



Friends of  
**BADOCK'S  
WOOD**

Tawny owl

## An Ancient Woodland

Imagine Bristol hundreds of years ago, without all of today's streets around you. You would almost certainly be looking at this woodland then, just as you are now. In fact, some parts of the wood are thought to be at least 400 years old. In Victorian times, parts of the Wood were planted with fashionable trees of the day – such as beech, Scots pine and horse chestnut.

The slow-spreading woodland plant life is an indicator of ancient woodland. Plants such as hart's tongue fern, cuckoo pint and wood anemone thrive in the shade under the trees. Look out for bluebells, ramsons (wild garlic) and wood anemones in the Spring.

## Thriving Wildlife

Birds, butterflies, bats and owls thrive in the woodland. Wren, robin and dunnock sing in the trees and spotted woodpeckers can be heard calling. Bramble, nettle and other plants provide nectar for woodland-edge loving butterflies – like the speckled wood and the comma. At dusk bats and tawny owls swoop over the trees. Foxes can often be seen, both in the woods and in the meadows.



### KEY

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
|  | Streams            |
|  | Hard Path          |
|  | Soft Path          |
|  | Stream Crossing    |
|  | Entrances          |
|  | Broadleaf Woodland |
|  | Grassland          |
|  | Steps              |



**The Meadow** contains two areas of wild flowers that were planted with the help of local school children. These wild flowers provide nectar for many insects such as common blue and large skipper butterflies. A Bronze Age tumulus (burial mound) – over 3,500 years old – can be found near the entrance to the meadow area.

## Watercourses

The River Trym flows through the valley floor and meets an unnamed tributary in the centre of the wood. The water runs along stony-bottomed channels and is generally shallow with deeper pools in places. When the Wood was laid out in Victorian times, ponds, bridges and weirs were built and some of these features survive intact today. The bank side vegetation is dominated by lesser celandine, ivy-leaved speedwell and mosses.

Coppiced hazel tree



Great spotted woodpecker

## Recent History

In 1937, local industrialist and landowner, Sir Stanley Badock, gave part of his Holmwood estate to Bristol Corporation so that the citizens of Bristol could enjoy the Woods as a public open space in perpetuity. In fact, Sir Stanley's Deed of Gift specifically excluded the erection of buildings on the gifted land. Sir Stanley died in 1945.

## Caring for Badock's Wood

This Local Nature Reserve is owned and maintained by Bristol Parks. The Friends of Badock's Wood and Bristol Parks work closely together to protect, maintain and conserve the Woods. While you are here, please do your part to maintain the Woods for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Take your litter home and clear up after your dog (bins for dog waste are provided near the Lakewood Road and Doncaster Road entrances).

Visitors requiring wheelchair access should use the Doncaster Road entrance (phone Bristol Parks if you need a key).

## Find out more

Please contact:  
**Bristol Parks** [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks)  
**T: 0117 922 3719**  
or the Friends of Badock's Wood –  
[www.fobw.org.uk](http://www.fobw.org.uk)



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Illustrations: Abi Stubbs and Rosemary Burton  
Photography kindly supplied by FOBW and Bristol City Council



# Enjoy a Walk Through Badock's Wood





# Welcome to Badock's Wood Local Nature Reserve

## A Hidden Haven for Wildlife



### The Southmead Round Barrow

The Southmead Round Barrow (or tumulus) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument dating from the Bronze Age. It is 18m in diameter and 2m high and was first excavated in 1873 by R A Montgomery. He cut a passage 1.2m wide from the south side to the centre where it was enlarged to west and east.

Montgomery's work showed the barrow to be made of small unshaped stones of carboniferous limestone carefully piled up and embedded in a reddish earth. Flint flakes and 2 flint scrapers, together with animal bones were found in the mound. Fragments of human skull and other human bones were also discovered, though there was no evidence of a burial chamber or even a coffin.

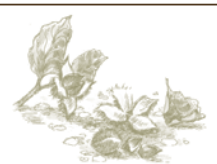
In 1922/23 a trial trench was dug into the tumulus by the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society and when Professor Tratman reviewed this work in 1946 he concluded that the tumulus was constructed around 1300 BC.

The field containing the tumulus was known as "Milltut Field" or "Mill Toot Field" since, at least, the 17th century. This suggests that the burial mound was once the site of a windmill.



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Bronze age person, showing the burial mound

However, no actual remains of a windmill have ever been found at the mound to support this suggestion. Anecdotal evidence supports the theory that there were windmills in the Westbury area in the past and which subsequently gave rise to field names such as "Windmill Close" and "Windmill Leaze".

In 2003, as a visual means of defining the location of the tumulus, Bristol City Council erected the sculpture that you can see today. It was designed by Somerset artist Michael Fairfax and the poem inscribed on it was written by his father, John Fairfax.

#### The inscription on the sculpture reads:

"AT BADOCKS WOOD GHOSTLY WINDMILL SAILS TURN AND LIKE A REWOUND FILM SPIN THROUGH HISTORY TO REMOTE TIMES WHEN THIS WAS BURIAL PLACE FOR BRONZE AGED WARRIOR IN THAT LANDSCAPE WOLVES PROWLED AND NERVY RED DEER GRAZED WHILE HOG ROOTED AMONG TREES"

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## Explore Some History at Badock's Wood







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Great spotted woodpecker

Tawny owl

### Milltut Field

This open area in which you are now standing was known as "Milltut Field" or "Mill Toot Field" in the 17th century. During the Second World War allotments were laid out in the field. After The War the allotments were replaced with 81 temporary prefabs and the area renamed "Bowness Gardens". These temporary prefabs were all demolished and removed in the early 1980s. Milltut Field was then returned to its designated status as a Public Open Space with remedial landscaping and planting undertaken by Bristol City Council. This landscaping included planting trees and reseeded with amenity grass.



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### Wild Flower Meadows

To improve the area for wildlife and to bring back some colour into the grassland, two large areas were reseeded with native grasses and wild flowers in 2005 and 2007. On both occasions, the reseeded was carried out with the help of children from Badock's Wood Primary School, who had great fun sowing the seeds!

Already native plants such as musk mallow, oxeye daisies, yellow rattle, wild carrot and knapweed are blossoming and providing nectar sources for many insects such as the common blue and large skipper butterflies.

Trees around the edge of the meadows provide shelter and nesting sites for birds.



Common blue and skipper butterflies

Meadow grass

## Enjoy a Stroll Around Wildflower Meadows

