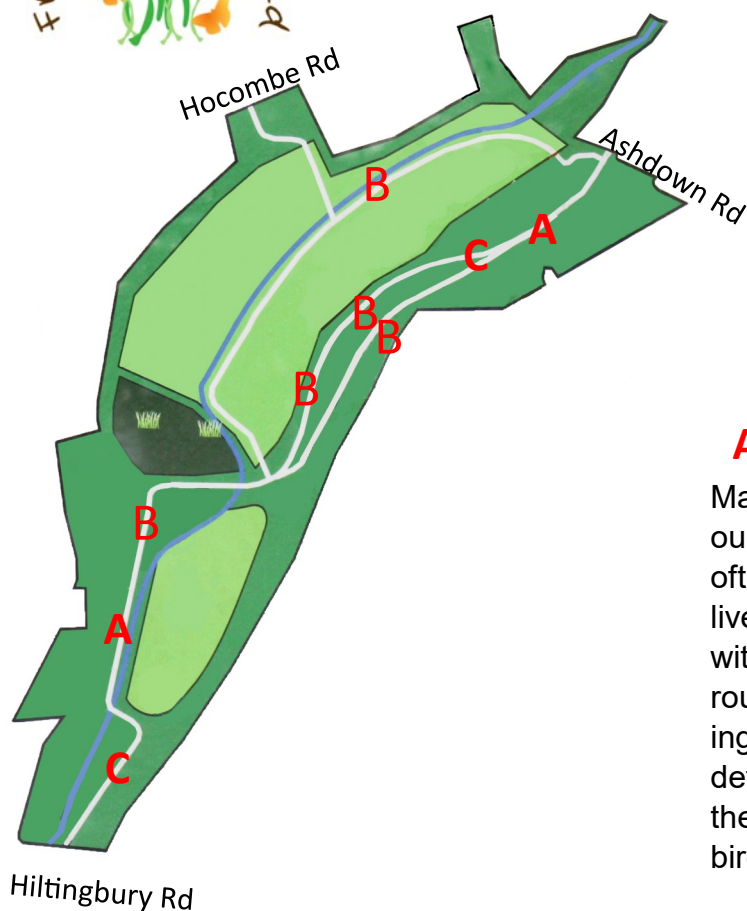




What to see in December 2020



A Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Male and female robins have very similar colouring so it is difficult to tell them apart. Males often hold the same territory throughout their lives and will defend it from potential intruders with song. As they keep their territory all year round this means that they can be heard singing in the winter. They are quite aggressive in defending their territory and will even attack their own reflection if they mistake it for another bird.



B Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Holly trees are either male or female. Both have flowers but only the female produces berries. Nectar from the flowers is used as a food source for bees and other insects and the berries are eaten by birds and rodents. Holly is one of the species in Hocombe Mead that has to be controlled by regular cutting.



C Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

In the winter, without so much vegetation around, the ivy on the ground and on trees is more visible. Berries that are beginning to develop will provide welcome food for birds such as blackbirds and thrushes.