



Forest location and information

Enjoy your visit



Bacton Woods

Managed in partnership with
North Norfolk District Council

Welcome to Bacton Woods

Bacton Woods is a mosaic of conifer plantation, mixed woodland and open areas. There are over 30 species of tree within the wood, some native and some introduced.

The site as you see it today was mainly planted between 1956 and 1971. Much of the central and southern area was formally heathland, and you will find heather, broom and gorse.

The area north of the forest was an Ancient broadleaf woodland, managed by the thinning and felling of conifers, this has encouraged natural regeneration of the broadleaf species and plants such as Bluebells, Wood Sorrel and Dog's Mercury, which are indicative of an old woodland.



Location

Bacton Wood is two and a half miles north east of North Walsham on minor roads. Norwich North and Walsham are the nearest towns or villages. OS Grid Ref: TL 813879.

Facilities

The nearest public toilets are in North Walsham town centre or on the B1159 at Walcott. Other local woodlands open for walkers include Pigneys Wood Local Nature Reserve and Sadler's Wood.

In an emergency

Grid reference of Bacton Woods Car Park : TG317313
The nearest public telephone: turn right onto the road out of the car park approximately half a mile on the left at the green.

Contact

Forest District Office
Santon Downham
Brandon
Suffolk
IP27 0TJ
Tel: 01842 810271
www.forestry.gov.uk

North Norfolk District Council
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www.forestry.gov.uk



Something for everyone

Orienteering

If you enjoy walking or running and like the challenge of navigation, orienteering is for you. Use your orienteering map (available with further information from www.northnorfolk.org or phone 01263 513811) and a compass to find control points and write down the code letter to prove that you have found it. Control points are posts with a square spit into red and white triangles. You can search for up to 24 controls and either do this as a competition between other teams, or just to challenge yourself. Why not try and find all the posts over several visits?

Cycling

Bacton Woods is a great place for all abilities to cycle. Family cycling on the main paths or following a circular trail is a great introduction to this hobby and is safe away from traffic. For the more adventurous mountain biker, there are a labyrinth of minor paths winding through the trees and up and down this surprisingly hilly terrain. Look out for the entrances to these paths from the main tracks.

Follow the Forest Code

- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Take your litter home.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- Take only memories away.

Horse riding

Horse riding is permitted throughout the woodland and the car park provides ample room for boxes. There are opportunities to explore the adjacent lanes and bridle paths within the surrounding area.

Group Visits

Thinking of bring a group? Please contact the Event Ranger at North Norfolk District Council 01263 513811 who will be happy to take your booking. Past groups have used the Woods for cross country running competitions, orienteering, night exercises, rambling, wildlife watching and navigation exercises.

Events

Please pick up an events leaflet or visit the event pages at www.northnorfolk.org.uk for upcoming family events and activities at Bacton Woods.



Forest management

Bacton Woods, or Witton Woods as it is also known is over 113 hectares (280 acres). The woodland is owned by The Forestry Commission and is part managed by North Norfolk District Council, together forming the Bacton Woods Countryside Partnership Project.

A bronze age burial mound, an old Oak, pond and an ancient pot boiling site can all be found in the woods. When investigating the pot boiling site look out for shards of small pieces of broken flint, these are the remains of stones that have been heated up and then dropped into pots to warm them... occasionally they shattered on the fire.



Welcome to Bacton Woods



North



Bacton Woods

Bacton Woods is a working forest. All forest users should look out for vehicles, timber lorries and other machinery. Please respect all warning signs. The forest also provides a much needed recreation and education resource and is a haven for wildlife including rare birds and plants.

Always consider other forest users, especially walkers and horse riders.

Forest trails

●●● Red Trail 2km (1.3 miles)

This trail runs along well made tracks with frequent benches. From a clockwise approach it gradually loses height past conifer and mixed woodland to the pond and then the 'grandparent' Oak tree. This is followed by a 200m incline to a level walk through an area recently cleared to encourage native broadleaf woodland to regenerate, Wellingtonia trees and mixed woodland.

●●● Blue Trail 3.3km (2 miles)

This trail runs along variable tracks with occasional benches. It passes through a conifer plantation, mixed woodland and Beech avenues, along recently planted woodland and past the 'grandparent' Oak and pond.

●●● Yellow Trail 4km (2.5 miles)

This trail runs along variable tracks with occasional benches. It passes through many woodland types, Beech Avenues, 'short' Pines planted for seed collection and Wellingtonia trees.

