

### Getting Here

Westbrook Hay is situated on the hills to the south of the Box Moor Trust Centre on London Road, Hemel Hempstead (A4251). Westbrook Hay can be reached from the A4251 (London Road), running between Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted. Close to the Box Moor Trust Centre on London Road, turn into Westbrook Hay drive (signposted for the Box Moor Trust Old Barn). Follow the drive all the way to the top of the hill, then take the first track on the left (just before Westbrook Hay School entrance). This will lead you into the car park next to the Old Barn Education Centre.

### Car Parking

The car park by the Old Barn is usually open during daylight hours. An alternative car park can be found at the base of the hill, at the start of Westbrook Hay drive. Park here and walk up through the meadows to the Old Barn and the starting point for this walk.

### Users of Wheelchairs, Pushchairs or Mobility Scooters

The boardwalk is the main section of this walk suitable for wheelchair and pram users. The visitor will have to assess the suitability of the rest of the walk but this will depend on weather conditions as some of the ground is uneven with puddles and mud after rain. If the section between points (3) and (4) on the map seems unsuitable, please try continuing along to the end of the boardwalk, through the gate and into the large field. At the pond, bear right to a large gate leading back into the wood to re-join the walk at point (4). Please contact us for more advice on alternative routes. Benches are situated at several points around the route. A mobility scooter is available on loan from the Box Moor Trust Centre for use on this walk. Please ring in advance to arrange. Tel: 01442 253300.

### Safety

When carrying out the activities suggested in this leaflet, please take great care. In particular, do not enter our pond dipping areas. It should be possible to observe the ponds from outside these areas. The Box Moor Trust cannot accept responsibility for the children under your care.

### Care of the Box Moor Trust Estate

Where livestock are grazing, please keep dogs on a short lead or at heel. If your dog fouls, please bag and bin it or take it away with you. More information can be found in our leaflet 'Dogs and the Box Moor Trust'.

Please also:

- Close all gates.
- Do not leave litter or light fires.
- Do not pick plants, flowers or fungi.

Email: [education@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:education@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

# Story Stroll

**A short, easy walk for families around the woods and meadows of Westbrook Hay, including six activities based on favourite stories and book characters**

These activities link to popular children's books and are designed to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

Take on as many or as few as you wish or just enjoy the walk!

**If you have enjoyed this walk, why not explore further on our Orange, Blue, Green or Red walk routes? We produce seasonal 'I-Spy' inserts for children to accompany the Orange walk.**

**Please visit our website:  
[www.boxmoortrust.org.uk](http://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk)**



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### 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (Eric Carle)

**A**

The Hungry Caterpillar ate and ate and ate.... look in the hedges and grassland by the sides of the boardwalk - can you see any leaves that have been munchd or even any caterpillars? Look carefully, some caterpillars are the same colour as the leaves (camouflaged) whilst others are brightly coloured as a warning that they are poisonous to the birds and other creatures that want to eat them. Do you know what caterpillars turn into? Can you see any around you?

### 'Harry Potter & the Philosopher's Stone' (JK Rowling)

**B**

At Ollivander's in Diagon Alley, Harry Potter buys his first wand and learns that different wands are made of different woods. Each has a specific property and so a wand can reflect the personality of its owner: Harry's wand is made of holly which repels evil, whilst Voldemort's is made from yew, a tree associated with death and resurrection. Hagrid's wand is oak, a tree symbolising strength. All these trees can be found close by - can you find them? The oak is by the boardwalk, the yew and holly just into the wood down the track to the left (find them and then come back to the boardwalk.) Think about the shape of the trees, their bark and leaves: what properties might these give to a wand?

### 'The Enchanted Wood' (Enid Blyton)

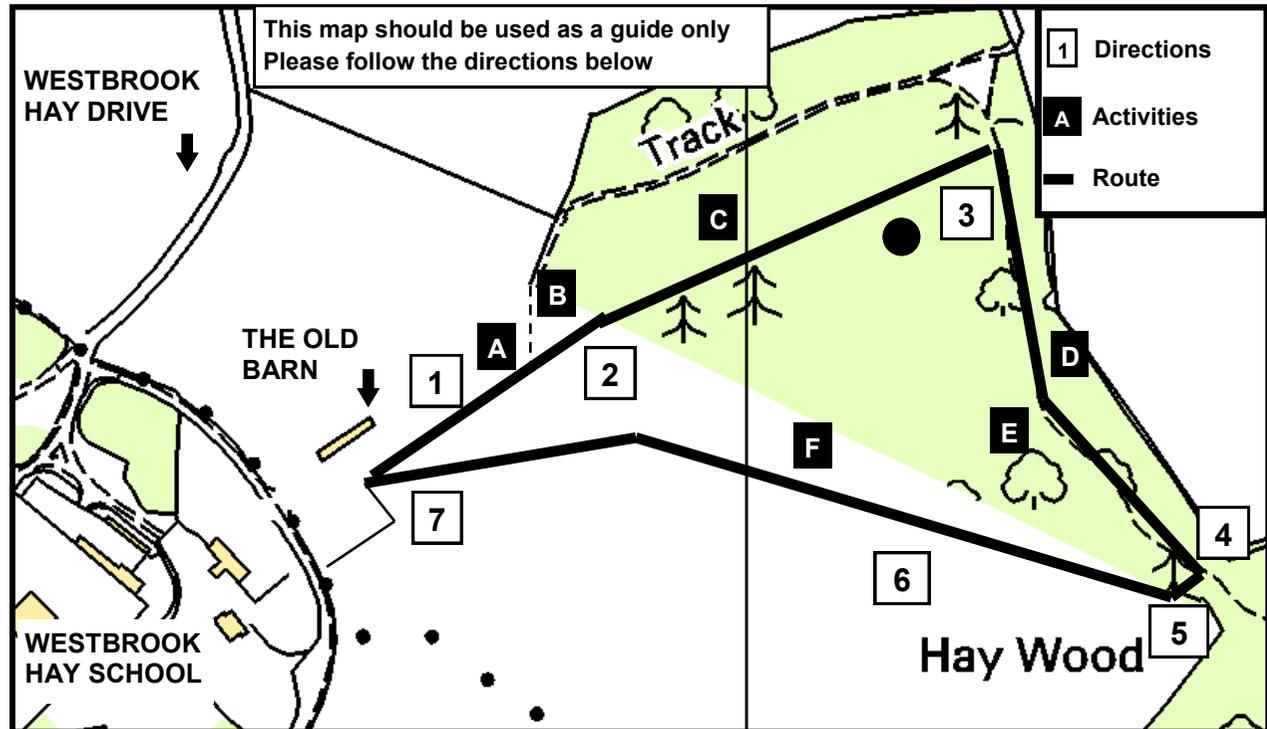
**C**

Deep in the mysterious Enchanted Wood is the oldest and most magical tree in the whole world: the Faraway Tree. All sorts of strange people live in its trunk and branches and its top leaves reach up to other lands in the clouds. Have a look around this part of the wood. Which tree do you think might be like the Faraway Tree? All trees are home to lots of different animals, big and small. How many places can you find in, on or under the tree where they could live? The trees in the Enchanted Wood also seem to talk to each other, their leaves rustling 'wisha-wisha'. Shut your eyes and listen: what sound are these trees making? What other noises can you hear?

### 'Fantastic Mr Fox' (Roald Dahl)

**D**

The horrible farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean, are so determined to catch Mr Fox and his family that they use mechanical diggers to dig a huge hole in the ground around their den. Luckily, the foxes can tunnel fast enough to escape! This large dip in the woodland floor is like the farmers' hole and, if you look carefully, there are holes and tunnels at the bottom too.... what do you think lives here? Please don't go down into the dip, as you could disturb whatever does live here.



#### Directions

From the Old Barn (1), proceed along the boardwalk and follow it into the wood (2). Enter the wood and continue along the boardwalk as it wends its way through the trees. To the right, you will pass a bird feeding station and, a little further along, a woodland pond. Shortly afterwards, turn right onto the bridleway that crosses the boardwalk (3). *From this point on, the terrain may be subject to changing weather conditions and a flat, stable surface cannot be guaranteed. Please see the back page of this leaflet for an alternative route avoiding this bridleway.* Follow the bridleway through the woods until it crosses a second path at right angles (4). Turn right and pass through the gate into the meadow beyond (5). Bearing right, walk uphill, keeping to the edge of the wood (6). After a time, you will see the Old Barn. Go through the black metal gate into the car park (7).

### 'A House is Built at Pooh Corner' (AA Milne)

**E**

One snowy day, Pooh Bear and Piglet decide to build a new house of sticks for their friend Eeyore the gloomy donkey. They name the place Pooh Corner. Can you build a house for a little donkey using the sticks in this clearing?

### 'Rainbow Fairies' (Daisy Meadows)

**F**

Mean Jack Frost has banished all the Rainbow Fairies from Fairyland. Everything will be dull and grey there until Rachel and Kirsty find all seven of the Rainbow Fairies and help them to return. As you walk through the meadow, look very carefully to see if you can find something for the seven colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Please don't pick any flowers.