

Walking for Health in Basing Wood...



Walking for Health in Basing Wood has been running since the New year. It's part of the larger programme of walks co-ordinated locally by Basingstoke Borough Council under the walk4life scheme. It's a safe and fun way to get to know Basing Wood and its wildlife. Although not officially a nature walk we've still managed to spot roe deer, muntjac deer, red kites, buzzards, a fox and various song birds and butterflies. The last two weeks have included a stop off at one of the wood's ponds which is heaving with frogs and frogspawn.



Why don't you join us and see firsthand the changes Spring brings to the wood?

Contact Us!

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Email:

senseandmotion@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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Spring
2010

Sense and Motion in Basing Wood

It seems that Spring has finally arrived bringing with it snowdrops, daffodils and at long last a spell of dry weather!

Some of the work on the facilities in Basing Wood had to be postponed over the winter because of the rain. This particularly effected the play area where large machinery was needed to create the landscape. However in other parts of the wood work ploughed on and thanks to the commitment and wet weather gear of our field staff and contractors the paths for the play trail, fitness trail and new off track cycle route are now finished. We've already had lots of positive feedback saying how great the tracks look now they are more open and light. We will soon be resurfacing sections to create loops and improve access away from the main gravel track and putting in more structures.

If you decide to take a walk into the wood then do have a few minutes rest on the new benches in the **nature reserve**. They are in great locations to spot wildlife. Below are pictures of just a few of the animals and birds you might see in the wood...



Starting top left: red kite, roe deer, common frog, red fox, and buzzard.



Inside:

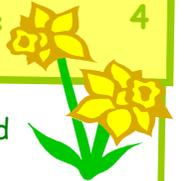
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No motorbikes in Basing Wood...

Motorbike use is not permitted in Basing Wood and although this is challenging to enforce, the Forestry Commission and the Police are working together to tackle the problem.

There has been a rise over the winter months in the number of complaints we receive about this issue. Motorbikes pose a significant disturbance and threat to other forest users. Complaints from members of the public include how the noise ruins the atmosphere of the woodland and how the condition of the tracks and grass deteriorates where motorbikes have been used. There have also been two serious incidents where individuals have almost been knocked over by speeding motorbikes.

Basing Wood is a lovely place to visit and most people will never encounter motorbikes but nonetheless this issue does need tackling. The Police have explained how they will utilise Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. This allows them to **seize and destroy vehicles causing alarm, distress or annoyance.**

Staff from both organisations will be on site regularly. However we would encourage members of the public to report any incidents they witness as well. Remember never put your own safety at risk by entering confrontational situations. The following details are particularly useful for the police:

- *Date and time of incident*
- *How many motorbikes/people were present*
- *Registration numbers /colours of bikes (it is not necessary for the motorbike to have a registration plate for the police to prosecute.)*
- *Description of people present*

By working together we can ensure that Basing Wood continues to be a peaceful and safe community woodland.

If you have any information about motorbike use in Basing Wood please contact us at senseandmotion@forestry.gov.uk or on 01962 774883.

Alternatively contact the police direct on miriam.edwards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or 07770 471621 and 0845 045 4545.

Free Activities and Events!

Walking for Health

Every Tuesday at 11:30am (1-2 miles approx)

Attractive and varying routes. Walk at your own pace within a friendly group. Dogs on leads welcome. Outdoor clothing and footwear a must - you may get muddy! (More health walk information on the back page.)

Den Building Competition Tuesday 13th April 1pm - 3pm

A fun few hours for all the family. Test out your survival skills by building your own shelter - there will be prizes for the best! No booking necessary just meet in the Popley Fields Community Centre car park in time for the 1pm start.

Volunteer Days

Last Saturday in every month 10.30 to 15.30

A drop in day that gives you the chance to do some exercise, meet new people and help conserve your community woodland. You don't need any experience - you just need to be keen!

Activities meet at the Community Centre entrance to the wood unless stated otherwise.

Please read event details carefully. Places on some events are limited and may require advanced booking.

To book on an event:

- 1) Telephone or email with details of which event you want to book and for how many people.
- 2) Complete and return the registration form you will be sent or emailed.
- 3) Receive confirmation of your booking and more details on the activity.
- 4) That's it! You're all booked on!

Email: senseandmotion@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 01962 774883

