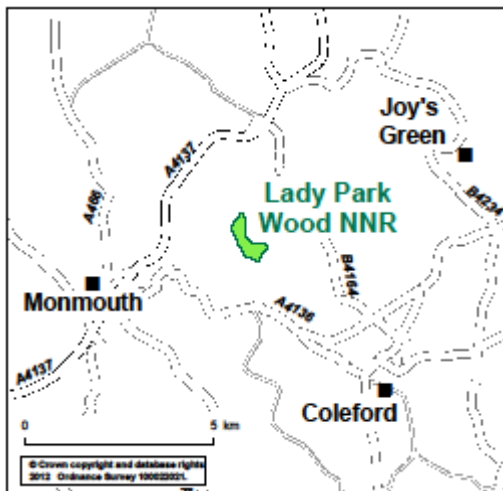
## Facilities and access

Please note that access is limited to public rights of way. Other access is by permit only.

The nearest toilet is at the campsite across the river at Biblins Bridge. It is available between March and October. Other amenities can be found at Symonds Yat East or West.

## Location

Lady Park Wood is 3 km north east of Monmouth on the southern bank of the River Wye. The nearest village is Symonds Yat, 1.5 km to the north east, on the river's northern bank. Access to the managed part of the reserve is available via a network of public rights of way and permissive tracks.



**By car:** Access to the reserve is from the A40 and A4136. There is no parking at the reserve, the nearest is across the river at the Biblins Bridge campsite.

**By train:** The nearest train stations are in Lydney and Chepstow, both served by Arriva Trains Wales.

**By bus:** There are bus services (many infrequent) from Chepstow to Monmouth and from Lydney to villages near the reserve. For travel details see [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info).

**By foot:** Two major trails pass near the reserve, the Wye Valley Walk and the Wysis Way.

**By bike:** Monmouth is at the end of Route 30 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

## Contact

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