

Answers to the Coldfall Wood Nature Trail

Post number 1

This is a bird nest box. Birds nest in spring and summer when it is warm and there is lots of food to feed their babies. Some birds like the woodpecker, live in holes in the trees instead of building nests in branches.

Post number 2

Hornbeam has smooth bark.

Post number 3

Oak trees have rough bark. Their leaves are long with wavy edges. The holes in oak tree branches make good homes for bats and woodpeckers and the dead branches have lots of insects for food.

Post number 4

Insects and frogs live in and around the stream. Birds like the grey wagtails eat the flying insects that live near the stream. Plants that like damp places, such as sedges, grow alongside the stream.

Some trees have been cut back to just above their base to let sunlight onto the ground. The sunlight will help lots of new types of plants to grow. The new plants will attract more insects, like butterflies and beetles, which like flowers. The insects will attract more birds and bats. The trees that have been coppiced will slowly grow again.

Post number 5

This is a bat-roosting box. Bats are the only mammals that can fly and they come out at night to feed on insects. All bats in the UK and their roosts – where they sleep - are protected by law. This means that you are not allowed to disturb their roosts or hurt them.

Post number 6

The holly bushes prickly leaves and shape are to help stop them from being eaten by deer, cows and sheep – although there are none of these animals in Coldfall Wood!

Post number 7

This stream can sometimes be polluted. The reed bed was put at the top of the stream to slow and filter the water to make it cleaner before it runs through the woodland.

Post number 8

The Wild Service tree is an ancient woodland tree. They are a sign that Coldfall Wood is very old - at least four hundred years old. There aren't many ancient woodlands in London and the wildlife that lives in them is often just as uncommon.