

Balls Wood

A sizeable and varied woodland, where plantations of conifers contrast with old coppiced hornbeams.

The boundary of this woodland is clearly marked on a map of 1790 although it may not always have been a woodland. The northern part of the wood is the oldest and varies from old hornbeam [coppice](#), which is now very mature, to mixed woodland of ash and field maple. Aspen has become more abundant in recent years and stands out when its leaves quiver in a breeze.

Throughout the wood there are [rides](#) which, being open and sunny, abound with butterflies, including the white admiral, and other insects in the summer. It is important to keep these rides open for wildlife and to open other areas by coppicing or the removal of trees too close to the ride.

In spring the woodland rides are full of birdsong and wildflowers, including bluebell, wood anemone, early purple orchid and the rare herb paris. Breeding birds include great-spotted woodpecker and sparrowhawk.

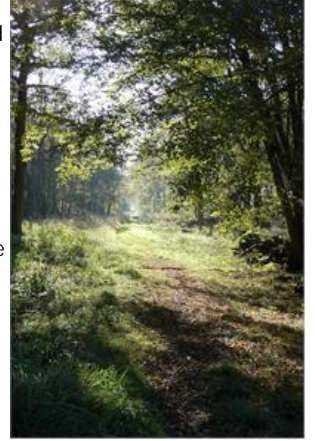
There are many ponds in Balls Wood which vary from shallow, muddy pools to deeper more open ponds. These support a range of aquatic organisms, including great crested newts, dragonflies and toads. Surprisingly the wood is home to grass snakes and slow worms.

Balls Wood is adjacent to [Hertford Heath](#).

Balls Wood work parties

Make a difference to wildlife by taking part in one of our monthly work parties. Work parties take place at Balls Wood on the third Sunday of the month from September to March at 10:00am-1:00pm. The work programme is shared between Balls Wood and Hertford Heath NR. For more information contact Andy Brown on 07787 528804.

For other volunteering opportunities within the Trust, [click here](#).



- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

How to Get Here

Location

Hertford Heath Village

Directions

From Hertford Heath village on B1197 London Road turn into Roundings Road adjacent to the College Arms pub. Limited parking along this road. Walk 1/2 mile, keeping right as the road joins an unsurfaced section of the Roman Ermine Street. The entrance to Balls Wood is on the left.

Public Transport Links

Bus: Hertford Heath Village, College Arms pub (C3). Rail: Hertford (10 mins by bus).

Walking Links

For Hertford Heath walks visit www.hertfordheath.com

Map Reference

TL 348106

Visitor Guide

Size

58.5 hectares (114.5 acres).

Access to site

Open access to paths.

Access around site

Please keep to the paths.

Walking time

1/2 hour for short walk into woods; 1 1/2-2 hours for full circuit.

Advice on what to wear/bring

Wellingtons usually necessary.

Map of site (if available)

- [Balls Wood map](#)

A site map of Balls Wood and neighbouring Hertford Heath and Hobbyhorse Wood