



# Wood Warden News

## Autumn 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.**



Silver-washed Fritillary



### Bracken rolling in Broxbourne glade

Bracken is a fern with an extensive root system and is a very effective coloniser, as can be seen in areas where we have removed trees around the woods. The vigorous growth and dense foliage shade out other vegetation so we try to manage it by rolling it to bruise the stems. This year we used a railway sleeper which was very effective (see photo). In future years we may use livestock which reduce bracken re-growth by treading it with their hooves.

### Butterflies at Broxbourne and Bencroft Wood

Woodland management such as ride widening and glade creation which has taken place at Broxbourne and Bencroft Woods will benefit woodland specialist species such as these photographed by Marion Moss on Broxbourne Wood west ride this summer.

More ride and glade management is planned for this winter, funded by Forestry Commission - Woodland Grant Scheme. Look out for guided walks and cycle rides taking place in the National Nature Reserve this winter on which we will be looking at the areas being managed. See CMS website for details.

White Admiral



Purple Emperor



# PRACTICAL TASKS

**Sunday 5th September**  
**Lopping Lawsons**

**Meet at Broxbourne Wood East car-park**

Planted as wind breaks around the conifer plantation areas, Lawsons Cypress is seeding and spreading unwanted through the woods. It's much easier to tackle them while they're small and can still be 'lopped'.

**Sunday 26th September**  
**Coppicing stream edges**

**Meet Broxbourne East car park**

Coppicing along stream edge in north eastern corner to let light in to stream banks

**Sunday 10th October**  
**Glade raking**

**Meet Broxbourne Wood West car park**

Acid grassland glades at Broxbourne Wood are cut and raked annually to maintain species diversity, come along to rake up the arisings

**Sunday 24th October**

**Work with the Wood Wardens**

**Meet Bencroft Wood west car park**

**Ever thought about joining a conservation volunteer group?**

Try your hand at coppicing, talk to existing volunteers, find out about conservation in Hertfordshire's only National Nature Reserve  
**Phone 01462 459395 for more details**

**Sunday 7th November**  
**Butterfly scallops**

**Meet at Broxbourne Wood West car park**

Creating scallops on ride edges around willow trees for woodland butterflies.

**Sunday 21st November**

**Coppicing and Deer Basketing**

**Meet at Bencroft west car park**

Continuing traditional woodland management technique of coppicing to allow light into woodland areas and weaving brush to form protective deer baskets around the new growth to protect it from hungry deer.

**Sunday 5th December**

**Work with the Wood Wardens**

**Have a go at Deer Basketing**

**Meet at Bencroft west car park 2-3.30pm**

An opportunity for people to join in working with Wood Wardens to weave deer baskets.

**Wood Wardens task runs as normal but with people joining in the afternoon.**

**Sunday 19th December**

**Christmas task in Broxbourne glades**

Meet Broxbourne Wood west car park for a festive task in the glades followed by a Christmas cook up round the fire

## OTHER EVENTS

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

10-11.30am

**Broxbourne Biking**

Join CMS for a 7 mile/11km cycle ride mostly off road around the woods, bridleways and byways of the National Nature Reserve.

**Booking essential**

**Call CMS 01462 459395 to book.**

## 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.

