

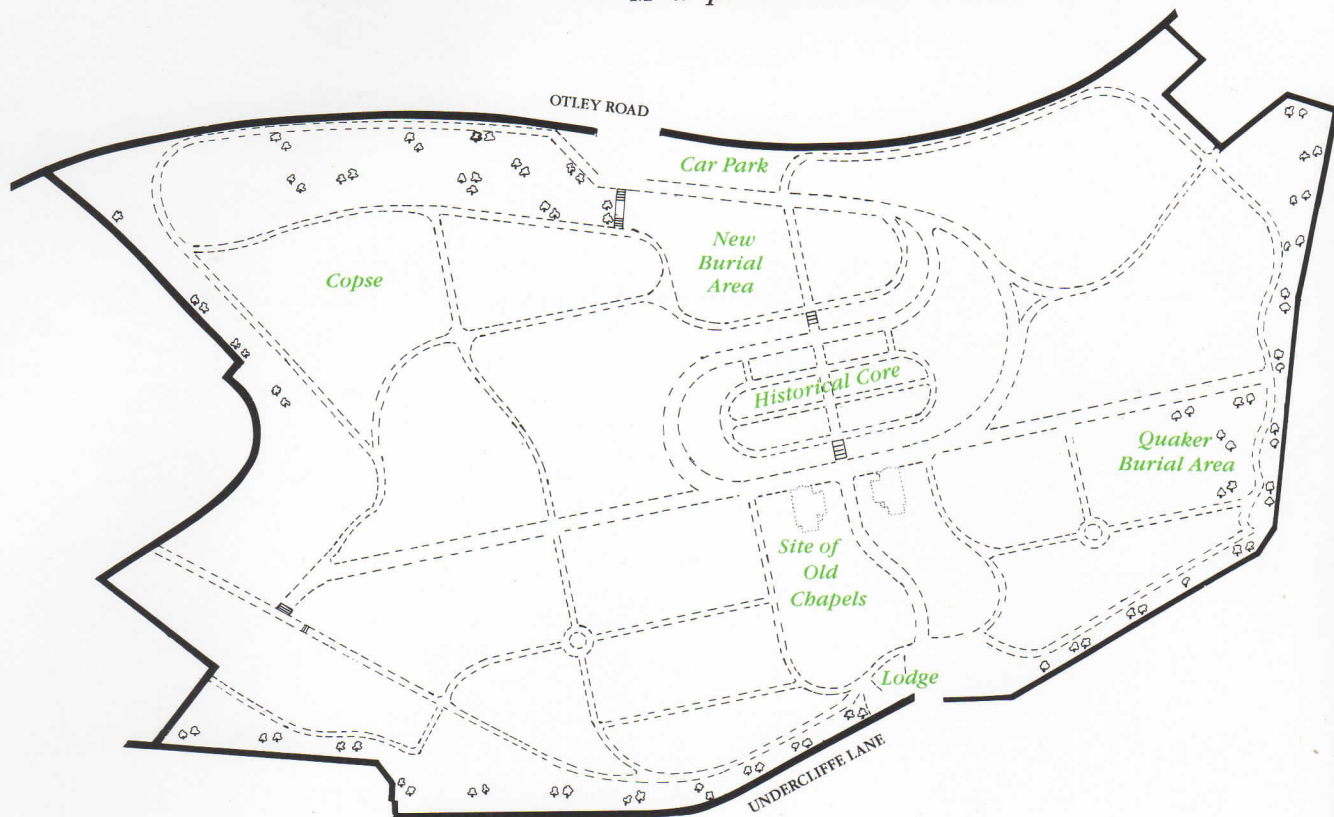


*Undercliffe Cemetery*

• WILDLIFE •



## M a p



**T**he aim of this leaflet is to encourage people to look about and become aware of the various forms of wildlife which exist all round.

Each section includes boxes for you to tick as you see each of the plants and animals illustrated. Some things are more easily seen at certain times of year and your success rate will therefore depend upon the season. It may take more than one visit to spot everything.

Use the map to explore the cemetery but be careful if you leave the paths, because the ground may be very uneven.

# *U n d e r c l i f f e   C e m e t e r y*

## **A   S H O R T   H I S T O R Y**

**F**or many years after its creation in 1854 Undercliffe Cemetery was carefully tended like a formal park, with lawns, flower beds and shrubberies. The edge of the cemetery was planted with trees and hedgerows.

But in 1975 the Bradford Cemetery Company went out of business and Undercliffe Cemetery became overgrown and neglected. The area began to revert to its natural state and more species of animals and plants moved in.

During 1984 Bradford Council made the site a Conservation Area and in 1985 bought the cemetery, with the intention of protecting its historic interest and restoring it to its former glory.

Although still an operational cemetery various areas have been set aside and managed in a way that will attract wildlife.

## *The Management Plan*

Plants which are normally regarded as weeds in fact provide food and shelter for a large variety of animals. Therefore in some areas wild grasses, clovers, thistles and rosebay willowherb are left to flower and are cut down only after they have seeded.

Native trees have been planted, mainly around the cemetery's edge. These provide nesting and feeding areas particularly for birds.

Dead logs have been left to be colonised by beetles, woodlice and fungi. Piles of stones provide useful shelters for animals and insects.

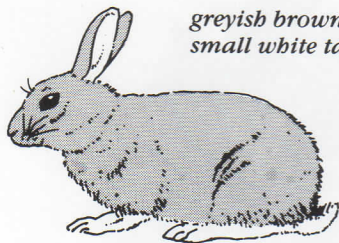


**A**lthough large numbers of wood mice and bank voles live in the long grass, they are not often to be seen. You are more likely to see tunnels in the grass and hovering kestrels which hunt mice and voles for food.

Foxes have been known to visit the cemetery to search for food but because they are nocturnal they are rarely seen.

Occasional visitors include the grey squirrel, hedgehog and rabbit. Watch out for rabbit's footprints in the snow and droppings on short turf.

In an effort to attract bats a number of bat boxes have been placed in the cemetery. This is because there is a lack of natural sites for them to hibernate and breed.



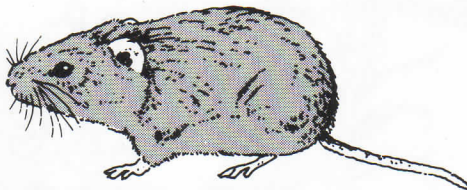
1

*greyish brown fur, with small white tail.*



2

*grey all over with long, bushy tail.*



3

*brownish red with shorter tail than a mouse.*



# MAMMALS

1 rabbit

☐

4 wood mouse

☐

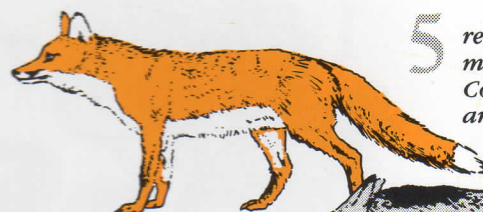
2 grey squirrel

☐

5 red fox

☐

3 bank vole

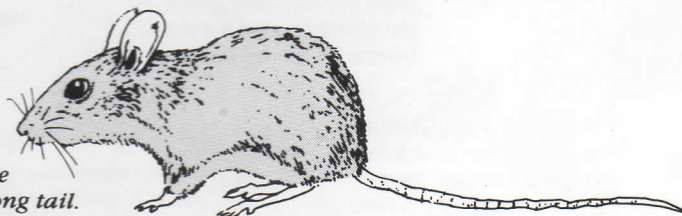
☐


5 reddish brown, dog sized mammal with bushy tail. Common in the countryside and increasing in towns.



4

brown with a pale underside, very long tail. Often enters houses.





**T**he most common tree in the cemetery is the sycamore. Although introduced to Britain in the thirteenth century it only became popular in the eighteenth century when it was widely planted by gardeners and landscape architects. Compared with other trees, animals have had less time to adapt themselves to colonise the sycamore. For this reason the sycamore is often felled in nature reserves to allow native trees to flourish. In the cemetery, the sycamore is being retained until newly planted native trees reach maturity.

The second most common tree here is the hawthorn which can be found planted in hedges around the cemetery's edge. It is chosen as a nesting place by birds because its thorns provide protection. Its berries provide food in the autumn and winter.

There are only a few mature ash trees but you can see many saplings up to 20 feet in height, easily

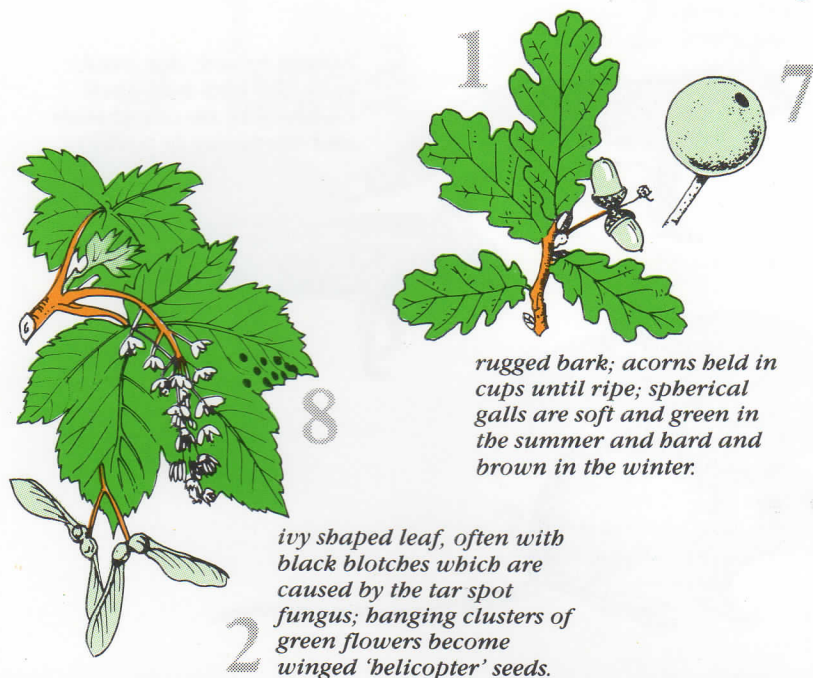
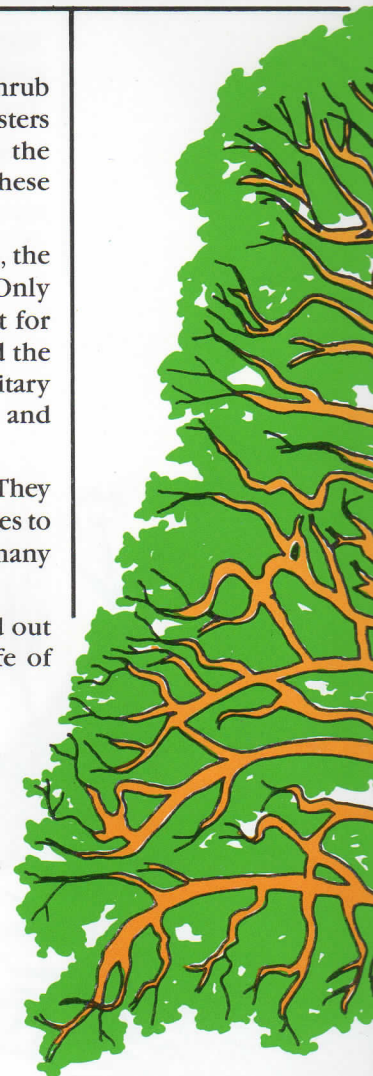
spotted in winter by their black buds.

An attractive feature of the cemetery is the shrub like elder. In the summer it displays large clusters of sweet smelling, white flowers which in the autumn develop into purple-black berries. These are a valuable source of food for wildlife.

One of the country's longest established trees, the oak, is poorly represented in the cemetery. Only a handful are present but they are important for wildlife. Look out for the familiar acorn and the oak gall. Within each oak gall is a larva of a solitary wasp. This eventually changes into an adult and drills a tiny hole through which to emerge.

Also to be found here are several whitebeams. They can easily be recognised by the pale undersides to their leaves. Their ripening berries attract many birds during the autumn.

Unfortunately Dutch Elm Disease has wiped out the local elm population, depriving wildlife of valuable nesting holes.



*rugged bark; acorns held in cups until ripe; spherical galls are soft and green in the summer and hard and brown in the winter.*

*ivy shaped leaf, often with black blotches which are caused by the tar spot fungus; hanging clusters of green flowers become winged 'helicopter' seeds.*



*smooth, grey bark; each leaf made up of about 10 leaflets; black buds in winter.*



# TREES

1 oak

☐

5 whitebeam

☐

2 sycamore

☐

6 hawthorn

☐

3 ash

☐

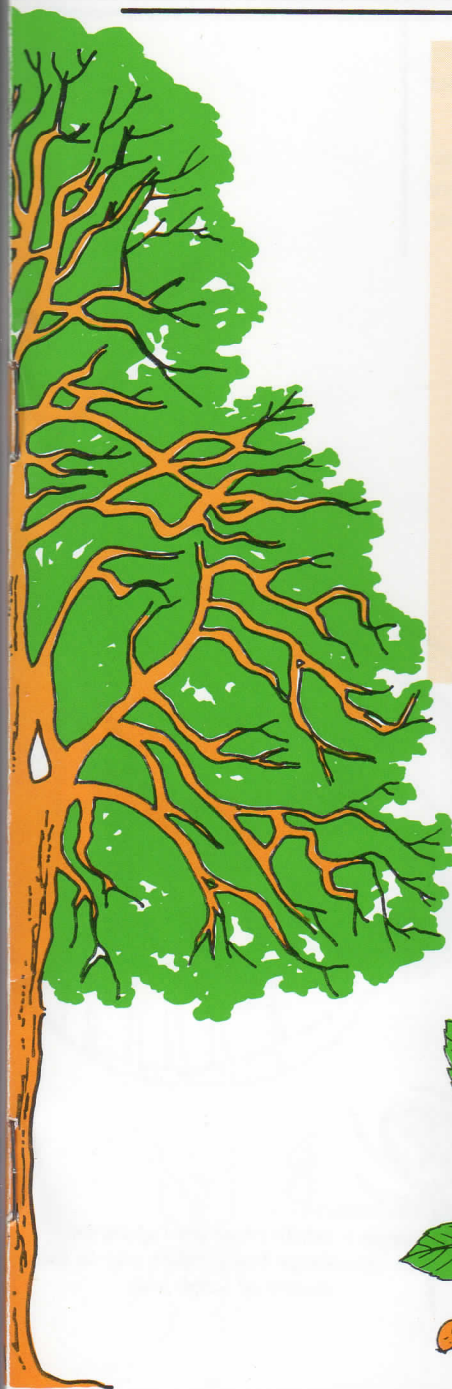
7 oak gall

☐

4 elder

☐

8 tar spot

☐


4

shrub or small tree; each leaf made up of 5 - 7 leaflets; clusters of fragrant, white flowers in June; black berries



6

shrub or small tree with thorns; white, occasionally pink flowers from May to June.



5

silvery undersides to leaves; clusters of white flowers from May to June; orangey red berries.



**M**ore than ten species of butterfly have been seen in Undercliffe. Hot, calm days are the best time to look out for: small white, large white, meadow brown, wall brown, small and large skipper.

Look under stones for ant nests. As soon as they are disturbed ants will carry their eggs and larvae to

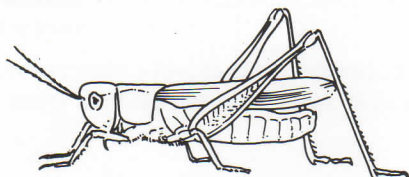
safety underground. You may also find beetles, woodlice and centipedes under stones. Remember to replace the stones carefully afterwards.

Decaying leaves give shelter to spiders and harvestmen. Earthworms, snails and slugs are important because they help to break down dead vegetation.

10



*black; hairy; usually in batches.*

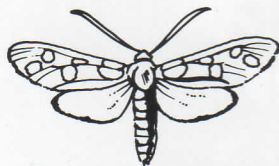


1 *green or brown; short feelers.  
Found in grassland.*

9



*blackish purple beetle; 6 legs; often under dead wood.*



3 *black wings with 5 or 6 red spots; very slow moving.  
Found in grassland.*

2

*brown and orange bands and spots on both wings; caterpillar feeds on grasses.*



8

*white cross and spots; large body; often in centre of large web.*



# INSECTS

1 common field grasshopper ☐

2 wall brown butterfly ☐

3 six spot burnet moth ☐

4 red ant ☐

5 buff-tailed bumble bee ☐

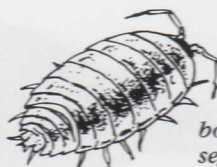
6 woodlouse ☐

7 harvestman ☐

8 garden spider ☐

9 violet ground beetle ☐

10 small tortoiseshell caterpillar ☐



6

body made up of grey segments; 7 pairs of legs. Very common under stones and wood.



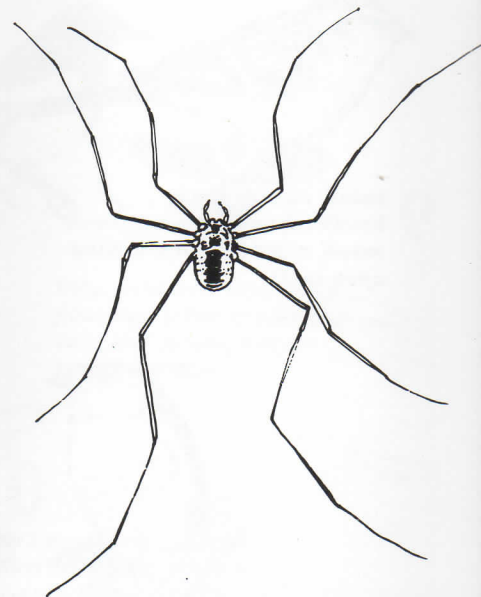
5

black and yellow with buff tail; collects pollen in special sacks on hind legs. Nests below ground. Also look out for the red-tailed bumble bee.



4

chestnut red body divided into 3 segments; 6 legs. Colonies common in dry soil.



7

like a spider but no venom or silk; long legs. Mature in the summer, hence the name.

**T**he birds most likely to be seen are the typical, resident garden birds — blackbird, song thrush, robin, house sparrow, greenfinch, starling, magpie, dunnoek, great tit and blue tit.

Summer visitors include swifts, swallows, willow warblers and spotted flycatchers which arrive during late April to May.

Winter visitors include flocks of redwings and fieldfares which descend on the cemetery in large numbers to feed on the harvest of berries.



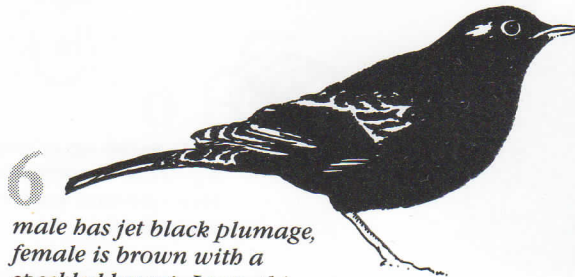
**3** larger than blue tit; black and white head, yellow belly with black stripe.



**5** green all over with yellow wing patches and tail edges; stout, conical beak for eating seeds.



**9** small, dumpy finch, brownish with grey cap. Small, stout bill for cracking open seeds.



**6** male has jet black plumage, female is brown with a speckled breast. Long, thin bill for digging up earthworms and turning over dead leaves.



**4** brown with red breast; thin bill for catching small animals such as caterpillars.



**1** brown back with grey head and underparts; often confused with house sparrow. Thin bill for picking up tiny items of food.



brown back and wings; buff breast with very fine speckles often hard to see. Makes flights from open perches to catch flying insects.



# BIRDS

1 dunnock



2 blue tit



3 great tit



4 robin



5 greenfinch



6 blackbird



7 magpie



8 spotted flycatcher



9 house sparrow

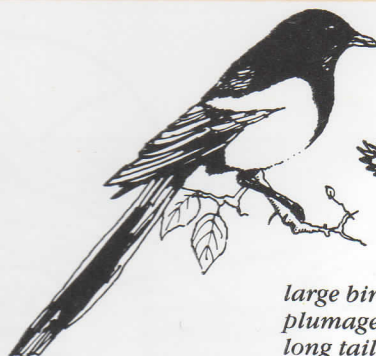


10 song-thrush



2

a distinctive yellow and blue bird with a tiny bill for picking insects off of trees.



7

large bird with blue-black plumage, white breast and long tail. Strong bill for eating carrion.



10

brown upperparts; strongly speckled buff chest. Straight bill for catching invertebrates. Snails are broken open on stones known as anvils.

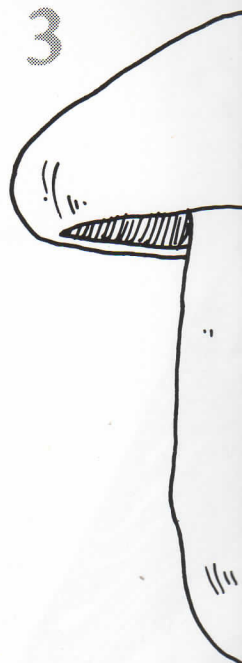
# FUNGI

**T**he best season for fungi is the autumn when a wide variety can usually be found growing on dead wood and amongst leaf litter. The most common in the cemetery is the orange coloured 'velvet shank' which can be seen on the stumps of dead elms. Candle-snuff fungus can be found on dead wood and field blewit and field mushroom are to be seen amongst short turf.

- |   |                     |                          |   |                |                          |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | velvet shank        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | field blewit   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | candle-snuff fungus | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | field mushroom | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*pale brown cap; blue stem; season — autumn*

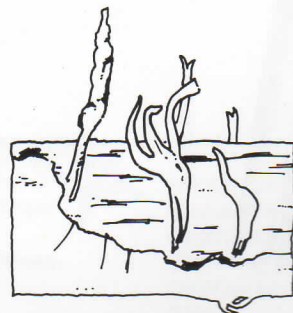
3



4  
domed cap; white or grey;  
gills are pink when fresh,  
becoming brown; season —  
late summer to autumn.



1  
clusters of orangey-yellow  
brackets; season — autumn  
and winter, survives frost.



2  
antler shaped; white with a  
black stem; found all year.



# HABITAT

**I**n nature, food relationships are very important. In order to grow, plants use energy from sunlight. This is the first link in the food chain. Plants are eaten by herbivores (*such as caterpillars*), which are in turn eaten by carnivores (*such as blue tits*) so that energy is passed from one plant or animal to another. Predator — prey relationships are very complex and can be illustrated as a food web.

