

Alfrick Pound to Crews Hill area looking at old orchards and the Crews Hill WWT reserve

Wednesday 4th February. Weather cold but bright and sunny, early signs of spring alongside the hedgerows and in the woodland.

Walk starting at Alfrick Pound: footpath alongside 'Wobbly Wheel' through old orchard and pasture, then right alongside old hedgerow to Whitehouse Lane by the barns. Left along lane to Whitehouse Farm (cottage), then left down track through pasture down to gate before bridge over stream. Right through metal kissing gate and up over stile into old apple orchard. Uphill through orchard alongside ancient derelict sunken lane on the right, then right to footbridge over stream. Uphill through pasture (off footpaths with permission of the owner), passing huge old coppiced sycamore and up right to stile into Crews Hill Wood reserve. Up footpath to the ridge, briefly left along Worcestershire Way to the bench, back along the ridge through the woodland then along the permissive path, keeping on the ridge, to the lane and small Reserve parking area. Right down the lane, then after 50 yards or so downhill right onto footpath through pasture, keeping to wood edge to the stile at the top. Downhill diagonally right (again off footpaths with permission) into old apple orchard, then down to stile and kissing gate, retracing outward route.

Birds

English name	Scientific name	Comment
Blackbird, Common	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Orchard
Buzzard, Common	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Over grazing land
Chaffinch, Common	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
Crow, Carrion	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
Fieldfares	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	On grazing land in mixed flock (50+) with fieldfares (a few)
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Crews Hill Wood reserve
Magpie, Eurasian	<i>Pica pica</i>	
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Crews Hill Wood reserve
Pigeon, Common Wood	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
Redwings	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	On grazing land in mixed flock (50+) with fieldfares (a few)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	-+ =polmk0-gft65rewq321`
Sparrow, house	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Tit, Blue	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	
Tit, Great	<i>Parus major</i>	
Tit, Long-tailed	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Crews Hill Wood Reserve

Woodpecker, Great Spotted	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Heard
Wren, Eurasian	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	In hedgerows

Plants

English name	Scientific name	Comment
Daffodils		Cultivated, along edges of pastures Cherry Green. Probably originated from commercial crop early to mid 20th century
Figwort, water	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	On edge of track in water from a spring
Orchid leaves, probably Early Purple	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Opposite bench on Worcestershire Way, Crews Hill Reserve
Snowdrops		In flower in hedgerows
Spurge-laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	In Crews Hill Reserve car parking area, top of Crews Hill