

# FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

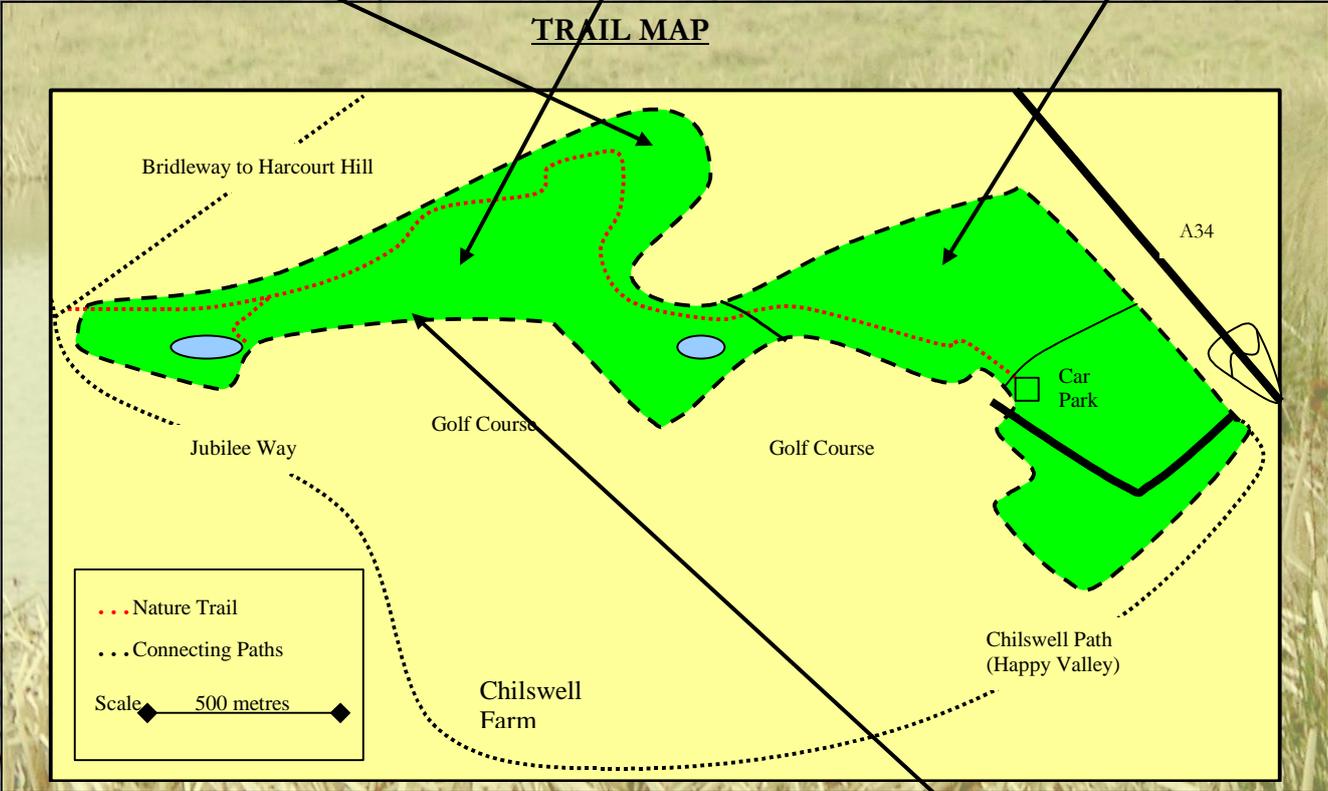
**WOODLAND TREES**  
 Crack Willow      Blackthorn  
 Field Maple      Alder  
 Ash                  Holly

**WETLANDS**  
 The fen and reedbeds are typical of those found in this area with poor drainage and limey water. A build up of peat allows the reeds to flourish along with Willow and Alder. There is evidence that the reedbeds may have been used commercially for thatching in the past with a series of banks crossing the valley at different levels. These areas support a diverse range of plants, insects and birds

**MEADOW PLANTS**  
 Woolly Thistle      Meadow Vetchling  
 Wild Carrot        Self Heal  
 Wild Liquorice     Field Foget-me-knot

**WOODLAND**  
 Parts of the woodland are classed as ancient. This means they existed before 1600. We can tell the age by studying the plants that grow here, such as Dog's Mercury, which are typical of those to be found in ancient woods.

**GRASSLAND**  
 Whilst the lower fields were last cultivated over 100 years ago, the areas around the lower pond are unimproved neutral grasslands which have never been cultivated. The plants found here include 7 different types of grass.



**PONDS**  
 Although the ponds have been created, notice how they have been colonised by reeds. The lower pond was created more recently and the reed beds are less extensive. Given time it will become surrounded by them. Ponds and streams are important habitats for amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts.

**HEDGES**  
 Hedges are important corridors for species to move between woodlands. They can contain large mature trees, small shrubs and many of the plants found in woodlands. Hedgerows in this country have declined dramatically since 1945. We have begun a programme with the adjoining golf course of restoring our hedgerows, filling in gaps in existing ones and coppicing others.

**SCRUB**  
 Along the Nature Trail there are large areas classed as scrub. These areas are important areas for birds with the many berry bushes providing valuable food. Plants such as Travellers Joy or Old Man's Beard and Black Bryony are common along the trail.

**GRASSES and REEDS**  
 Common Reed      Reed Sweet Grass  
 Meadow Foxtail    Tufted Hair-grass  
 Yorkshire Fog     False Oat Grass

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**  
 If you have enjoyed your visit why not use the list of plants to find out more about them so that on your next visit you may be able to identify them.

**WETLAND PLANTS**  
 Meadow Sweet      Hemp Agrimony  
 Great Willowherb    Water Mint  
 Greater Horsetail    Wild Angelica