



Barnsoul Caravan Park Nature Trail

Welcome to the wonderful natural haven of Barnsoul. With our three beautiful woods and two fishing ponds, set amongst acres of natural farmland, there is an abundance of wildlife, flora and fauna for you to enjoy during your stay.

Barnsoul is not a place where you need to seek out Nature - please feel free to wander around the Park and investigate the surroundings at your leisure - Nature will show herself to you!!

We have compiled a short nature trail for you to follow and would be delighted to see any photos you may take as you walk around.....

Starting from the Reception building (where you may be lucky enough to see our family of stoats heading out for 'play time'!), walk down to the main road and turn left. Follow the road past the recycling bins and amenity building on your right. Turn right when you reach the picnic area to your left and you can see the shower block in front of you. On entering the static and lodge park, keep an eye on the trees to the right as you may spot our resident woodpeckers and also some Red Squirrels.

Wander straight on and turn left when you reach the Wigwams. Following the path round between the Wigwams on your left and pond on your right, you will reach the entrance to the Big Wood.

Once in to the wood, taking the path to the right when you reach the first fork, you will reach a feeding station on your left. This is a regular haunt for many species of bird including Finches (Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Goldfinch to name a few), Blue Tits, Great Tits, Wagtails and Nuthatches. There is also a feed hopper for the pheasants which are also frequent visitors to the feeding station. Why not take the time to feed the birds – it really will be worthwhile. Our resident red squirrels can regularly be seen around this area, as well as running along the wall by Crow Wood.

Carrying on down this pathway, you will come across a small burn that runs through the wood. Look carefully and you may spot frogs, toads and newts.

Further along the path, you will arrive at the first of many 'dens' and shelters which have built in the woods over the years. This one is very well built, made of twigs and covered with moss. Please feel free to look closely in case you come across any 'residents'.

Following the pathway once again, you will come across a little bridge which takes you over the burn and then you will come out again into the static and lodge park by the Wigwams. You will notice that by each Wigwam, areas of meadow grass have been left uncut and there are wildflowers in evidence. PLEASE do not pick the flowers!

Around this area, largely due to the wild flowers, you will see many different species of butterfly, moths, dragon flies and also beautiful blue damson flies.

Walking back along the track, the Wigwams will be on your right with the Mill Pond on your left. We have our own annual visitors to the Pond - Canada geese visit every year and they nested and again, successfully reared six goslings earlier this year.

Once over the bridge turn left, then walk up through the tent field. Make your way through the gate at the top left hand corner and on again through the gate along the pathway which runs alongside the newly planted wooded area. Turn left at the gate to the sheep field and follow the path along the top. Keep a look out to your left and you are likely to see the fox which has raised her litter of cubs in the undergrowth in front of the woods.

A little further along the path, if you look in to the field where cattle are usually grazing, you could catch sight of the deer that can be often seen drinking from the burn.

When you reach the gate at the top of the path, take a moment to take in the views all around – they are stunning.

If you are interested in history, bearing in mind the 'Country Code', you could make your way up the hill where you will pass a medieval farm settlement on your left and then reach the Hill Fort. The views from here are wonderful.

Follow the route back down into the centre of the Big Wood. You will come across a gateway which will take you on a different pathway back out on to the Park.

When you re-enter the Park this time, walk along the road, past the sheiling on the right and the reed bed on the left. Climb over the stile on the left and you will come into Pete's Wood. Many of the trees in this wood are Broadleaf so the plantlife is quite different to the other areas of the Park.

Follow the pathway through the wood and take a little time to notice how many different types of plant and tree you can see. Look closely and you may be surprised!

Once again, you may have the opportunity of seeing the deer which regularly frequent this area.

Following this path will lead you out and back onto the roadway. You can then just stroll back onto the Park or maybe walk up the driveway, keeping a look out for Buzzards and the magnificent Red Kites which can be seen flying above.

It is also worth noting that you are very likely to see badgers around the Park but this is not usually during the day. Also, we would be delighted if you would take part in our 'Bat Count' during your visit. Please pick up a form from Reception.

We very much hope you enjoyed following our Nature Trail and look forward to seeing you again very soon.