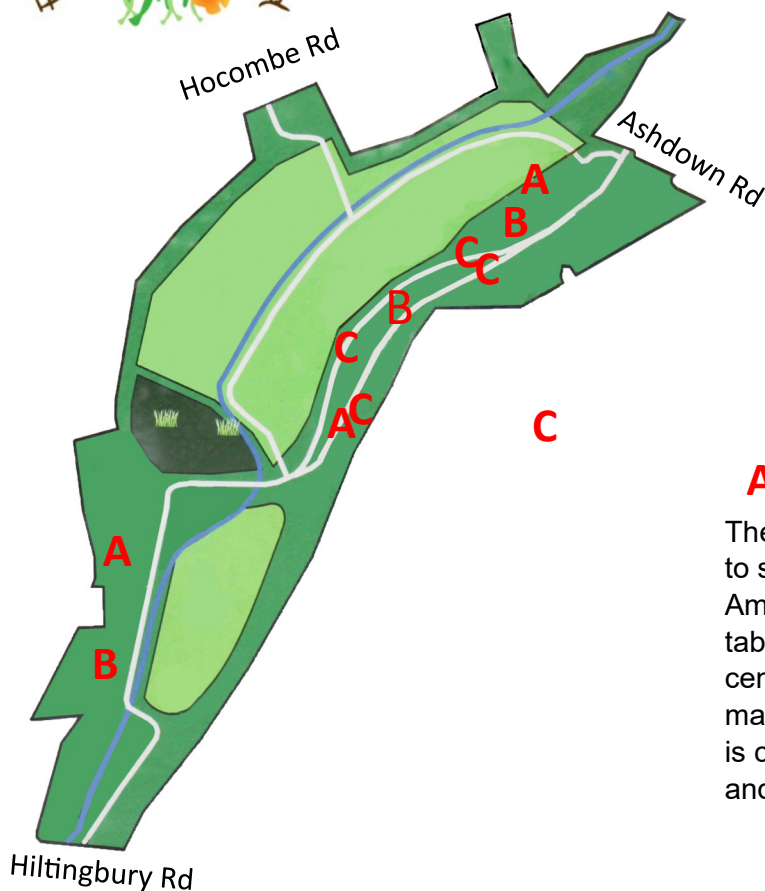




What to see in November 2020



A Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

The grey squirrel is the easiest of our mammals to see; it was introduced into the UK from North America in the mid-19th century and became established in the wild by the beginning of the 20th century. The grey squirrel eats acorns, beech masts, leaves, shoots, buds and flowers, its nest is called a drey, which can be seen high in trees, and is the size of a football.



B Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

Bracken is the most common fern in the UK. It likes dry acid soils and spreads readily by means of underground rhizomes. It releases allelopathic chemicals which inhibit the growth of other plants thus enabling it to colonise large areas easily. Bracken dies back in the winter but often provides an attractive display of red, yellow and tan coloured fronds.



C Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

The red berry-like structures on the Yew at this time of year are actually seed cones which each contain a single seed. The red fleshy outside is attractive to birds such as thrushes which it eats but does not digest the seed inside: this will leave the bird in its droppings which disperses the seed.

All parts of the Yew are poisonous to humans.

See our downloadable children's I Spy chart on www.hocombe-mead.org