

Enjoying our nature reserves

To enjoy your visit please...

Respect wildlife.
Keep dogs under strict control.
Bring your binoculars and wear suitable clothing for watching wildlife.
Take your litter away with you.
Keep to the footpaths.



Protecting Fir and Pond Woods

Hertfordshire is noted for its oak-hornbeam woodlands, but many of them are disappearing under roads and buildings. Those that remain are precious. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust cares for Fir and Pond Woods by keeping woodland paths open and preventing scrub from taking over. Our work would not be possible without the support of our members and volunteers.

How you can help us

We need your support to continue to protect local wildlife.

Why not:

- **Join as a member** – the majority of our income comes from our membership. We need you!
- **Volunteer** – work parties take place in winter months; please contact us if you would like to help.
- **Fundraise** – get your workplace or school involved and have fun raising money at the same time.

Visit our website to find out more
www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
Grebe House, St Michael's Street,
St Albans, AL3 4SN
01727 858901 • info@hmt.org
Registered in England: 816710
Registered Charity: 239863



Herts and
Middlesex



Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve



Watch out for...

- Wildflowers in the meadow
- Speckled wood butterflies
- Waxcap fungi in autumn

Welcome to Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve

Explore Fir and Pond Woods and discover what makes this reserve so special.

Fir and Pond Woods is widely thought to be the best remaining part of Enfield Chase – an ancient royal hunting ground that covered over 3,000 hectares. The reserve contains diverse habitats, including oak-hornbeam woodland, an ancient meadow, and a medieval fish pond.

The woods are rich in birdlife, including woodpeckers, warblers and tits. The ancient meadow features a large number of old anthills and is rich in invertebrates, including butterflies, grasshoppers and crickets.

Getting around

Size: 29ha (71.7 acres).

Trails: Three waymarked trails around the wood.

Blue Trail: 0.8 miles

Red Trail: 1.2 miles

Yellow Trail: 1.5 miles

Surfaces: Unsurfaced path, uneven in places and can be muddy after wet weather. The area to the south of Turkey Brook is wet and marshy.

4 Great views of the **medieval fish pond** can be had from the viewing platforms. Look out for little grebes constantly diving as they hunt for invertebrates and small fish.



3 Visit the **grandad holly tree** – one of the largest specimens in Hertfordshire. Holly berries throughout the wood provide a great source of food for fieldfares and redwings in winter.

2 **Hornbeam** was often planted to mark the boundary between properties. It was then coppiced (cut down to near ground level) or pollarded (cut above head height) which extended the life of the tree. There are some fantastic old boundary trees in this part of the wood.

1 Both species of our **native oak tree** grow here. Pedunculate oaks have acorn cups on long stalks whilst the acorn cups on sessile oaks are almost stalkless.



5 Look for the **Turkey Brook**, where ferns line the banks. Great for atmospheric photos in dappled light.



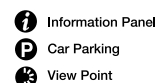
6 The **tall fen vegetation** provides a perfect habitat for dragonflies. In summer this area teems with butterflies. Buzzards can often be seen overhead.

7 Learn about the anthills and wildlife of the ancient meadow.



8 Listen out for **nuthatches and woodpeckers** as you wander through the oak-hornbeam woodland.

Key



Blue Trail – 0.8 miles	(approx 30 mins)
Red Trail – 1.2 miles	(approx 45 mins)
Yellow Trail – 1.5 miles	(approx 60 mins)
Footpath	