



Earl's & Pontesford Hill

Nature Reserve SSSI

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Earls Hill and Pontesford Hill form a large, ecologically diverse site near Pontesbury, managed jointly by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the Friends of Pontesford Hill. The reserve features Green Woodpeckers and Grayling Butterflies. Ancient woodland plants such as Goldilocks Buttercup, and a small patch of Meadow Saffron is worth visiting when in flower. Yellow Meadow Ants, Adder's-tongue fern, Upright Chickweed, Changing Forget-me-not and Small Cudweed. Occasional sightings of Dormice and Dippers add to its ecological richness.

Geologically, the hills are part of the Pontesford Linley Fault and consist of ancient volcanic rocks like Rhyolites, Basalts, and Dolerite, shaping the landscape and soil acidity. The steep walks to the summit reveal remarkable views, with an Iron Age hill fort at the top, offering historical insights and stunning scenery. If you don't fancy the trip to the summit (take kendal Mint Cake!), then there is small Iron Age fort quite close to the carpark.

Overall, Earls Hill and Pontesford Hill offer a blend of natural beauty, wildlife, and archaeology. Visitors can explore diverse habitats, observe rare species, and delve into geological and historical features, making it a fascinating destination for nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike.

Location: East of Pontesbury

Size: 114 acres

Parking:
Dedicated reserve carpark and three bike racks

Accessibility: ☆☆☆
Steep walk to the summit, easier path at the base of the hill. Benches

Likely to see:
Acid grassland and ancient woodland plants

