

Site Safety

Your health and safety while visiting Huntley Wood is very important to us. The information in this document will help familiarise you with health and safety, the major risks, and what you are expected to do to keep yourself and others safe while visiting.

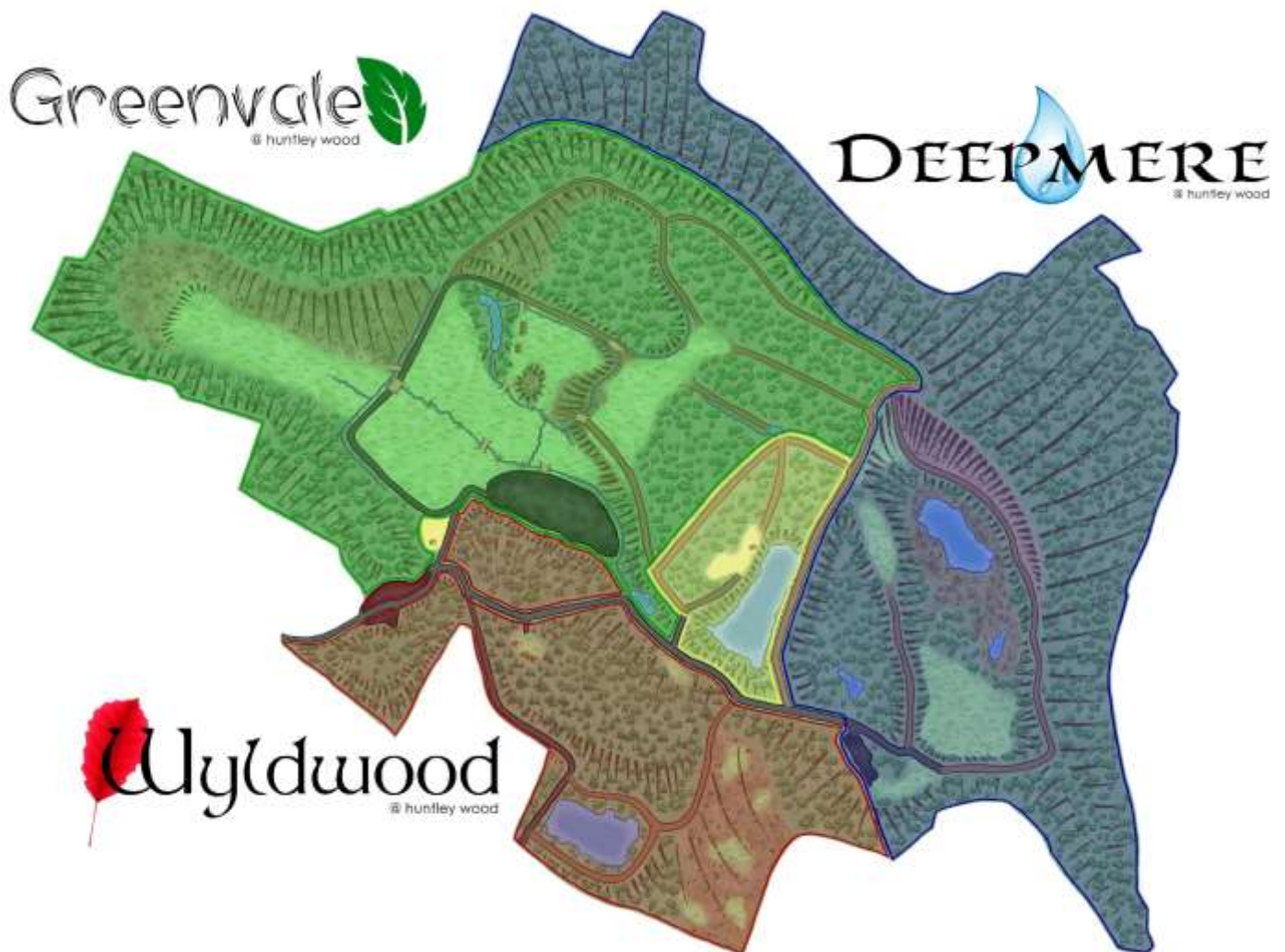
Remember – safety comes first. If you feel unsafe, STOP, talk to someone, and request additional assistance or information if needed. Please also be mindful of the safety of others, both by employing safe practices yourself and by encouraging others to do so.

We are committed to the health and safety of our visitors and employees, and expect everyone on Huntley Wood to adhere to the health and safety guidelines and policies we lay down, to ensure a safer environment for all.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND PROCEDURES LAID OUT IN THIS DOCUMENT MAY RESULT IN YOUR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM SITE.

Huntley Wood

Huntley Wood is 170 acres of former sand and gravel quarry which has been transformed into an outdoor recreation and leisure venue.



Risks

Huntley Wood is a former sand and gravel quarry, and there are a number of risks which you must be aware of while visiting. The next few pages outline the major risks, but whatever you are doing, and wherever you are on site, you should always look around you, consider the potential hazards, and ensure that you take sensible precautions to reduce any risk to yourself or others.

Remember, safety comes first!



Traffic

On and off road. Be careful when near roads & tracks, or when walking alongside roads & tracks, and be aware that vehicles could be moving about on any part of the site.



Dogs

The owners have dogs and so do some visitors, although great care is taken to prevent interaction with visitors, they may be present on any part of the site at any time.



Log Piles

We have Log Piles in designated areas, near campfires and in some forests. These can shift unexpectedly, causing heavy timber to roll or fall, and can cause injury. NEVER climb on log piles, or remove logs.



Uneven Ground

The terrain is uneven across much of the site, with hazards such as tree roots & stumps which can cause tripping and falling. A number of areas have rabbit holes and other animal dens which are significant hazards and can easily result in injury. Always watch your step!



Slippery Ground/Surfaces

Water or other liquids may make the ground slippery, indoors or out. We also have wooden decking around most buildings and on some paths, which can become slippery, so please always watch your step and NEVER run on the decking!



Sharp Objects

While we aim to keep a tidy site, there may be sharp objects such as nails, upturned forks or rakes, discarded tools, etc., on the ground where work is or has been taking place, and there are occasional unexpected items found across the site left from the former quarrying activities. These can injure the unwary if trodden on or tripped over. Always watch your step!



Barbed Wire

There are several barbed wire fences across and around the site, which can cause injury. Use caution when walking near fences.



Open Ditches

There are a number of open ditches on site, some new and exposed, others old and overgrown, which can easily cause falls. Always watch your step!



Steep Slopes & Large Drops

There are a number of very steep slopes and long drops across the site. Make sure you know where you are going, and never stray off known paths without a guide who knows the site, unless you can clearly see that your path is safe. Familiarise yourself with danger areas on the site, and stay away from them.



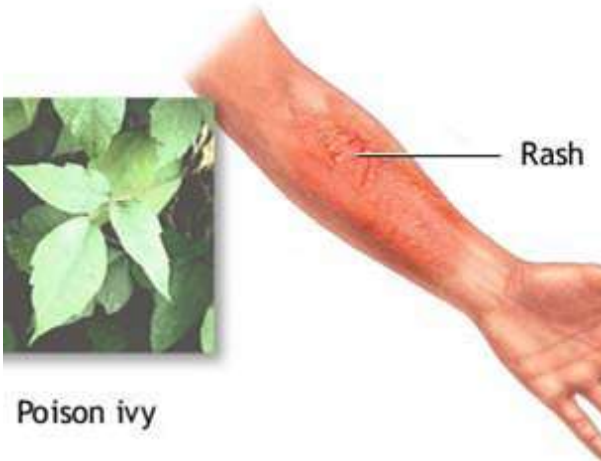
Deep Water & Silt

There are several ponds on the site, some of which have deep cold water and some of which are on top of deep silt beds which can act like quicksand. DO NOT enter the water, and be careful on the banks of ponds, or around areas of standing water, where the ground may be soft. Never drink from our lakes!



Trees

High winds or heavy rain can loosen branches and destabilise trees, and even apparently healthy trees can shed branches unexpectedly. Always be cautious when walking in woodland areas, especially after stormy weather.



Vegetation

Some plants such as thistles, brambles or stinging nettles can cause minor damage to skin, while others can provoke allergic reactions, ranging from minor to severe, if touched or ingested. Any plant can cause damage if you catch a twig or shoot in your eye. When walking in overgrown areas or handling plants, please make sure you cover skin by wearing long sleeves, long trousers and gloves.



Weather

When outside, the weather can impact significantly on your health and safety. In hot weather, wear sunscreen to protect against skin damage, and fewer layers of clothing to prevent heat exhaustion. In cold weather wear more layers of clothing and waterproofs to protect against rain and cold. Take regular breaks in sheltered locations (cool shade in hot weather, warm cars or buildings in cold weather), and ensure that when walking a significant distance from the buildings you take adequate supplies of water and drink regularly, to avoid dehydration.

huntley wood

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Public Access

Although Huntley Wood is closed to the public, with signs and fences in place, there is one public footpath through the ancient woodland, and members of the public have been known to walk across other parts of the site.



Insect Bites and Stings

Wasps, bees, ants and other insects can bite or sting, and may be present across the site. Bites or stings can cause minor reactions or severe allergic reactions. Please be aware of insects, particularly in areas with heavy vegetation.

In case of Fire:

IF SAFE TO DO SO, please employ nearby firefighting equipment such as fire extinguisher, water, fire beaters or blankets. **MAKE SURE** you only use the appropriate equipment, e.g. **DO NOT** use water on electrical fires. If the fire cannot be swiftly extinguished, retreat to safety and dial 999 or 112 for the emergency services.

Wildlife Considerations:

We have some interesting and important wildlife and ecology at Huntley Wood, which must be taken into account when visiting Huntley Wood.

We apply the “precautionary principle”, to keep disturbance to wildlife minimal.

When visiting:

- Please be as considerate to the environment as possible.
- Keep vehicle speed down when moving around site, and remain on roads at all times.
- Be extra careful around the edges of the site and near large patches of vegetation.
- Do not set open fires unless authorised to do so by the land owners.
- Do not drop litter.

If in doubt, please ASK.