

Notes

1 The depression you see to the left as you cross the bridge is the site of an old cress bed. Local cress beds used to be prolific. The produce was sent by train to supply many London markets. The footbridge was put in by the Trust in 1997.

2 This is the site of the western terminus of the Nicky line, used to deliver coal to the gas works. The Midland Railway Company hoped to join up with the West Coast line but that never happened.

3 This field is part of the land the Trust was given in exchange for land taken for the A41 Bypass and reseeded with chalkland grass and plant species to recreate the chalk downland that was once prominent in this area. In the spring, the display of cowslips is quite impressive. In the summer can be seen other plants typical of this area, including snakeshead rattle and salad burnet.

If you take a detour through Lower Roughdown, you will see the chalk face with fine examples of juniper trees. In June and July the display of pyramidal and common spotted orchids make this a spot to sit in and enjoy.

4 Now severed from Lower Roughdown, this area has become a secluded wooded area with glades created to allow wooded 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.

5 Sheethanger (or Shothanger) 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, including cowslips and common spotted orchids. Claiming to be one of the oldest golf clubs in the country, Boxmoor Golf Club was situated on the common until its demise in 2011. The club was inaugurated in 1890, four years after the purchase of the commons.



6 To the left of the path is the ancient Bury Wood. The ditch to the right is the old boundary with remnants of layered hornbeam hedge. The much younger wood to the right was once open chalk downland grazed by livestock. At the summit of the path can be seen rushes that indicate possible wetland - maybe the site of an old dew pond. There is evidence of green and great spotted woodpeckers in this area. Look for the holes in the trees. The great spotted woodpecker makes its hole in the underside of branches.

7 It's worth a brief detour here to see the chalk dell and mine entrance: instead of turning left towards the road, bear right and enter the chalk dell via a kissing gate. A bat cave was created in the old chalk workings in 1994 with the help of the Herts and Middx Bat Group and the Vincent Trust. There has been evidence that bats now hibernate there.

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.



The Box Moor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2RE
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Meeting space available for hire – see website for further details

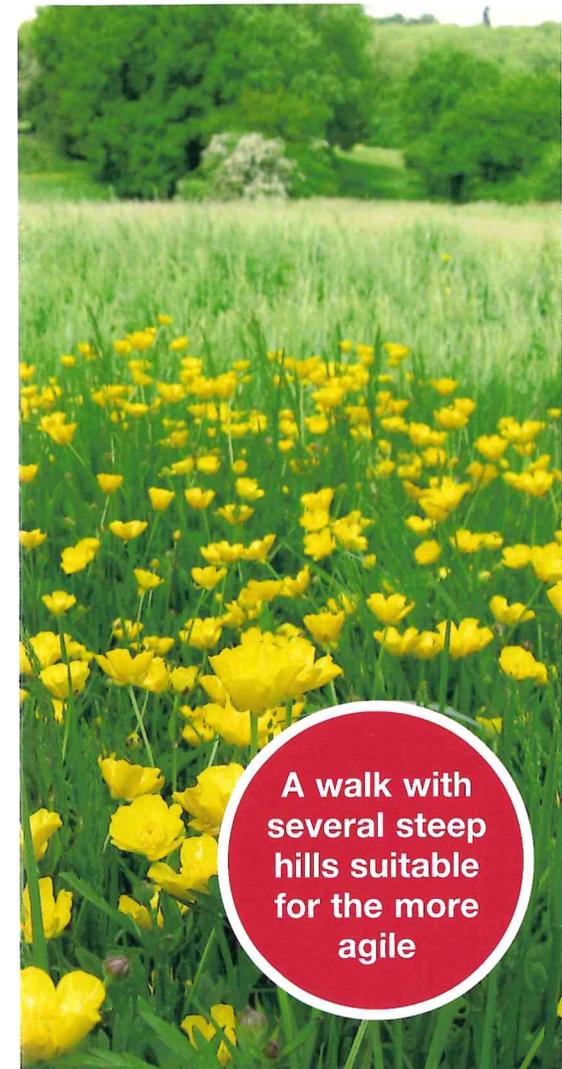
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your future

The
Box Moor
Trust

Red Walk



A walk with
several steep
hills suitable
for the more
agile

(follow the Red markers)

Length: approx 6km (3½miles)

Time: approx. 2-3 hours

Red Walk

Please note: distances are approximate

Start at Plough Gardens next to Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club and head towards Two Waters Road, skirting the edge of Balderson's Moor. Turn right onto the path and head towards the canal with the river Gade on your right. Immediately after the bridge, turn right onto the track leading down to the canal and turn left onto the towpath. A little way past the lock gates, turn left onto the moor using the green gate. Head towards the bridge, keeping the fence on your left. Cross over the bridge **1**.

Follow the hedge line to the road and cross. **This can be a busy road, so be careful. You are now leaving Trust land for a short stretch.** Almost directly ahead but slightly right is the entrance to a public footpath signposted 'Felden'. It is quite difficult to spot, so you will need to look carefully. Ahead, there is an extremely steep staircase up to a bridge, followed by an equally steep staircase going back down, so take care. A further series of steep steps take you over the railway **2** to the corner of Further Roughdown. Turn right through the kissing gate and you are back on Trust land **3**. Follow the hedge line on your left to the top corner of the field. Ignore the kissing gate ahead of you, turn right and proceed with the hedge on your left. Pass through a kissing gate onto Lower Roughdown Common. Follow the footpath signs along the open ground above the A41 with the bypass on your left until you reach a track accessed by a kissing gate. Turn left over the bridge and climb the steps on the left.

Follow the path bearing right through Upper Roughdown wood **4**; pass through the kissing gate and follow the track in front of you. Where the track forks, stay left and continue to the road. Turn left onto Felden Lane. **There is no footway on this part of the road – take care, cross and walk in single file facing the oncoming traffic.**

Continue up the hill for 100 metres and then follow the Boys Brigade drive, which forks right. Continue along the drive as it crosses the old golf course until you see a thatched cottage on your left. Turn right and follow the permissive brideway into the woods, keeping the golf course to your right **5**.



Box Moor Trust Estate

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

At the fork bear right, continuing down the hill until you meet a driveway. At this point turn left then right into Bury Wood **6**. At the end of the wood you will meet Bury Rise, a private road. Turn right and continue for a short distance, then right again back into the woods. This path will take you back towards Sheethanger Common. *(To join the meeting point with Green Walk, continue down Bury Rise and cross Box Lane – take care, this is a difficult bend!)*

Continue along the common with the road on your left, crossing a private drive on the way. As you near a small car park, veer right towards the wooded area and uphill. Once through the trees take the track to the left, which winds up the hill back to the little driveway, where you turn left. Return to the junction with Felden Lane and continue back to Upper Roughdown.

Return through Upper Roughdown wood, keeping right at the first fork and left after the kissing gate. Cross the bridge over the A41, and this time continue down to the end of the track **7**.

Once again leaving Trust land, turn left and follow the road, crossing the railway bridge, until you reach the junction with London Road at the mini roundabout.

Cross the road and walk down Station Road alongside the moors until you arrive back at your start point at Heath Park.

