



Wood Warden News

Autumn 2009

Wood Wardens are volunteers who work in Hertfordshire's only National Nature Reserve (NNR). This includes Bencroft Wood, part of Broxbourne Wood, Hoddesdonpark Wood and Wormley Wood. Wood Wardens walk the woodlands regularly, recording wildlife sightings and reporting any problems they see. Some of the wardens also carry out the practical tasks based on these reports and the long term management plans for the NNR.

This initiative is a partnership between local people, the Countryside Management Service, Hertfordshire County Council and the Woodland Trust.



Morgans School Gardening Club

Year Six Pupils at Morgans School, Hertford have been using hornbeam cut by Wood Wardens during last winters coppicing at Bencroft Wood to make structures around the school gardening area as part of their gardening club activities led by their teacher, Wood Warden Alan Scarisbrick. They have also been building habitat piles and bird nesting boxes and are keen to come and visit the woods to see where their hornbeam came from.



The new hedge in Broxbourne Wood is looking great, see picture taken in August compared to the newly laid hedge back in February.



Hedgelaying on Cowheath Boundary

Glow worm population going strong

This summers glow worm walks were a great success with record numbers of male and female glow worm beetles recorded. It would be great if it was due to our continued management of the rides at Cowheath but there must be many factors contributing to their success!

The adults we saw would have spent the past two years feeding up on snails so perhaps conditions have been good for their snail prey. If you didn't make it this summer look out for walks advertised next July.

This is a female glow worm seen on the walk this July. She will have laid eggs which will produce the adults we will see in 2011. Photo taken by Wood Warden Francis Rogers



PRACTICAL TASKS

Sunday 6th September

Management of recently planted trees

Meet Broxbourne Wood East car park

Removing tubes from 15yr old trees to get them off to a good start. There will be some path clearance work too.

Sunday 20th September

Hoddesdonpark Wood moated manor scrub clearing

Meet Martins Green car park, Cock Lane

This medieval moated manor site becomes scrubbed up through the year. This task will clear the sides of the moat to make it visible to the public.

Sunday 4th October

Bencroft Wood ride widening

Meet Emanuel Pollards car park

The main ride at Bencroft Wood has become overgrown and shady. This is the first of several tasks to open up the rides to benefit butterflies and wildflowers.

Sunday 18th October

Bencroft Wood ride widening

Meet Emanuel Pollards car park

Continuing previous task

Sunday 25th October

Hedgelaying

Meet Broxbourne Wood East Car park

Hedgelaying on north eastern boundary of Broxbourne Wood and thinning of 15 year old planted trees

Join the Wood Wardens day

Monday 26th October

Meet Broxbourne Wood East car park

An opportunity to find out what Wood Wardens do, join in with hedgelaying and tree felling.

Everyone welcome, come along and learn woodland skills. More details from Fiona on 01462 459395

Sunday 8th November

Ride widening

Meet Bencroft East Car Park

Continuation of previous ride tasks

Sunday 22nd November

Broxbourne Wood Wardening task

Meet Broxbourne Wood East car park

A range of tasks in Broxbourne Woods to keep paths and boardwalks in good condition for visitors.

Sunday 6th December

Brickendon Pond clearance task

Meet Brickendon Green car park

Coppicing pond side trees, clearing a ditch and removing some vegetation from this pond to create sunny open habitat for wildlife.

Sunday 20th December

Christmas task

Meet Bencroft East car park.

We will be having a bonfire to tidy up material produced during recent ride clearing tasks and of course our traditional Christmas cook-up!

New Volunteer Information

No experience is needed and everyone is welcome



We meet at 10am until about 3.30 – 4pm. Most people stay all day, but if you want to come for just a few hours, that's fine too.



Bring a packed lunch. Wear old clothes and sturdy footwear; bring wet weather gear if you can. Tea and coffee are provided.



Projects may change at the last moment, so please ring beforehand to confirm the task, location and meeting details; 01462 459395

Getting there: If you would like a lift, our Land Rover leaves County Hall, Hertford at 9.30am. Or if you need a map to the meeting point, please ring 01462 459395.

