

Stocking Springs Wood

Nestling amongst the wooded estates of central Hertfordshire, this small wood is a beautiful example of traditional coppice management and its value to wildlife.



[Coppiced](#) hornbeam woodlands were once typical of Hertfordshire. At Stocking Springs Wood gnarled and twisted trees, previously coppiced, throw a dense shade. Recently coppiced trees can also be seen and here the light can get to the ground, encouraging many wildflowers. The wood is divided into sections which are coppiced in a traditional rotation system so that each tree is coppiced once every sixteen years. In spring the woodland floor is a carpet of bluebells and wild daffodils. Other plants such as wood anemone, wood violets, early purple orchids and yellow archangel indicate that this is an [ancient woodland](#). Among the coppiced hornbeam there are tall oak [standards](#) and these provide nesting sites for birds such as the nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and treecreepers, among many others.

The Trust manages the wood in agreement with the owners.

The management regime is designed to encourage diversity of species. In order to conserve the important [ground flora](#), traditional coppice management was re-established by the Trust in 1989 on a sixteen year rotation.

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

How to Get Here

Location

Wheathampstead

Directions

On the B653 from Wheathampstead to Lemsford, take the left turn towards Codicote. The wood is about 2 kilometres along this lane on the left on a bend in the lane. Park in the small lay-by opposite.

Public Transport Links

Bus stop in the High Street, Wheathampstead.

Walking Links

Map Reference

TL 202153

Visitor Guide

Size

1 hectare

Access to site

Accessible at all times.

Access around site

Walking time

Advice on what to wear/bring

Good walking shoes recommended

Map of site (if available)

