

Hertford Heath

A rare Hertfordshire open heathland combined with woodland, two large ponds and several smaller heathy pools, where dragonflies are abundant.



The southern part of the reserve (the Roundings) is a rare example of heathland and supports plants such as heather, heath bedstraw, tormentil and gorse amongst other [heathland](#) species.

Being a damp heathland there are a number of wet pools with sphagnum mosses and rushes, which provide habitat for dragonflies and damselflies. The ponds are home to good numbers of great crested and smooth newts too, and grass snakes and slow worms also live here.

The woodland area (Goldingtons) to the north of London Road, consists of mature hornbeam [coppice](#) and [secondary](#) oak and birch woodland. In the spring the woods have a good show of bluebells, whilst in summer, the woodland ponds provide a fine show of water plants including yellow flag iris.

Look out for great spotted woodpecker, long-tailed tit, nuthatch and tree creeper.

The best time to see the heather in flower is late summer, early autumn. The dragonflies display over the ponds throughout the summer months, particularly in early July.

The Trust's work at Hertford Heath

The Trust has a long-term management agreement with the owner, Haileybury College, and the reserve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The management regime is designed to encourage a diversity of species. Work on the heath focuses on preventing [scrub](#) encroaching and maintaining the ponds.

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

How to Get Here

Location

Hertford Heath Village

Directions

From B1197 take Roundings Road and park next to the College Arms pub. The entrance is a short way down on the right. The other section of the reserve is at the end of Heath Lane opposite the pub, or enter from Mount Pleasant in Hertford Heath village.

Public Transport Links

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

Walking Links

For Hertford Heath walks visit www.hertfordheath.com

Map Reference

TL 351 108

Visitor Guide

Size

28.3 hectares (70 acres).

Access to site

The reserve is in two parts on either side of the B1197 in Hertford Heath Village.

Access around site

Easy walking; paths throughout the reserve. Can be combined with a visit to Balls Wood.

Walking time

1 1/2 hours

Advice on what to wear/bring

Map of site (if available)