

Bovingdon Brickworks

A tranquil and environmentally diverse 40 acre site, the former Bovingdon Brickworks quarry was acquired by The Box Moor Trust in 2000. Now subject to a conservation management plan, there's plenty for visitors to enjoy. The undulating ground form is the result of the clay excavations and subsequent partial re-contouring of the site. These pits and slopes provide a valuable base for the developing habitats and their vegetation, while also supporting a wide range of wildlife.

There's open grassland, woodland and scrub with temporarily and permanently wet ponds to explore and it can be easily accessed via local public footpaths. If travelling by car, please park responsibly in surrounding roads. 353 bus route also passes close by.



The Box Moor Trust Centre

This beautiful oak framed barn is both the Trust's administrative headquarters and a fantastic hire space catering for a wide variety of purposes. With meeting and conference facilities for up to 60 delegates, we can also provide tea/coffee, projector, screen, flipchart and wi-fi. Pricing information and booking forms are available on our website at www.boxmoortrust.org.uk charities and not for profit organisations can hire the facilities at a reduced rate.

Located just off the A41, on the London Road in Hemel Hempstead, The Box Moor Trust Centre sits within easy access of the M1 and M25 motorways and a short walk from the mainline train station.



The Trust has adopted a Green Travel Plan and is encouraging visitors to walk, cycle, use public transport or car share for their journeys. For local buses this link is useful <http://www.intalink.org.uk/>

This leaflet is available in a range of formats on request. Content can be provided as an accessible text document and mp3 audio.



The Box Moor Trust Centre

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Registered Charity No 206142

www.boxmoortrust.org.uk



Your land, your heritage,
your future

The
Box Moor
Trust



About the Trust

The History of Box Moor Trust

With a rich history spanning four centuries, the origins of the Box Moor Trust can be dated back to 1574, when Queen Elizabeth I presented the Earl of Leicester with a gift of land in the county of Hertfordshire. This gift included some pastures in Hemel Hempstead, which were subsequently acquired by three local men - John Rolfe, Richard Pope and William Gladman – at a cost of £75, which appears to have been raised by a secret public subscription.



In 1594, ownership was passed to 67 named locals, or Feoffes, 'whereby their heirs and assigns might and should forever thereafter have, hold and enjoy the said meadows and all the commodities that might or should arise thereof' – they agreed that twelve of them should be appointed as Trustees, with the power to pass orders and byelaws where necessary.

The Trust Today

Now a self-supporting charity, the Box Moor Trust manages nearly 500 acres of grazing and amenity land on behalf of the local community. Predominantly open access, the land is free to visit and explore, and includes woodlands, recreation areas, the meadows of the Bulbourne Valley between Bourne End and Two Waters, Roughdown and Sheethanger Commons, Westbrook Hay and Bovington Brickworks.

Our Trustees are elected by people living within the Trust's Area of Benefit and they're charged with administering its charitable work in accordance with an Act of Parliament in 1809, which was later updated under a new Charity Commission Scheme in 2000. The Trust is supported by a team of highly committed individuals who work hard to ensure that it continues to function successfully and meet its core objectives.

Revenue is generated through investments, the sale of pasture tickets and property rents. The Trust currently owns a diverse range of properties, including twenty-seven houses and various workshops and barns; it also owns the valuable Boxmoor Wharf, a canal-side commercial site which was once used for the shipment of port and whiskey and is now home to a large, national DIY retailer.

What Does The Trust Do?

As a registered charity, the team at the Box Moor Trust is proud of the many roles that the Trust plays in the local community. Here is a brief overview of the work that we do:

- **Land management** – The estate team takes care of the many diverse habitats within the Trust's ownership, including woodland, chalk meadows and amenity land.

- **Grazing** – True to its origins of protecting grazing rights, the Trust continues to provide pasture for local graziers, its own rare breed Belted Galloway cattle and flock of Norfolk Horn sheep. Please remember that horses and cattle can be curious about people, which can feel intimidating.



Therefore, refrain from feeding or stroking livestock. Dogs should be kept on leads when entering fields with livestock. Ensure you always clear up after your dogs.

- **Sport** – Boxmoor Cricket Club, Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club and Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) Rugby Union Football Club all have current licences to play on our land.

- **Education** – We offer a variety of fantastic courses for schools, youth groups and adult learners which primarily take place in the great outdoors. We foster strong relationships with schools within our locality and ensure that the sessions we provide link in with the National Curriculum.

- **Forest Schools** – Forest Schools have become an increasingly popular initiative, using the natural resources of the woodland to stimulate creative learning. Our qualified team of Forest School leaders run regular sessions for local schools throughout the academic year – and the kids love them!

- **Wildlife Explorers** – The Box Moor Trust is proud to support RSPB Wildlife Explorers. Designed for children with an interest in wildlife and nature, groups to cater for all ages meet once a month.

- **Grants** – The Trust sets aside a small grant fund for not-for-profit organisations located within its Area of Benefit (broadly covering Hemel Hempstead and Bovington) every year. Grants are awarded for the provision of equipment purchases or other capital projects.

- **Community Events** – The Trust loves to bring the community together and we do this by hosting a variety of events and festivals throughout the year. Our education team also run activity fun days for families during the school holidays – perhaps we'll see you at the next one?

- **Walks** – If you'd like to explore the Trust's land, we have several walk leaflets available covering a variety of different routes. Occasionally, the Trust also organises seasonal guided walks which are well worth looking out for.

- **Talks** – We also give regular talks at our Trust Centre, covering many different elements of the Trust's work such as its history wildlife and nature, and estate management.

- **Friends of the Box Moor Trust** – If you'd like to be kept up-to-date with the Trust's activities, for a small annual fee you can become an official 'friend'. You'll receive a starter pack and regular newsletters.

- **Volunteering** – Fancy getting involved as a volunteer? You can take part in our fortnightly conservation projects, such as pond clearance, hedge laying and tree planting – the team would be grateful for your contribution. If that's not quite your thing, you could help with wildlife surveys, administration tasks or education/community activities.

For further information about any of the above please go to:
www.boxmoortrust.org.uk or
call 01442 263300



The Box Moor Trust Estate

1 Memorial Orchard

Accessible via footpath from London Road in Bourne End, the orchard is stocked with local, old variety fruit trees and maintained through donations.

2 The Box Moor Trust Centre

Opened in 2013, the Trust's administrative base is a beautiful oak framed barn.

3 Snook's Grave

In May 1801, common thief James Snook (also known as Robert) robbed a post boy on the moor – he was found, tried and subsequently hanged at the scene of his crime in March 1802. While the exact site of his grave isn't known for certain, a marker was placed at the approximate location by the Trustees in 1904.

10 Boardwalk

Extending from the Old Barn, through Hay Wood and to the top of Preston Hill, this wooden boardwalk enables pushchairs, wheelchair users and those with impaired mobility to access the site.

11 Westbrook Hay: Bovingdon Reach and Hay Wood

Hay Wood is in part ancient, being the remnants of an old wooded field system. The large field known as Bovingdon Reach is subject to minimal management, to allow natural regeneration of a chalk downland slope. The rich diversity of plants includes bee orchids. In summer the skies here come alive with a vivid display of butterflies, insects and birds.

12 Westbrook Hay: The Old Barn

Formerly a cart shed, this rustic building is now mainly used as a field classroom for school visits, monthly Wildlife Explorer group meetings and as a walkers retreat.

13 Westbrook Hay: Ramacre Wood

Part of the Westbrook Hay estate, the wood contains specimens of parkland trees, including a very old pollarded Hornbeam. It is also noted for its ancient yew trees.

14 Bury Wood

A path separates the ancient woodland (with its former boundary ditch complete with remnants of layered hornbeam hedge) from the younger wood, which was once open chalk downland, grazed by livestock.

4 Pixies Mere

Acquired by the Trust in 2003, this lake in Bourne End is operated under licence by a bailiff and offers great fishing opportunities for both able-bodied and disabled anglers.

5 Gadespring/Old Fishery Cressbeds

Once a common feature along the River Bulbourne, these former watercress beds were a thriving local industry. Water-loving birds such as the kingfisher and little egret are regularly seen along this stretch of the river.

6 Chaulden Meadow

Owned by the Box Moor Trust, Chaulden Meadow is licensed for use by the Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) Rugby Union Football Club.

7 Blackbirds Moor

Home to Boxmoor Cricket Club, the sport was first officially played on Blackbirds Moor in 1857. In 1897, the avenue of horse chestnuts was planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the moor is used regularly for events such as fairs, circuses and local festivals.

8 Heath Park

Heath Park is home to Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club, which also makes use of Balderson's Moor.

9 St. John's Church and War Memorial

St John's Church was built in 1874 on land originally provided by the Trust in 1829. The nearby memorial garden remembers 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

18 Station Moor

The avenue of horse chestnut trees was planted in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. These trees have in recent years come under attack by Bleeding Caner and the leaf miner moth. They are also reaching the end of their natural lives and are gradually being replaced by the Trust with species more suited to the habitat. The original 1906 bridge was replaced in 1997.

19 River Bulbourne

The Bulbourne flows through Trust land along the valley floor, north-west to south-east from Old Fishery to Two Waters where it joins the River Gade. A classic chalk stream and an important and globally rare habitat, the river supports a wide range of plant and animal species.

20 Trust Houses

The Trust owns 27 residential properties along London Road, generating revenue to support its good work.

21 Lower Roughdown

This 19th century chalk quarry is now a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, managed by the Trust under direction from Natural England. Now home to orchids, gentians and many other species characteristic of former chalk soil grazing land, the grassland flora also boasts the only colony of self regenerating juniper in the country. In 1994, a bat hibernaculum was created in the old chalk workings.

22 Grazing

Secured under the Act of 1809, the right of pasture or grazing is controlled by the issue of 'pasture tickets'. In response to a decline in the number of graziers, the Trust introduced its own rare breed Belted Galloway cattle and Norfolk Horn sheep to make good use of the land.

23 Further Roughdown

Given to the Trust in exchange for land taken for the A41 bypass, this field has been reseeded with chalk grass and plant species, including cowslips, snakeshead rattle and salad burnet, recreating the chalk downland once so prevalent in the area.

24 Boxmoor Wharf

Originally used for bottling port and whiskey, then later for the shipping of raw lime juice, the Wharf is now leased by a well-known DIY brand.