

Appendix 15 - Green Access to Heartwood Forest

As part of the People Engagement plan for Heartwood we want to see at least 50% of visitors arriving by other means than the car. For this to be achievable the green access routes to Heartwood need to be researched and promoted to visitors. The table below shows the existing transport links, opportunities for improvements and ways to encourage people to use them.

Transport	Existing service/routes	Opportunities for improvements	Ways to encourage use
Bus	There is a bus stop at the bottom of Pound Farm bridleway where two different bus services stop – the 304 from Hitchin to Potters Bar via St Albans and the 620 from Hemel Hempstead to Hatfield via Harpenden. Mon-Fri there are 9, 304 buses per day with 7 on Sat and 3 on Sun. There are 18, 620 buses Mon-Fri per day, 12 on Sat and 7 on Sun.	Encourage the council to retain and enhance these bus services.	Advertising on the Heartwood micro website, include details of these bus services when recruiting volunteers and inviting people to events.
Train	There is a good train service to St Albans station only 2.5 miles away from Heartwood. These include Bedford to Brighton via East Croydon, Luton to Sutton via Hackbridge and Luton to Sutton via Wimbledon. There is on average 9 trains per hour Mon-Fri with 6 trains per hour on Sat and 5 on Sun.	There are two cycling shops a few 100m from St Albans station which may serve as cycle hire.	Advertise how easy and frequent the trains are to St Albans even on the weekends. Approach the cycle shops to see if they are interested in providing hire facilities. Map an easy, safe route from the station to Heartwood, perhaps taking in Clarence Park and Wick Wood onto Jersey Lane to Sandridge. Offer this for download on the website.
Cycle	There are several good cycle approaches to Heartwood from each major village/town (see map).	See separate paper on Cycling to Heartwood but in particular upgrade the B651 from Sandridge to Wheathampstead from a footpath to a bridleway and upgrade the Pound Farm to Ayres End Bridleway to an all weather surface. Also consider safe road crossing at House Lane and Nomansland Common	Advertising on the Heartwood micro website, include details of these routes when recruiting volunteers and inviting people to events. Install safe cycle racks at Heartwood for people to explore on foot.
Walk	There are good walking routes from each major village/town around Heartwood (see map).	Increase the peripheral access points into the forest, see separate paper on Walking at Heartwood.	Advertising on the Heartwood micro website, include details of these access points when recruiting volunteers and inviting people to events.