

Brecon Priory Groves

Priory Groves is a beautiful mixed woodland area that borders the Honddu river. The trees are predominantly beech, with other tree species including oak, hazel, and alder. The trail offers a tranquil setting for visitors to enjoy nature and wildlife during all seasons.



On the river you can spot dippers and grey wagtails. The area also boasts a varied display of wild flowers during spring and early summer. For those interested in history, Priory Groves is part of the Brecon Town Walk and is noted for its proximity to historic buildings like Brecon Cathedral.

Look out for



Hazel Catkins - in early spring they release their pollen to make autumn's hazelnuts.

Wood Anemone - these white star flowers are one of the first to bloom in early spring.

Bluebells - in late spring these native British flowers have a sweet scent.

Hart's Tongue Fern - found in damp, shady places with undivided leaves.

Beech Nuts - along with hazel nuts, these provide food for mice, voles and squirrels.

Dead wood - old, rotting tree stumps create vital habitats for many small creatures who eat and recycle the wood and the birds that feed on these creatures. They also provide shelter for small mammals.



Can you find all 10 sculptures?

Follow this trail of wildlife sculptures through Brecon Priory Groves and discover more about the animals they represent. Some are easy to find, others are more hidden, but where they live will give you a clue.

The trail is on woodland paths with some slopes, uneven and muddy sections and is 1 mile long there and back. Walking boots or wellingtons are recommended.

The Wildlife Trail can be accessed across a footbridge from The Struet, the Cathedral churchyard and a footpath from Pendre Close alongside Priory School. Look for the ladybird at the edge of the field.



Friends of Brecon Groves and Promenade

This trail was arranged by the Friends of Brecon Groves and Promenade community group funded by the Local Places for Nature Fund and supported by Powys County Council with carvings by Thomas Carvings.

This volunteer group help maintain the Groves and the Promenade for all to enjoy. For more information on their projects and volunteering activities please contact: FOBGAP@outlook.com www.breconpriorygroves.co.uk



Wildlife Sculpture Trail



Brecon Priory Groves
Follow the sculptures to find out more about wildlife in the heart of Brecon.

Wildlife Sculpture Trail

Brecon Priory Groves

1. Ladybird Ladybirds overwinter in dry, sheltered crevices in bark and old vegetation. Famous for being a voracious predator of aphids, the ladybird is a real friend to gardeners. There are 26 species of ladybird in the UK.

2. Woodmouse Woodmice are omnivores, eating fruit, seeds and nuts as well as worms, centipedes and caterpillars. They are mainly nocturnal and a favoured prey of owls. Female woodmice can have six litters a year to maintain the population.

3. Woodlouse Woodlice have been around for over 300 million years. Related to shrimps and crabs, this crustacean is vital for recycling dead wood and plants. They dry out easily so hide in cool, damp places. Females have a brood pouch where eggs hatch into young.

4. Lesser Horseshoe Bat The upper Usk valley is a habitat stronghold for this bat, one of the smallest of British species. It emerges after sunset and uses echolocation to hunt moths, mosquitoes, midges, lacewings and mayflies, rarely flying more than 5 meters above the ground.

5. Treecreeper This small bird climbs in spirals up trees, using its long, slender, downturned beak to feed on insects in the bark. On reaching the top of the tree it flies to the bottom of the next one to begin again.

★ Entrances to access the trail.



6. Tawny Owl The female makes the ke-wick (twit) sound and the male responds with 'hoo-hoo' (twoo). Reddish brown with paler underside, they feed mainly on small mammals such as mice and voles during their nocturnal hunting.

7. Fox Foxes are expert hunters, catching rabbits, rodents, birds and frogs along with scavenging berries when in season. They have one litter of 4-6 cubs each year in early spring.

8. Otter Still a vulnerable species, otters can occasionally be seen on the Honddu. With long, slender bodies, a thick tail and webbed feet. They are at home in the water, feeding off fish, eels as well as frogs in the spring. They only thrive in healthy, clean rivers.

9. Bank Vole Distinguishable from mice due to their rounder faces, smaller ears and shorter tails, bank voles live in woodland and hedgerows. They eat fruit, nuts and small insects and are particularly keen on hazelnuts and blackberries. They often fall prey to owls and weasels.

10. Salmon The Atlantic salmon makes an epic journey during its life. They live in rivers as juveniles (smolt) before emigrating to the sea to mature. When it's time to lay eggs, they travel back to their home river. This part of the Honddu had a weir removed to make it easier for returning salmon to travel up stream.

Download the LERC App to record the wildlife that you find and help nature conservation
<https://www.lercwales.org.uk/app.php>



For more wildlife and town walks in Brecon:
<https://visitbrecon.org>