



Spring Woodland Walk

Name _____

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
forest
A National community forest Partner

—MARCH—APRIL—MAY—

In the months of spring the woodlands come back to life and they are at their most beautiful. Flowers bloom on the trees and on the woodland floor and the leaves break out of their tight winter buds. The woods are alive with song as the birds pair and begin nesting.

Try to spot all these clues of life returning to the woods. Put a tick in the box when you do.

Insects

Bees will be active from March, feeding on the early saffron flowers. May is the month for butterflies. Watch for speckled wood, wood white and small tortoiseshell butterflies which will all be on the wing. Their caterpillars will begin feeding on the new leaves.

Buds Bursting

The tight leaf buds on the trees begin to swell and the new, fresh leaves burst out. Which ones open first?

Bird Song

The resident birds begin to sing to attract a mate. Listen for the songs of wrens, great tits, blackbirds and robins. This is the best time to hear great spotted woodpeckers drumming on dead branches.

Trees Flowering

Trees which are wind pollinated like hazel and birch have catkins which flower early. Insect pollinated trees generally flower later. Look out for the flowers of sycamore and field maple, oak, elm and hawthorn, often called 'may'.

Woodland Flowers

The first flowers will appear in March. Which come out first? Look out for celandines, and wood anemones followed by ramsons and bluebells.

Seeds Growing

Look out for tiny trees which are sprouting from acorns, beechnuts or other tree seeds.

Nest Building

By April the birds are busy building nests. Look out for birds carrying twigs or other nesting materials. The rooks in the treetops are at their noisiest.

Summer Visitors

At the end of March the first summer visitor returns to the woods, the chiff-chaff. You are certain to hear his 'chiff-chaff' song. By May the woods are full of the songs of the warblers and, if you are lucky, the cuckoo.

Spring Smells

There is nothing to compare with the sweet smell of a bluebell wood in full flower. Of the smells, such as the wild garlic, are not so attractive!

