

# Welcome to Norton Green Common



Norton Green Common is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), forming part of the wider Knebworth Woods SSSI. It consists of a mosaic of ancient woodland, an open glade of wet grassland with species characteristic of both chalk and neutral soils, as well as ponds, ancient ditches and historic hedges, all of which contribute to the rich biodiversity of the site.

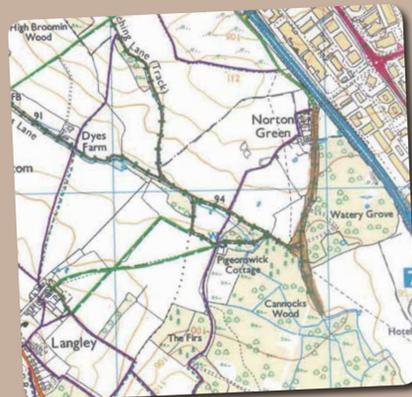
This rich tapestry provides important feeding areas for the fauna of the adjacent woodland. The open glade is the most important area for butterflies within the entire SSSI woodland. Norton Green Common supports a large community of bird species including regional rarities such as Cuckoo, Hawfinch and Spotted Flycatcher, as well as mammals, insects and amphibians.

SSSIs represent the UK's most important ecological and geological land, recognised as being of national importance. The Common, along with the adjoining SSSI land, is considered to be one of the most significant ecological areas in North Hertfordshire.

Preserving our natural heritage for future generations and protecting and managing the SSSI common land is a joint exercise between Natural England, Stevenage Borough Council and Knebworth Parish Council.



**We hope you enjoy exploring this special area!**



- Norton Green Common, which is just under nine acres, can be found on OS Explorer Map 193.
- Follow the Countryside Code. Please be thoughtful, take your litter home and leave the SSSI as you found it.
- If you have a dog with you please keep it under control to avoid disturbing birds, especially during the nesting season. Thank you.
- For more information including a downloadable leaflet visit [www.knebworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.knebworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Wildlife and habitat features

**KEY**

- Wet grassland
- Pond
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway
- Restricted byway
- Site boundary
- Kissing gate

**Silver-washed Fritillary**  
A fast-flying Summer butterfly.

Common plants along the edge of the track include Rough Chervil, Lesser Burdock and Smooth Hawk's-beard. Look out for bees, hoverflies and butterflies in the summer.

**Lady's Bedstraw**  
Honey-scented flowers from June to September. It was a popular choice for bedding thanks to its soft and springy quality.

**Bullfinch**  
The male has a bright pinkish-red chest and cheeks. The female has a paler buff-colouring.

**Treecreeper**  
Look out for this small bird, with a slender down-curved bill, on the trunks of trees. They only move up tree trunks - not down them!

**YOU ARE HERE**

**Waterly Grove**  
The woodland edge becomes more ancient in character, with highlights including Bluebells, Hedge Woundwort and Lady Fern. If you are lucky you may spot a spectacular Silver-washed Fritillary butterfly in July.

**Green Woodpecker**  
The largest woodpecker to breed in Britain. Listen out for its loud, laughing call.

**Purple Emperor**  
Found in the tree tops in well-wooded areas

**Biodiverse wet acidic grassland**, with species including False Fox-sedge, Red Bartsia, Lady's Bedstraw and Smooth Tare. Many butterfly species and a multitude of pollinators are present in the summer.

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Serving the community since 1894

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