

How can you get involved?

Collect and spread seed at a Special Event. Look out for details on posters and in the local press.

Give practical help and learn new skills by joining a work party.

Spread the word, perhaps by arranging a guided walk for your group.



Oxlip

Visitor Information

We hope you will enjoy your visit to Waresley and Gransden Woods and visit regularly to appreciate the changes through the seasons and the years as Browne's Piece becomes woodland.

Please help us look after the wildlife in the wood:
Stay on paths and do not enter restricted areas.
Keep dogs on leads and clear up dog faeces.
Do not remove plants or animals from the wood.
Take your litter home.
Thank you.

How to find the reserve

Waresley and Gransden Woods TL263548

From St Neots, take the B1046 towards Great Gransden. At the edge of the village take the minor road on the right signposted Waresley. After about a mile look out for a small bridge over a stream and take the concrete track on the left and park near the sewage works. Follow the fence to the right up to the wood. The woods can also be reached on public footpaths from Waresley, Great Gransden and Little Gransden

We hope you enjoy your visit

More Information

Your local Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and countryside for people to enjoy in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We are a charity dependent on voluntary contributions.

To contact us about this reserve or about how you can support us please write to:
The Wildlife Trust, 3b Langford Arch, London Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4EE, or telephone: 01223 712400.
E-mail: cambswt@cix.co.uk Website:

Thanks to the generosity of local people and others listed below, the Trust's vision of a South Cambridgeshire Forest can start to be translated into reality.

The Woodland Linkage Project is supported by:
HLF
Innogy
English Nature
WREN
Forestry Commission
RMC Environment Fund
Local donors

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Heritage Lottery Fund



www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/bcnp

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire,
Northamptonshire and Peterborough
Wildlife Trust



Welcome to

Waresley and Gransden Woods

Photograph by Peter Walker, illustrations by Mike Langman



Waresley and Gransden Woods are two adjoining oak/ash woods which have been part of the local landscape for thousands of years. The Wildlife Trust owns all but one section of this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Tawny Owl

Although the woods have year-round appeal they are undoubtedly at their most spectacular in the spring when the bluebells are in flower.

In spring the woodland floor becomes carpeted with wild flowers including primroses, oxlips, violets, and the bluebells that fill the air with the heady scent of their blooms.

The woods are home to good numbers of breeding birds, and in summer the rides and glades are filled with wildflowers and insects that feed on their nectar, including butterflies such as the comma.

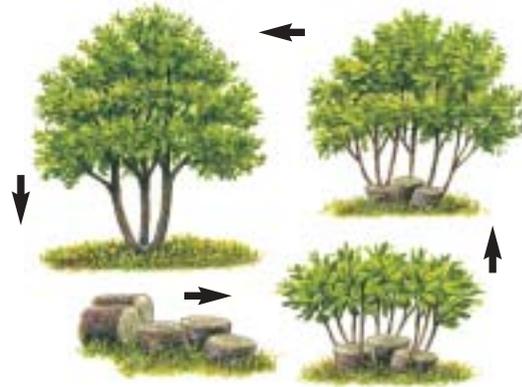
In the first half of the 20th Century much of the timber from the wood was harvested and replanted with oaks and sycamore, creating areas which are very different from the undisturbed broadleaf woodland and traditional coppice plots.

The paths and rides are mown for the benefit of wildflowers



Oaks and acorn

and visitors and coppicing has been reintroduced. The Wildlife Trust has also begun thinning the trees in some of the planted areas to allow more light to reach the ground dwelling plants, and is carrying out smaller scale management to safeguard a population of rare moths.



Coppice Cycle

Browne's Piece

The land was cleared for agriculture but is now part of the Wildlife Trust's vision for a forest in South Cambridgeshire. The Wildlife Trust has bought the field and over the next 200 years it will be encouraged to regenerate using natural processes.

Initially it may appear that little has changed apart from a hedge and fence to protect young plants from deer and rabbits. Grass sown with a last crop of barley in 2003 will help establish a meadow. Nature, with a helping hand from visitors

at Special Events and on School Visits, will gradually change the meadow into woodland. It is very important that only seed from Waresely and Gransden Woods finds its way onto the new area so that we preserve local character and interest.



Primrose

