



# Wood Warden News

## Spring 2010

*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.*

### Wood Wardens task 6th December Brickendon Green pond



**Wood Warden volunteers** were joined by residents of **Brickendon** in December for a task to coppice trees round the pond to let light in and prevent a build up of leaves from overhanging trees.

Everyone enjoyed themselves on the day and plan to team up again for a similar task at this important County wildlife site in the future.

**Thanks to everyone who came out to help on the day.**

### Visit the woods between now and February to see woodland contractors in action.

Contractors will be felling conifers and other non-native trees between Broxbourne Wood East and West car parks which is an area of the best remaining ancient woodland in the whole wood. They will be creating wide ride edges on the main ride from Broxbourne West car park, opening up a glade along the stream halfway along this same main ride, removing burnt and damaged trees from car parks and widening the main ride in Bencroft Wood—this is in addition to the fantastic work the **Wood Wardens** have already done on the main ride.

**The work is funded by a Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grant and will increase the amount of open sunny habitat which will benefit butterflies and ground flora, remove inappropriate tree species and increase diversity of habitats**



Thank you to **Colin Plant-Herts County moth recorder** who ran two very successful moth trapping evenings in Broxbourne Wood glades this autumn and found many interesting species including a Drinker moth in October—they've never been recorded in Hertfordshire later than August before. For more information on Hertfordshire moths visit [www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk](http://www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk)

# PRACTICAL TASKS

Sunday 10th January

## **Bencroft Wood Pond clearance task Meet Bencroft East car park**

Removing fallen timber from pond at Bencroft Wood and coppicing trees on southern edge to increase light to this important wildlife pond.

Sunday 24th January

## **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 boardwalk repair work too.

Sunday 7th February

## **Broxbourne Wood glade coppicing Meet Broxbourne Wood West car park**

The wet woodland area of Broxbourne glade and its wildlife will benefit from coppicing of willow, alders and sallow to give a range of ages and stages of growth in this area.

Sunday 21st February

## **Management of recently planted trees Meet Broxbourne Wood East car park**

Continuing with care of recently planted oaks. There will be stream side coppicing to do too up near new hornbeam hedge. This will let light in to currently shaded stream edges.

Sunday 14th March

## **Bencroft Wood Wardening task Meet Bencroft East Car Park**

Strimming paths, mending boardwalks, general repairs and path clearance work to prepare the woods for Easter visitors

Sunday 28th March

## **Broxbourne Wood wardening task Meet Broxbourne Wood East car park**

A range of tasks in Broxbourne Woods to keep paths especially the Sculpture trail, car parks and boardwalks in good condition for Easter visitors.

Sunday 11th April

## **Broxbourne Wood glade task Meet Broxbourne Wood West car park**

This task will involve removing encroaching conifer and other saplings from the heather patch to give it the best chance of growing and increasing its range on the glade. There will be some construction of reptile refugia too—log piles!

Sunday 25th April

## **Broxbourne Wood Horse Hop construction Meet Broxbourne Wood West car park**

A horse hop is a timber structure made by setting railway sleepers into the ground at the entrance to the woods to allow horses access as they can step over it but preventing motorbikes as they cannot be lifted over the 'hop'.

## 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.

