



## Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve

This leaflet is part of a series of guides to the Broxbourne Woods NNR. To learn about the other guides and obtain copies, contact:

Countryside Management Service on 01992 588433  
www.hertsdirect.org/cms  
The Woodland Trust on 01476 581111  
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



### How to get there:

**Train** www.nationalrail.co.uk  
Bayford, Cuffley & Hoddesdon  
**Bus** www.intalink.org.uk

## Key

### 1) Coal post

This Grade II Listed coal post dates back to around 1861. It is one of 250 scattered around the outskirts of London that were originally positioned to mark points where duty was once collected on coal and wine entering the city. The finance helped to develop infrastructure in the capital and it is thanks to these that many of the bridges over the Thames were built.



### 2) Circular seat

Perfectly situated next to a tranquil pond, this eye-catching metal seat encircling an oak tree depicts a deer chasing its tail.

### 3) Ancient wood banks

The interesting network of wood banks and ditch earthworks throughout Broxbourne Woods are remnants of ancient field systems, possibly dating back to the Bronze Age. Lichen-covered ancient hornbeam pollards can also be found along these banks.

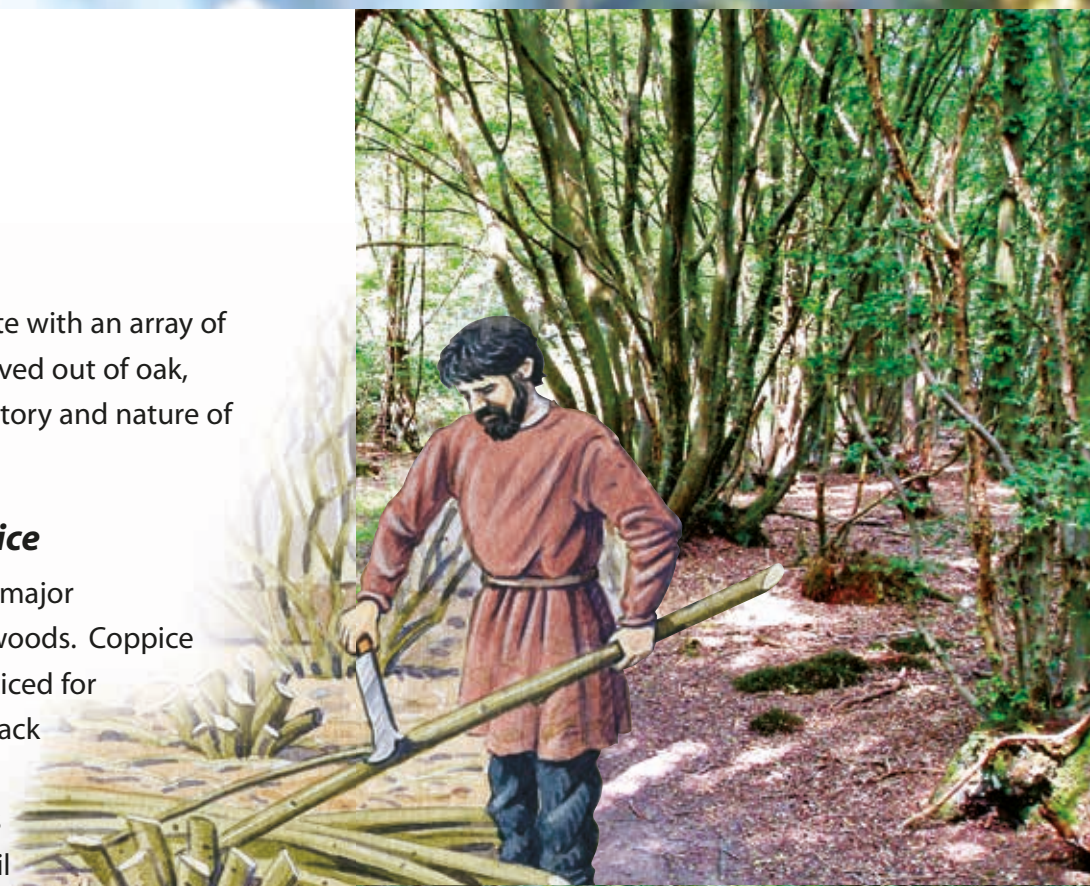


### 4) Sculpture trail

A short easy access route with an array of stunning sculptures carved out of oak, inspired by the local history and nature of the woods.

### 5) Hornbeam coppice

Hornbeam coppice is a major characteristic of these woods. Coppice management was practiced for over 300 years dating back to Elizabethan times when Queen Elizabeth I's minister Sir William Cecil owned the woods.



### 6) Ermine Street

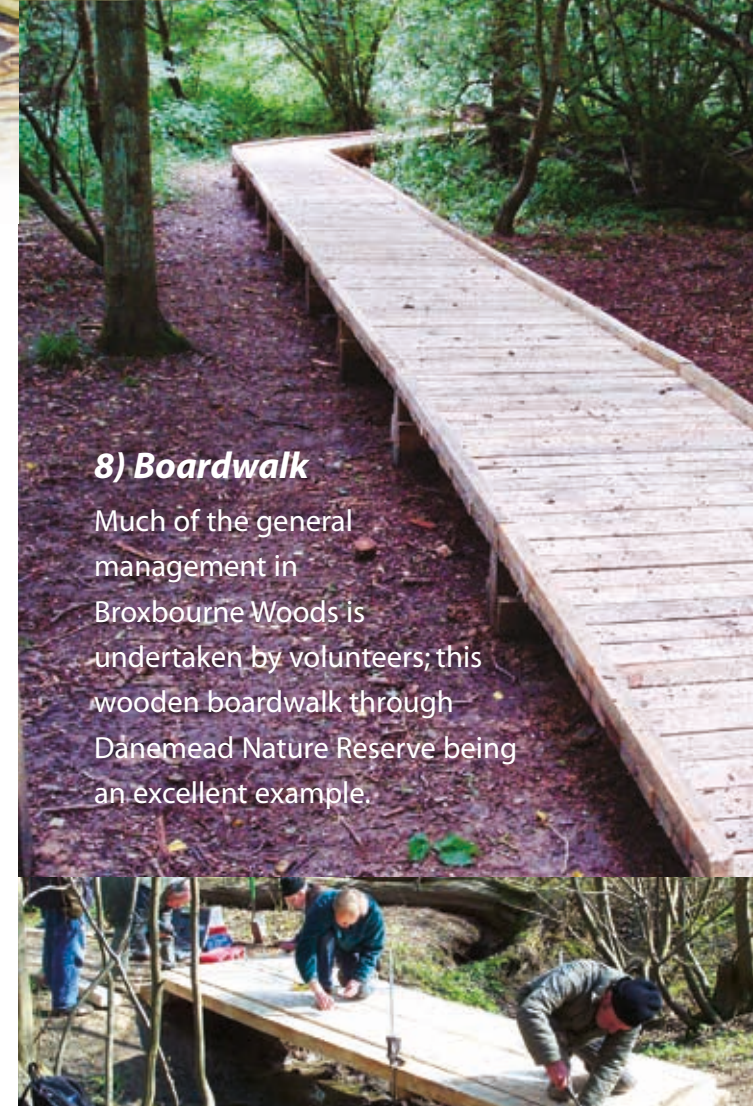
Ancient pollards line this section of Ermine Street, an old Roman Road over 200 miles long connecting London with York. William the Conqueror would almost certainly have passed along this stretch after his victory at the Battle of Hastings and Oliver Cromwell is also said to have ridden through on his way to suppress a mutiny at Ware.

### 7) Ancient moat

A Scheduled Ancient Monument, this medieval moated enclosure was probably the site of the park keeper's lodge, built as a status symbol around the 13th century.

### 8) Boardwalk

Much of the general management in Broxbourne Woods is undertaken by volunteers; this wooden boardwalk through Danemead Nature Reserve being an excellent example.







## Introduction

The charming ancient woodland, diverse wildlife and rich history make the Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve a truly magnificent place to explore. Take your pick from a short 30 minute stroll up to a delightful full day's woodland walk.

All the walks are clearly marked; the shorter ones with coloured bands around waymarker posts and the NNR trail with discs showing a white admiral butterfly to guide you along. The 17.5km Broxbourne NNR Trail can either be walked as a figure of eight or you can take your time and tackle each 8km loop on its own. Most of the routes are along good woodland paths linked occasionally by pleasant field edges and meadows. In wet weather be prepared for one or two muddy patches. All streams have footbridges and where there are undulations there are boardwalks. If you enjoy peace and tranquillity and have time to stand in awe and wonder this is definitely the place for you!

