

# Notes

- 1 The avenue of lime trees you see on the hill in front of you was more of a visual attraction for visitors to Westbrook Hay as it is not thought that it ever actually provided the access way to the house. These ancient trees were shown on the Tithe Map of 1840.
- 2 Enjoy the view towards Berkhamsted and the Bourne Gutter (a seasonal water course that only appears when the water in the chalk sub-soil is high enough). On a clear day it is said that you can see the elegant bridge over the A41 near Tring. This field was re-contoured with a chalk overburden taken from the route of the A41.
- 3 Westbrook Hay House, now a private school, was once the home of the Ryder family, who were local benefactors and owned the land that you pass through on this walk.
- 4 This Giant Sequoia, or Wellingtonia, stands around 25m tall and has a girth of 5m at 1m high. It was almost certainly planted in the late 1850s when the Westbrook Hay estate was owned by the Ryder family and was probably part of a lavish planting scheme that has long since disappeared.
- 5 Bovingdon Reach is a large field subject to minimal management to allow natural regeneration of a chalk downland with a rich diversity of plants. In the summer there is a profuse display of butterflies, insects and birds, including the marbled white butterfly and skylark.
- 6 If you were to continue along the bridleway you would enter Gorsefield Wood at this point, but the green walk route stays within Ramacre Wood. Bluebells, foxgloves (pink and white), willow herb and many other plants flourish in the woodland glades.
- 7 As you approach the far side of Ramacre Wood you will find yourself walking through a very old yew wood, now rarely seen, particularly in this part of the country.



- 8 There is no difference in distance between the two routes. Hay Wood provides a shady walk on a hot day. Preston Hill, normally grazed by sheep (keep dogs on leads), contains a pond which was constructed by the Box Moor Trust in a large natural depression. There is an excellent view over Hemel Hempstead from this field.
- 9 Nesting boxes have been fixed to trees in Hay Wood and owls are commonly seen and heard here at night. To the left you will pass a small woodland pond that is dug into the boulder clay that covers the base chalk on top of the hill. This was deposited here at the end of the last ice age about 6000 years ago. The wood is a haven for birds, and treecreepers are common on the periphery. The bird feeding station attracts many species and you can stand and observe them without disturbing them.
- 10 Dellfield has a stunning display of cowslips in the spring.

**Please respect the moors. Some areas are used as grazing pasture for sheep, cattle and horses. Please keep your dogs under control, clear up after them, dispose of your litter responsibly and refrain from feeding or stroking the livestock.**



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**Meeting space available for hire – see website for further details**

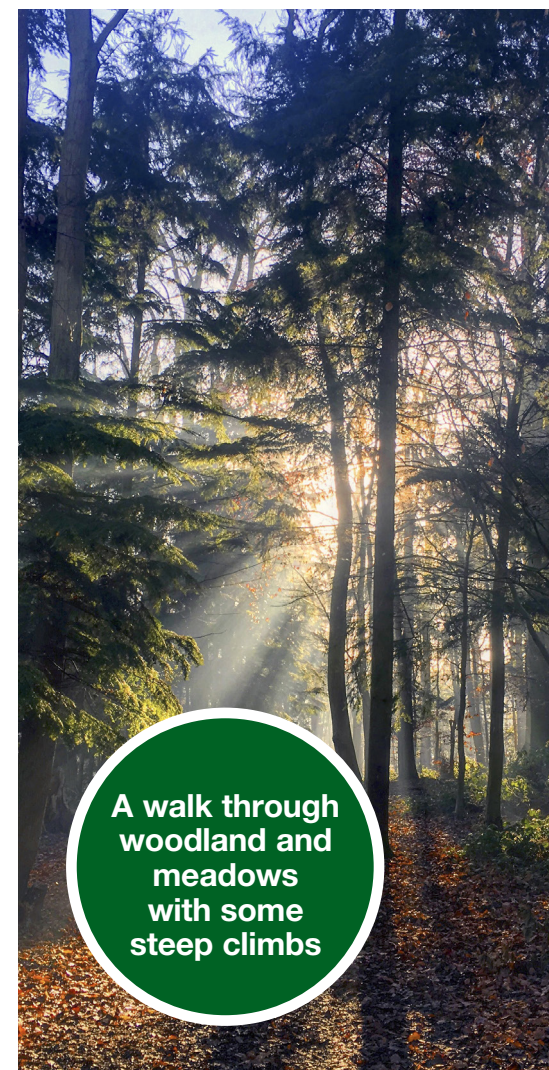
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The  
Box Moor  
Trust

Green Walk



A walk through  
woodland and  
meadows  
with some  
steep climbs

**(follow the green markers)**

**Length:** approx 4km (2½ miles)

**Time:** approx. 1½ - 2 hours

# Green Walk

Please note: distances are approximate

From the A4251 (London Road) turn into the drive signposted Westbrook Hay School and Box Moor Trust Old Barn. There is a small parking area after 100m on your left. **1** Continue up the drive on foot. After approx. 200m you will see a gate to your right into an open field (Overbourne). Go through the kissing gate.

Bear left uphill across the field towards the far boundary, keeping the copse of trees to your left and the A41 to your right. **2** When you reach the other side of the field, go through a kissing gate in the hedgerow onto a bridleway. Turn left and follow the bridleway up the hill and through Green Croft Wood.

As you come out of the wood turn left and follow the bridleway, with the boundary hedgerow bordering Westbrook Hay School on your right.

Cross the access road **3** and head towards the Old Barn past the tall tree (sequoia) on your left **4**. From the Old Barn car park, either go through the kissing gate ahead of you onto Bovingdon Reach **5**, or alternatively enter the bridleway to the right of the meadow. Both paths run parallel; it is a matter of preference whether you choose to walk in the open meadow or follow the bridleway (which can offer some shade in hot weather). At the far end of Bovingdon Reach, exit the meadow through a kissing gate and enter Ramacre Wood from the bridleway alongside the boundary with Little Hay golf course.

Follow the bridleway through the wood until you see a footpath going sharp left into the wood **6**. The first few metres are uneven underfoot, so take care. The path wends through an area of newly-planted broadleaved trees. Continue through the wood, crossing over a track leading from a gate



on the road to your right. **7** Eventually, you will emerge from the wood into a sloping field known as Three Crofts. When you leave the wood, take the mown walkway diagonally uphill to the kissing gate at the field boundary and back onto Bovingdon Reach.

Once through the kissing gate, keep the hedgerow on your right and follow the path to the corner of Lower Hay Wood. Continue along the mown walkway on Bovingdon Reach or go through the kissing gate and walk along the bridleway. (If you choose the latter, you have the option to take a shady detour through the woods, as the path will eventually bring you back to the same junction). If you choose to stay on the Bovingdon Reach footpath, you will exit the meadow through a kissing gate at a point where the paths converge. **8** Here you have two options: either take the track through Upper Hay Wood on your left, or enter Preston Hill via the kissing gate ahead of you and walk straight ahead until you reach a wooden fence. From here turn left, keeping the fence on your right, then through another gate to rejoin Hay Wood. Whichever route you choose you will eventually pick up the boardwalk through the wood.

Follow the boardwalk past the woodland pond **9** to the end of the wood. After the railings, turn off the boardwalk and take a sharp right onto the track. After approximately 50m go through the kissing gate on your left. Turn right and walk down the hill, through another gate onto Dellfield and back to the parking area, keeping the lime tree avenue to your left.

For a longer walk you may like to join up with the red or blue route at the points marked on the map – walk leaflets available from the Box Moor Trust Centre.

## Key

	Grassland		Treelined area
	See written information		Alternative route
	Link to Red Walk		Link to Blue Walk

# Box Moor Trust Estate

This map should be used as a guide only. Please follow written instructions.

