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Hope Valley

Nature Reserve

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The Hope Valley Nature Reserve is tucked away beside Minsterley Brook and the main Minsterley to Bishops Castle road, between Ploxgreen and Hope. This steep wooded gorge is a mix of native deciduous and coniferous Douglas Fir plantation and recorded as a Planted Ancient Woodland Site - ancient woodlands which have been felled and replanted with non-native species. The site is damaged but still retains the soil of ancient woodland and may be restored with careful management. There are plans to increase the parking area and fell much of the non-native woodland.

One of the highlights of this nature reserve are the late spring bluebells which cover the top path and spill down the steep slopes. Yellow archangel is an ancient woodland indicator species. The wood is also home to a colony of dormice, and bird species including skylarks and meadow pipits, which nest in the open fields and hedgerows.

Location:
Hope Valley

Size:
47 acres

Parking:
Space for 3 cars

Accessibility: ☆ ☆
Steep uneven paths, narrow steps, fallen trees

Likely to see:
Woodland birds, moss, insects, bluebells



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