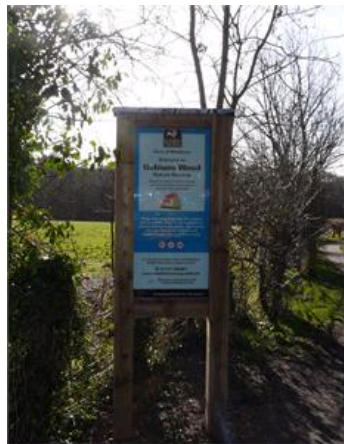


Gobions Wood

A rich site which is primarily woodland but includes grassland, hedges, ponds and other wetland areas. Much of the woodland is ancient. Also contains remnants of a landscaped 'Pleasure Gardens' created in 1760s.

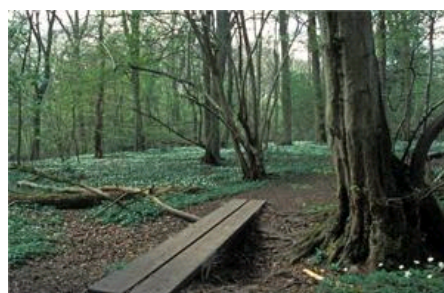


The reserve contains two distinct woodland types - ash/field maple on the clay soils to the west - and oak woodland on the more acidic gravelly soils to the east. There are also areas of wet woodland dominated by crack willow. However, the range of tree species found is remarkable. This is partly natural and partly a result of the reserves garden history. Visitors may be surprised to see some fine examples of giant sequoia within the woodland along with mature elm trees - now a relatively rare sight. The woodland is renowned locally for its display of bluebells in May.

The reserve is particularly good for fungi. 558 species have been found - with two of these new records for the UK and over 100 which are rare or scarce in Hertfordshire!

The reserve also contains spectacular swallow holes in an area known as Deep Bottom. Here the chalk comes to the surface and the streams flowing across the clay suddenly disappear underground creating very large and rather dangerous-looking holes.

In winter siskin and redwing can be seen - whilst lesser spotted woodpecker and sparrowhawk have both been known to breed in the Wood. Willow tit and marsh tit - both suffering serious population declines in recent years - are present.



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

How to Get Here

Location

Potters Bar

Directions

Car parking is located off Moffatts Lane, Brookmans Park.

Public Transport Links

Nearest railway station is Brookmans Park. Pedestrian entrances available from Bluebridge Road at the western end of the site, Moffatts Lane to the east and Hawkshead Road to the south.

Walking Links

Map Reference

TL 249038

Visitor Guide

Size

Access to site

Accessible at all times

Access around site

Access is generally easy although the clay soils mean the site can be wet and muddy after rainfall. Good walking shoes recommended

Walking time

Advice on what to wear/bring

The swallow holes are deep and steep sided and should be viewed from a safe distance

Map of site (if available)

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