

The Box Moor Trust Estate

1 Memorial Orchard

A dedicated area for people who want to provide a lasting memory for lost loved ones. The Trust also has a memorial book for inscriptions. Access to the orchard is via a footpath from London Road.

2 Trust Centre

In the year 2000, the Trust's own offices were eventually established at Westbrook Hay Farm, in what is now termed The Box Moor Trust Centre.

3 Snook's Grave

The common thief, James Snook (often called Robert Snook the highwayman), is buried on the Moor. He was hanged at the scene of his crime (robbing a post boy) in March 1802. The Trustees placed the original gravestone marker in 1904.



4 Boardwalk, Woodland Pond & Bird Feeding Station

At Westbrook Hay you will see the wooden boardwalk that extends from the Old Barn and through the woods. The woodland pond has been extended and is now a central part of the Trust's education programme, being used as a site for pond dipping. The wood is a haven for birds and the bird feeding station attracts many species.

Bovingdon Brick Works

15



11 Westbrook Hay, Bovingdon Reach & Hay Wood

Hay Wood is in part ancient, being the remnants of an old wooded field system where woods were grown around the field to protect the crops from harsh weather. Bovingdon Reach is a large field subject to minimal management to allow natural regeneration of a chalk downland slope 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.

12 The Old Barn Education Centre

The site of the Old Barn is now a classroom and walkers retreat. The central roof space is a now a barn owl loft but was originally a dovecote.

13 Ramacre Wood

Bluebells, foxgloves, willow herb and many other plants flourish in the glades of Ramacre Wood. It is also renowned for its ancient yew trees.

5 Pixies Mere

This lake in Bourne End was bought by the Box Moor Trust in the spring of 2003, and still operates under licence as a coarse fishery. Its aims are to provide good fishing for both able-bodied and disabled anglers, educational links for young people, bird watching facilities and protection for the existing wildlife.

6 Belted Galloways

The decline in the number of graziers led to the Trust's introduction of its own herds. The Shetland cattle were the first rare breeds, later replaced by Belted Galloways.



7 Old Fishery

These old watercress beds were once common along the River Bulbourne and supplied London with watercress. It is along this stretch that water loving birds can be seen including the kingfisher.



8 Chaulden Meadow

Chaulden Meadow is owned by the Box Moor Trust and used by the Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) Rugby Union Football Club.

9 Blackbirds Moor

The venue for the annual Conker Festival, which was inaugurated in 1996. The avenue of chestnut trees was planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Home of Boxmoor Cricket Club, cricket was first played on Blackbirds Moor officially in 1857.



10 St. John's Church & War Memorial

St. John's Church was built in 1874 on land originally provided by the Trust in 1829. The War Memorial is situated on land belonging to the Trust but leased to Dacorum Borough Council. The nearby Memorial Garden was later laid out for those who lost their lives in the World Wars.



Key

- Box Moor Trust Estate
- Non-Trust Rural Land
- Built-up Areas
- Field Boundaries
- Blue Walk
- Red Walk
- Green Walk
- Alternative Green Walk Route
- Orange Walk

24 Roughdown Common

This area has been classified as SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) by the Environment Agency. The Common, with its chalk grassland flora, boasts the only colony of regenerating juniper in the county and many species characteristic of former grazing land on chalk soils, such as orchids and gentians.



25 Lower Roughdown

Here you will see the chalk face with fine examples of juniper trees. In early summer the pyramidal orchid with burnet moths make this a spot to sit in and enjoy. A bat cave was created in the old chalk workings in 1994 and there is evidence that bats now hibernate there.

26 Further Roughdown

This field is part of the land the Trust was given in exchange for land taken for the A41 Bypass. It was reseeded with chalkland grass and plant species to recreate the chalk downland that was once prominent in this area. Cowslips, snakeshead rattle and salad burnet are among the plants that flourish here.

27 Upper Roughdown

Now severed from Lower Roughdown by the A41, this area has become a secluded wooded area with glades created to allow woodland chalk plants to develop and also to encourage birds back to the site. You may hear or see kestrels in the high branches or tawny owls at dusk.

17 Preston Hill Pond

There is a large pond in this area, which was dug and filled in 1997 to create a wet area on the otherwise dry landscape at Westbrook Hay. The Trust's own herd of Norfolk Horn sheep, a rare breed, can be seen grazing in this area.



18 Boxmoor Wharf

Once used for the bottling of port and whisky, and later for the shipping of raw lime juice, the site is now leased to the DIY retailers, B&Q.

19 Grazing

The right of pasture or grazing on the moor is secured under the 1809 Act and is controlled by the issue of pasture tickets.

20 Howes Retreat

Howes Retreat provides winter housing for the Belted Galloway stock and is the base for the Trust estate workers.

14 Bury Wood

On one side of the path is an ancient wood that contains a ditch, which is an old boundary with remnants of layered hornbeam hedge. The much younger wood on the other side was once open chalk downland grazed by livestock. There is evidence of green and great spotted woodpeckers in this area.



16 Sheethanger Common

Sheethanger Common comprises over 30 acres of chalk grassland, once grazed with sheep. The area has been designated a Heritage Site and in the summer

months, the lower slopes are full of many varieties of chalkland plants. Cowslips and spotted orchids are a particular pleasure. Boxmoor golf club is situated on the common. It claims to be one of the oldest golf clubs in the country. It was inaugurated in 1890, four years after the purchase of the Commons.