

Woodland

Towards the rear of the crematorium the woodland character starts to take back over and carpets of bluebells can be seen in the spring time. If you are lucky you may also see badger tracks in soft ground after rain.



It is also worth taking a few moments to stop and listen to the birds who make the woodland their home. If you are lucky you may even hear a woodpecker as it drills into a tree looking for insects. An I-Spy leaflet of the fauna and flora which may be seen in the grounds is available from the crematorium office.

Children's Memorial Garden

One of the best places to quietly sit to watch and listen for wildlife is in the garden, in the rear left corner of the crematorium. This is a place where open woodland, and wetland habitats meet and consequently has a diversity of wild plants. There are dedicated display boards in the memorial garden to help illustrate this.



If you would like to find out more about the history and wildlife of Peterborough Crematorium please contact:

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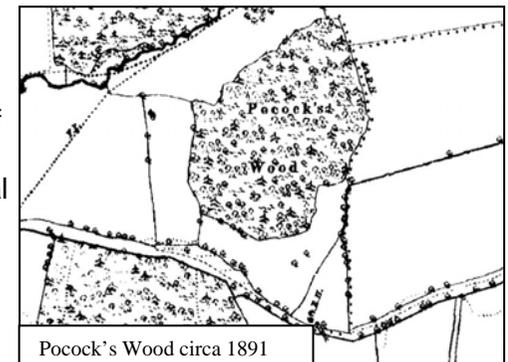
Wildlife at Peterborough Crematorium

Peterborough Crematorium was opened in 1958 and is surrounded by approximately 26 acres of grounds much of it left as original ancient woodland.



The trees enhance the tranquil atmosphere of the grounds and because of its origins, during the springtime, we have carpets of bluebells and other wild flowers. There are also a variety of birds and animals that visit the area.

Historically part of the grounds would have once been part of the Pocock's Wood, which still stands behind the crematorium, and part of the ground closer to the Marholm road would have been in agricultural management.



Much of the woodland character of the grounds can still be seen today if we know where and what to look for.

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Trees

Many of the mature trees which we see today were retained when the crematorium was constructed and the ground laid out. These include the majestic oak and ash trees which contribute so much to the tranquil atmosphere of the grounds. These would once have supplied timber for building, heating, fencing and manufacturing but now provide valuable habitats for the wildlife.



Some of the trees are getting to the stage where they need to be replaced. This is in many ways no different to when the woodland was managed for its ability to produce timber.

Often it has been possible to retain the tree stumps and we can count the tree rings to see how old the trees were.

Formal Areas

Clearly much of the crematorium is now managed quite formally, however this can still be very valuable for wildlife. The presence of flowers throughout the growing season provides nectar and pollen for insects such as bumble bees.



Any pests which might try to creep in to these areas, such as greenfly, provide an excellent source of food for ladybirds, which along with any caterpillars might help to feed the chicks of blue tits nesting in the tree boxes.



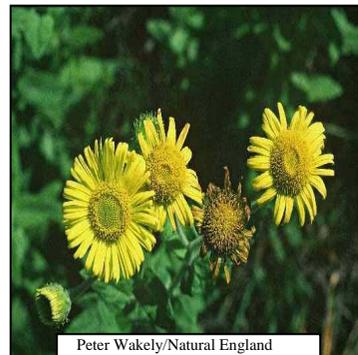
The tracks and droppings from deer can be seen all around the crematorium.



Unfortunately these visitors, along with squirrels, can be less welcome in the formal areas as they will tend to nibble the formal planting and flowers which have been left on memorials.

Stream

The small stream which runs through the grounds adds yet another type of habitat and is home to plants and animals not seen elsewhere in the crematorium.



In amongst the more formal planting on the banks of the stream it is possible to find plants such as fleabane which favours the marshy ground. As the name suggests this used to be used for its supposed properties as an insecticide. More anciently the Romans used this pretty yellow flower for the making of wreaths.

Lesser Celandine is more normally found in woodlands but can be found on the banks of the stream. Look out for the flowers which will close up in dull weather.

