

Collyweston Great Wood NNR



Welcome to the National Nature Reserve

Collyweston Great Wood and Easton Hornstocks is the largest Northamptonshire remnant of the ancient Purlieu coppices of Rockingham Forest. The underlying rock is Jurassic Lower Lincolnshire Limestone overlain by Upper Estuarine 'Series' sands and Boulder Clay drift. This has given rise to a range of soils of widely differing drainage and chemistry which in turn support an outstanding range of semi-natural woodland types. Little of the site has been affected by re-afforestation so that a complex mosaic of vegetation occurs, closely correlated with soil characteristics.

Woodland

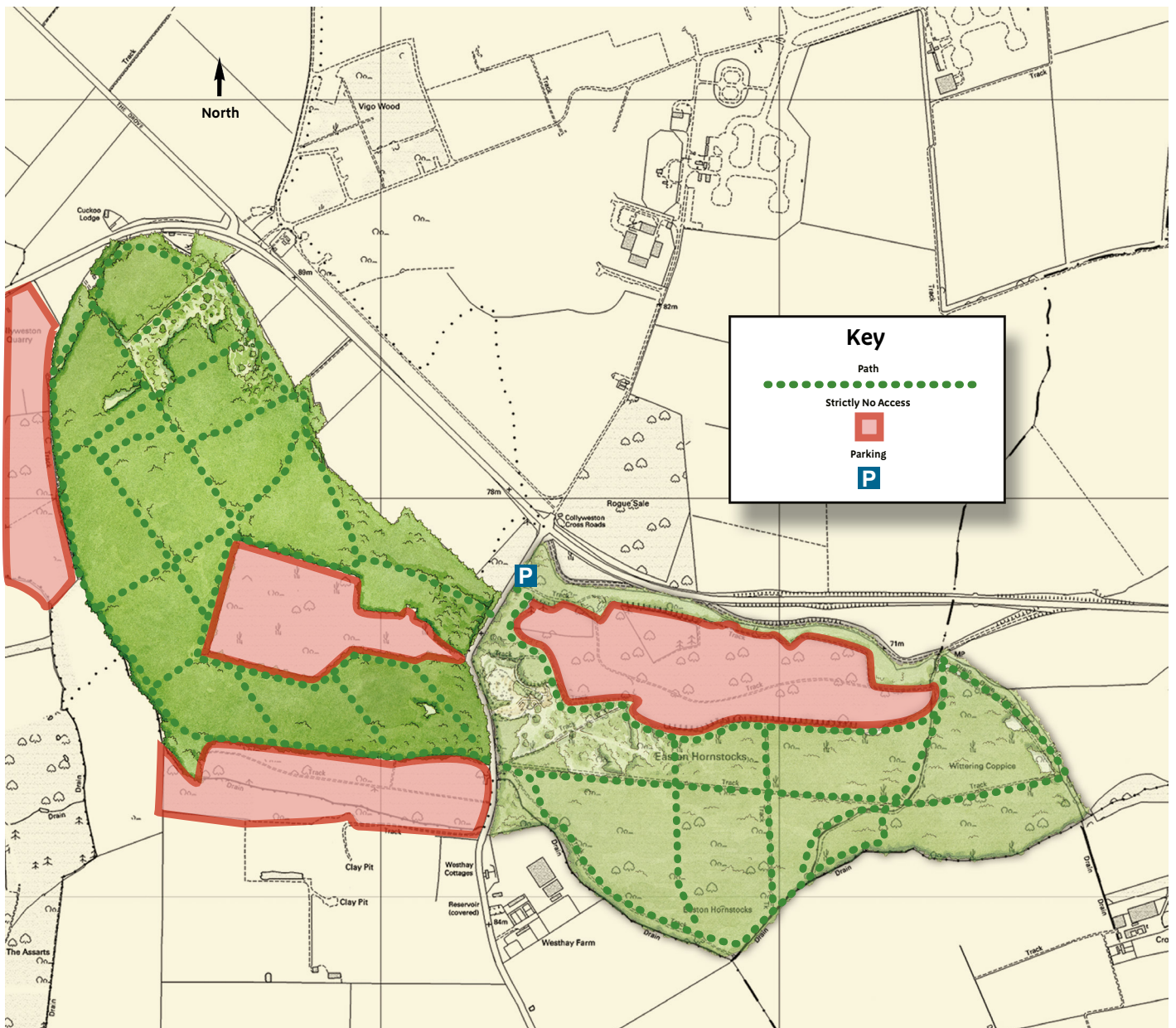
The main coppice types are variants of ash-lime and oak-lime woodland with small-leaved lime. Of particular interest is the combination of lime and sessile oak, one of the very few localities in the East Midlands. Wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* occurs frequently and, like lime, is confined to ancient woods. Other major coppice types include birch-oak, ash-maple and hazel-ash.

Wildflowers

The ground flora is extremely rich due to calcareous and acidic soils and there are many locally rare plants such as: lily-of-the-valley, wood spurge, great wood-rush, violet helleborine, nettle-leaved bellflower, fly orchid and columbine. Dog's mercury, wood anemone, creeping soft-grass, wood sorrel and false brome are some of the more widespread plants. Several large areas of bracken occur and are often associated with tree pipits, one of the less common species from a good representative of breeding birds.



Fly orchid. © Natural England/Peter Roworth



Facilities

There are no facilities available on site. There is limited parking nearby.

Visitors

By agreement with the owner's access is by permit only.

Enquiries to request a permit can be made by emailing: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk



Wood anemone. © Natural England/Allan Drewitt

Contact

West Anglia National Nature Reserves – Collyweston Group

Email address: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-nature-reserves-in-england