



# Wood Warden News

## Summer 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 coppicing in wet woodland at Broxbourne Wood glades to create a diverse structure of willows. February 2010.



The open glades at Broxbourne Wood were created in the mid 1970's when commercially planted conifers were destroyed by a fire. The Wood Wardens tidied up after the fire and have maintained the glades as open areas over the years. We are hoping to expand these glades by removing more conifer that grows around the edges, this will increase the amount of important acid grassland and heathy habitat in Hertfordshire.

### Woodland Grant Scheme funded woodland management



Non-native conifer trees were harvested from Broxbourne Wood and sold for making shavings for horse bedding. Open, sunny rides and glades created by conifer removal will now benefit wildlife.



We are very grateful to the Forestry Commission for **Woodland Improvement Grant** money which has enabled us to undertake habitat management work in Broxbourne and Bencroft Woods. Main rides at both woods have been widened to make them sunnier for butterflies and we will allow nectar rich scrubby woodland edges to develop to benefit birds, small mammals and a host of invertebrates.

Work will continue next winter to improve the woods for people and wildlife.

# PRACTICAL TASKS

Sunday 9th May

## **Ermine Street bollard installation Meet Martins Green car park**

Ermine Street the historic Roman Road runs through Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve and is suffering abuse by 4x4 drivers. By installing sturdy bollards at either end we hope to prevent further damage occurring.

Sunday 23rd May

## **Glow worm habitat management Meet Monks Green Farm**

Glow worm habitat management. Loss of open habitat in a glow-worm colony is one of the major threats to these fascinating insects. By strimming the bridleway edges at this time of year we can make sure glowing females can be seen by passing males!

Sunday 13th June

## **NNR trail repairs**

### **Meeting point to be confirmed**

Improving access on the popular NNR trail by repairing boardwalks, removing stiles, waymarking and cutting back vegetation.

Sunday 27th June

## **Wardening Bencroft Wood Meet Bencroft West Car Park**

A range of tasks around Bencroft Wood to keep paths open for visitors, bridges and boardwalks repaired and old redundant posts removed from around the woods.

Sunday 11th July

## **Meet Broxbourne East car park**

A range of tasks within Broxbourne Wood to make sure it is looking its best for visitors over the summer. Clear overhanging vegetation from paths, maintain fences and benches and much more.....

Sunday 15th August

## **Meet Bencroft Wood West car park**

Into the wilds of Wormley Wood for waymarking, repairs to NNR trail and boardwalks

## **Old wood, new glades**

Sat 5 June, 10am – 12 noon

Meet Broxbourne Wood east car park

During last winter, new glades were cut along the streams and rides of Broxbourne Wood. See what's been done and look for early signs of regeneration with the CMS.

## **Butterflies of Wormley and Bencroft Wood**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 10am-1pm 6.4km/4 miles

Meet at The Woodman pub, Wormley West End, Broxbourne, EN10 7QN Grid ref: TL337 060

A walk through Bencroft and Wormley Wood to look for White Admiral and other butterflies along the woodland rides and in adjacent grassy fields.

Please bring money if you wish to stop for refreshments at the pub afterwards.

## **Glorious glow worms**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 9.15pm-11.30pm

Come and discover these fascinating insects. We will have a good chance of seeing several male and female glow worms at this peak in their glowing season. Contact CMS for details of location.

## 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.

