

# Croeso i Gomin y Felin

## Welcome to Mill Common



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy



Coedwig  
Genedlaethol i Gymru  
National Forest  
for Wales



Cronfa  
Treftadaeth  
Heritage  
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
In Partnership with  
Welsh Government

Ariennir y prosiect hwn gan gynllun y Grant Buddsoddi mewn Coetiroedd (TWIG). Mae'n cael ei ddarparu gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol mewn partneriaeth a Llywodraeth Cymru a'u Rhaglen Coedwig Genedlaethol i Gymru.

This project is funded by The Woodland Investment Grant (TWIG) scheme. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with the Welsh Government's National Forest for Wales Programme.

### ENJOY THE WOODLAND

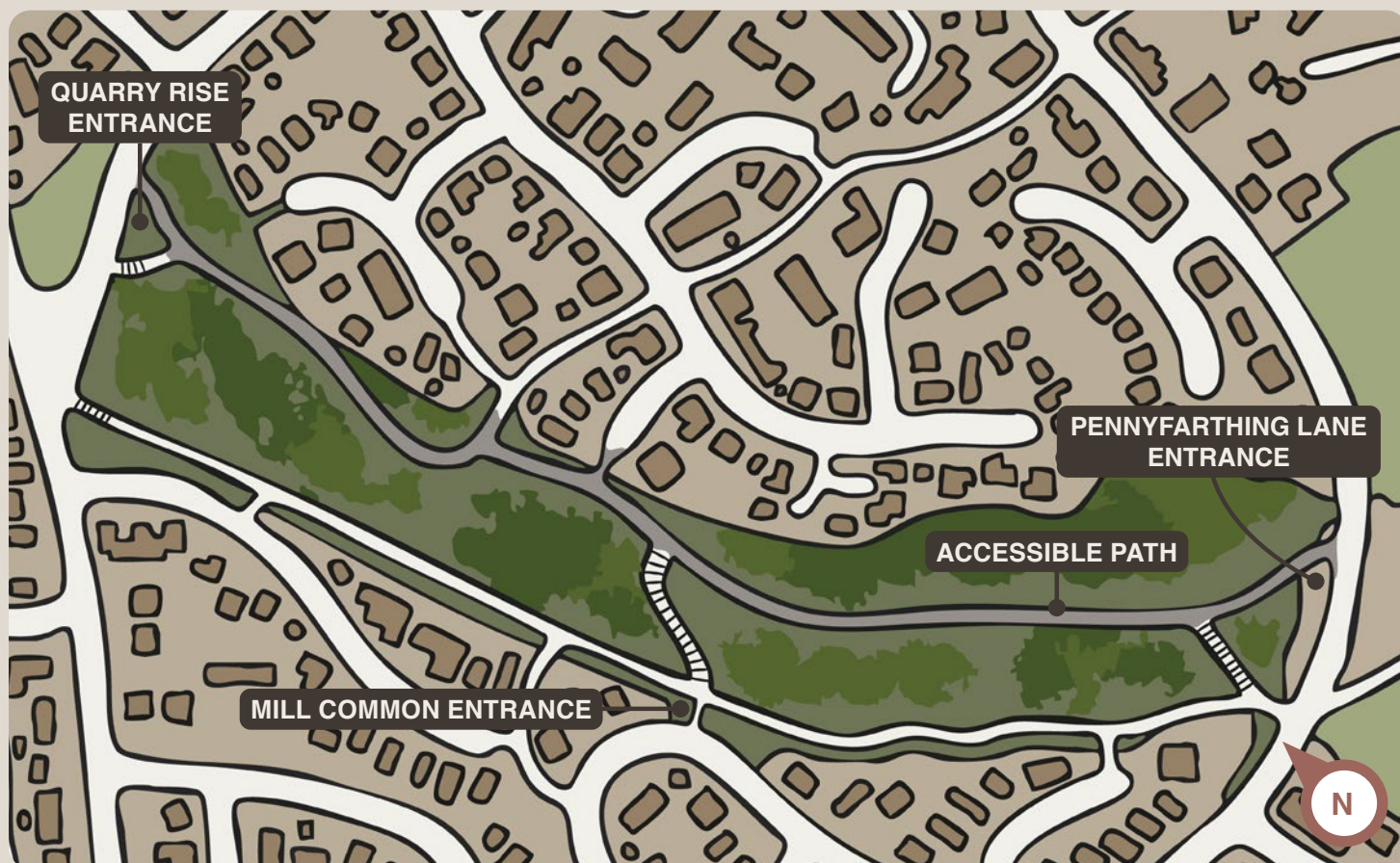
Mill Common is for both people and wildlife alike. Please explore responsibly, keep dogs under control, respect the plants and wildlife and take litter home or use local bins.

Following these guidelines helps keep Mill Common safe, cared for, and a welcoming place for all.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Canllaw i'r safle

## Site Guide



### ABOUT MILL COMMON

Once part of Undy's shared common land, Mill Common appeared on 18th-century maps as open pasture for grazing and hay cutting by local people. After traditional grazing declined in the 20th century, trees and native plants established naturally, gradually forming the mixed woodland seen today.

Now a valued broadleaf woodland between Magor and Undy, it offers a quiet space for walking and enjoying nature throughout the seasons. Winding paths, sheltered glades and open areas create a varied landscape, with views across the Gwent Levels towards the Severn Estuary and habitat for diverse wildlife.

Managed as a community woodland, ongoing work protects mature trees, enhances biodiversity and maintains paths for visitors. Visitors are asked to stay on paths, respect wildlife and take litter home so the site can be enjoyed by future generations.

### ENJOY THE WOODLAND

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### DISCOVER

Scan the QR code to visit the Mill Common website, learn about the site, and access our digital content and online resources.



### CONTACT

Monmouthshire County Council  
County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk,  
Wales, NP15 1GA  
01633644644  
[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/mill-common/](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/mill-common/)

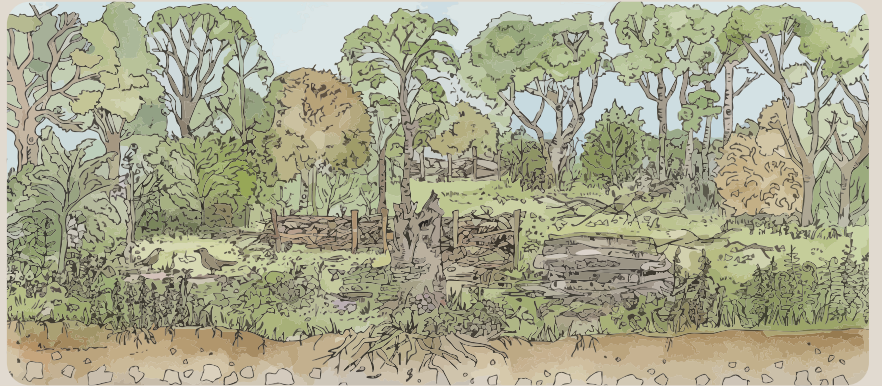
# Ardaloedd y safle

## Areas of the site

### DISCOVER THE WOODLAND

Mill Common's woodland is a living system, from treetops to the soil beneath your feet. Trees, fungi, wildlife and soil work together, with fallen leaves and deadwood feeding the ground below. The soil stores carbon, holds water and supports new life, creating balance across the woodland. Every layer is connected in one thriving ecosystem.

Discover the woodland and see how everything works together as a living whole.



### EXPLORE THE GRASSLAND

Mill Common is a mosaic of connected habitats, from open grassland to shaded glades. Sunlit rides and clearings create warm edges beside cooler, sheltered areas, supporting a wide variety of plants and animals. These corridors allow wildlife to move, feed and nest, helping species flourish and adapt while keeping the site open and welcoming for visitors. Explore the grassland and enjoy its rich variety of wildlife.



### LOOK AT THE LANDSCAPE

From Mill Common, enjoy wide views across the Gwent Levels, Severn Estuary and beyond. Shaped over 2,000 years by water, farming and people, this landscape reflects a long relationship between land and sea. The limestone ridge marks a transition to wetlands, while reens, sea walls, grazing and saltmarsh connect habitats and communities.

Look at the landscape and understand its living history and balance.



# Hanes y safle

## Site History

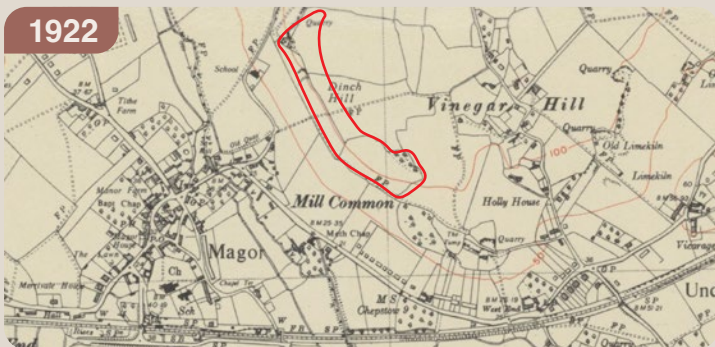
1840



1902



1922



1970



2026



### HISTORY OF THE COMMON

Mill Common is a small broadleaf woodland between Magor and Undy, valued as a peaceful green space for walking and enjoying nature. Winding paths, clearings and small glades create an intimate feel, while mature oak, ash and sycamore reflect natural regeneration since grazing ended. The site offers views across the Gwent Levels towards the Severn Estuary, linking habitats between the Levels and Wentwood and reflecting long-term change in land use and landscape.

Historically, Mill Common was part of Undy's shared common land on the edge of the Gwent Levels. The 1840 tithe map shows open pasture used for grazing and hay cutting. Nearby limestone ridges were quarried in the 18th and 19th centuries, while the wider area supported farming. As grazing declined in the 20th century, trees colonised open ground, forming today's woodland.

In the 1970s, housing for Magor and Undy was planned to link the villages, with Mill Common retained as shared space for recreation, wildlife and community use.

Today it is managed as a community woodland, balancing access and conservation. Work protects veteran trees, manages disease and opens glades to increase light and biodiversity, ensuring Mill Common continues to evolve as a resilient landscape.

### REFLECTIVE CARTOGRAPHY

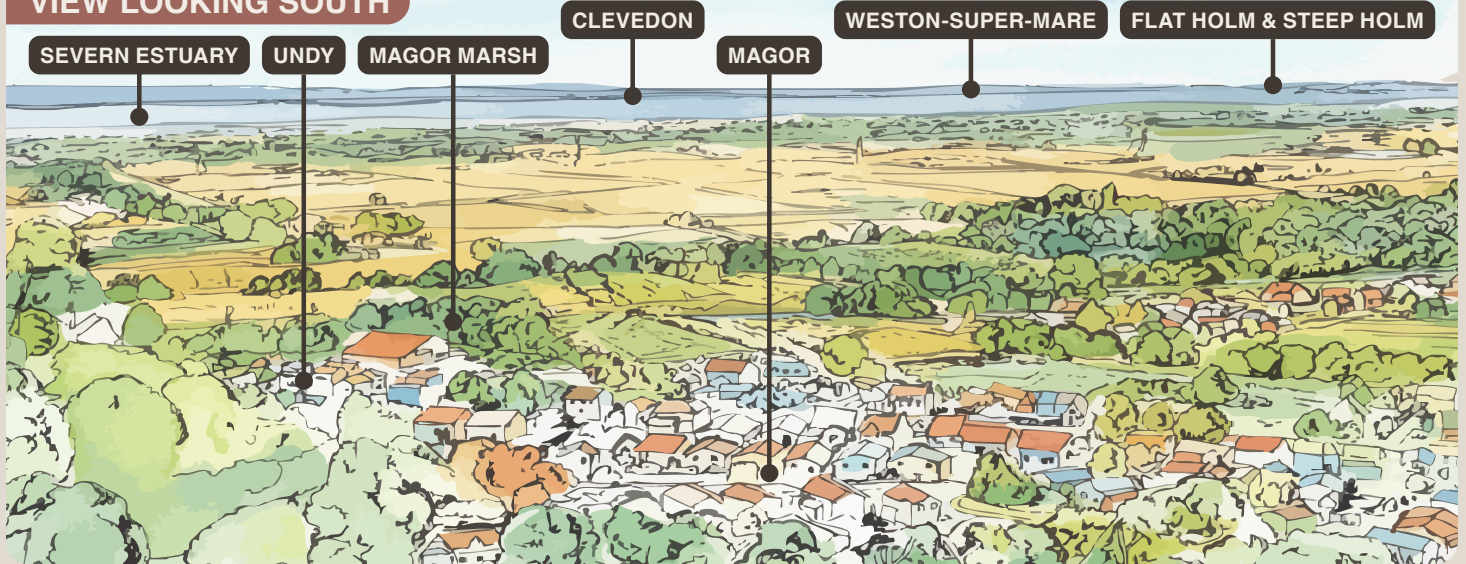
A series of maps dating back to 1840 allow visitors to look back at how Mill Common has changed over time. They show the shift from open common land to woodland, while highlighting how the space has been retained and adapted for community use.

The maps reveal a continuous relationship between people, landscape and nature, showing how Mill Common has evolved while remaining a valued local woodland throughout its recorded history.

# Edrych ar y dirwedd

## Looking at the landscape

### VIEW LOOKING SOUTH



### READ THE LANDSCAPE

This landscape can be read through its features, each showing how people and nature have shaped it over time. What you see has been carefully formed and is still actively managed.

Reens move water across the Levels, sea walls protect from tides, and grazing fields support farming and communities. Raised routes such as the causeway link settlements across wet ground, while saltmarsh beyond the sea wall provides important habitat.

Many historic features still retain local names, telling a story of land and water shaped together.

### REGIONAL MAP



SEA WALLS



CAUSEWAYS



REENS



MEADOWS

### ENJOY THE VIEW

Enjoy the views as you explore Mill Common on foot, following paths along higher ground to reach mapped viewpoints.

On a clear day, views can extend up to 30 miles across the Severn Estuary, including Portishead, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Flat Holm, Steep Holm, the Quantock Hills and Exmoor, as well as the Rhymney Valley and Welsh coastline.

The view is always changing with light, weather and seasons, creating a different landscape each visit. We encourage you to return throughout the year to experience these changes.

# Edrych ar y comiwn

## Looking at the common

### VIEW OVER THE COMMON



### LANDSCAPE OF THE COMMON

Mill Common sits on a limestone ridge above the Levels, marking a natural transition between two different landscapes. These edge areas are rich in wildlife as species from both habitats meet. Historic maps show the woodland enduring as surrounding land was farmed and gradually settled. More recent urban growth and the shift from agriculture to recreation have allowed the wood to expand naturally. Today, the woodland is part of a wider landscape mosaic, including gardens, parks, and green spaces, helping wildlife move freely through both community and surrounding countryside.



### LEARNING TO SEE

Slow down, pause, and look closely. This woodland reveals its hidden stories through careful, patient observation. The shape of a tree can hint at the winds that shaped it, the light it reached for, or the space it once shared with surrounding trees and plants. Veteran trees record centuries of change, while younger growth shows the woodland renewing, adapting, and responding to its environment. By noticing subtle textures, patterns, and behaviours in plants, insects, and birds, you can develop a richer understanding of the woodland, its nature, history, and intricate web of life.

# Edrych ar y bywyd gwyllt

## Looking at the wildlife

### WILDLIFE

The wildlife here is influenced by the Gwent Levels to the South, the hills, farmland and woodland to the North and the gardens of the surrounding residential areas. This makes mill common a unique habitat important for a wide variety wildlife but also at risk from alien invasions. It also means that people who live nearby are likely to enjoy seeing a wider variety garden visitors but also need to be mindful of the risk that garden plants are if they escape into nature.

### VIEW OVER MILL COMMON



### ANIMALS AT MILL COMMON

If you sit quietly, you may see slow worms, a sparrowhawk or even a fox. In the early evening, listen for hedgehogs moving through the undergrowth, and watch bats hunting along the edges where trees meet grassland. These transition zones provide shelter, feeding areas and safe routes for wildlife moving through the site. Many species are most active at dusk and dawn and during the night.



BUZZARD



LONG TAILED TIT



PIPISTRELLE BAT



HEDGEHOG



CENTIPEDE



SLOWWORM

### PLANTS AT MILL COMMON

Grassland and woodland edges support a rich mix of wildflowers and seasonal plants. Some are bold and striking, such as hogweed, while others are valued for scent, like wild garlic. Primroses brighten the day in spring, while honeysuckle releases its scent in the evening. Bluebells appear in spring, ivy and fungi in autumn, and many species provide year-round interest across different habitats.



WOOD ANEMONE



RED CAMPION



BLUEBELLS



YARROW



OXEYE DAISY



INKCAP FUNGI

# Edrych ar y coed

## Looking at the trees

### TREES AT MILL COMMON

The trees of Mill Common reveal how this landscape has changed.

The oldest are wide, spreading and uneven, showing they grew in open conditions. This suggests the area was once grazed by animals such as cattle or horses, which kept young trees in check. Some grew along hedgerows, while others survived in rough ground or quarry hollows beyond grazing. Together, these conditions created the scattered veteran trees seen today.

When grazing ended and housing replaced farmland, trees spread rapidly. Seeds fell onto open grassland and, without browsing animals, a new generation grew close together, competing for light. This is why many trees are tall, thin and of similar age.

Ash thrived during this period. Its light seeds travelled easily on estuary winds, and for a time it became a defining species. However, ash dieback disease has since removed much of this generation.

Other species reflect more recent change. Field maples on higher ground may have been planted as the estate developed, while hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and cherry spread naturally from nearby hedgerows. Lines of old hazel still mark former boundaries.

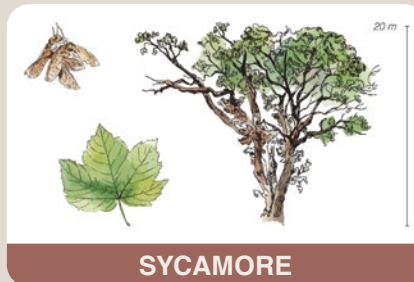
Today, Mill Common is evolving again. New native trees are being planted to replace lost ash and create a more diverse, resilient woodland, continuing a long story of change and careful management.



ASH



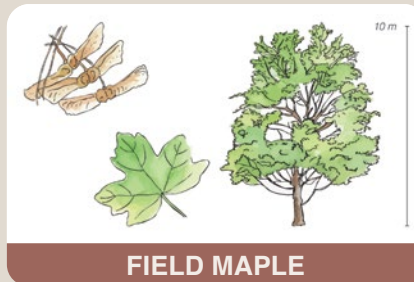
OAK



SYCAMORE



WILD CHERRY



FIELD MAPLE



BLACKTHORN



### IDENTIFICATION

- |   |                   |   |                  |
|---|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Epiphytic plants  | 5 | Sap run          |
| 2 | Water pools       | 6 | Crevices in bark |
| 3 | Holes and hollows | 7 | Fungi            |
| 4 | Loose bark        | 8 | Dead wood        |