

Notes

Please note that distances are approximate.

- 1 The depression you see to the left as you cross the bridge is the site of an old cress bed. Local cress beds used to be prolific. The produce was sent by train to supply many London markets. The new footbridge was put in by the Trust in 1997.
- 2 This is the site of the western terminus of the Nicky line, used to deliver coal to the gas works. The Midland Railway Company hoped to join up with the West Coast line but that never happened.
- 3 This field is part of the land the Trust was given in exchange for land taken for the A41 Bypass and reseeded with chalkland grass and plant species to recreate the chalk downland that was once prominent in this area. In the spring, the display of cowslips is quite impressive. In the summer can be seen other plants typical of this area, including snakeshead rattle and salad burnet.

If you take a detour through Lower Roughdown, you will see the chalk face with the fine examples of juniper trees. In June and July the pyramid orchid with burnet moths make this a spot to sit in and enjoy.
- 4 Now severed from Lower Roughdown, this area has become a secluded wooded area with glades created to allow woodland chalk plants to develop and also to encourage birds back to the site. You may hear or see kestrels in the high branches or tawny owls at dusk.
- 5 Sheethanger Common is over 30 acres of chalk downland, once grazed with sheep. There has been a golf course on the site since 1890. The Box Moor Trust, in conjunction with the Boxmoor Golf Club and Hertfordshire County Council have designated this area a Heritage Site. It is well worth a visit on its own especially in the summer months. The lower slopes will be full of

many varieties of chalkland plants. Cowslips and spotted orchids are a particular pleasure.

- 6 To the left of the path is the ancient Bury Wood. The ditch to the right is the old boundary with remnants of layered hornbeam hedge. The much younger wood to the right was once open chalk downland grazed by livestock. At the summit of the path can be seen rushes that indicate possible wetland - possibly the site of an old dew pond. There is evidence of green and great spotted woodpeckers in this area. Look for the holes in the trees. The great spotted woodpecker makes its hole in the underside of branches.
- 7 Continue down Bury Rise to join the meeting point with Green Walk. **Please be careful if you cross Box Lane as this point is on a difficult bend.**
- 8 To see the chalk dell and mine entrance: instead of turning left towards the road, bear right and enter the chalk dell via a kissing gate. A bat cave was created in the old chalk workings in 1994 with the help of the Herts. and Middx. Bat Group and the Vincent Trust. There is evidence that bats now hibernate there.
- 9 Meeting point with Blue Walk.



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Over the hills and through the woodlands

The Box Moor Trust

A walk with several steep hills suitable for the more agile

RED WALK

Length : approx 6 km (3½ miles)

Time : approx 2 - 3 hours

(follow the RED markers)

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Red Walk

Start at Plough Gardens next to Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club. Walk across Balderson's Moor towards the canal and cross via the lock gate, or enter the tow path by the bridge opposite B&Q. Walk towards Berkhamsted. A little way past the lock gates, turn left onto the moor using the stile. Pass through the kissing gate on your right and proceed to the bridge ahead and left. Cross the river, using the bridge. **1** Follow the hedge line to the road and cross. **This can be very busy so be careful.**

Almost directly ahead, but slightly right, is the entrance to a public footpath signposted 'Felden'. There is an extremely steep staircase up to a bridge ahead, followed by an equally steep staircase going back down, so take care. Further steps take you over the railway **2** to the corner of Further Roughdown. Turn right through kissing gate. Follow the hedge line on your left to the top **3**. Turn right and walk alongside the hedge, passing through kissing gate on to Lower Roughdown Common. Follow the footpath signs along the open ground above the A41 until you reach a track entered by a stile. Turn left over the bridge and climb the steps on the left.

Follow the path bearing right through Upper Roughdown wood **4**; pass through the kissing gate and follow the track in front of you to Felden Lane. **There is no footway on this part of the road - take care and walk in single file facing the oncoming traffic.** Continue up the hill for 100 metres: cross the road to follow the Boys Brigade Drive, which forks right.

Please respect the moors, keep your dogs under control and dispose of your litter responsibly.

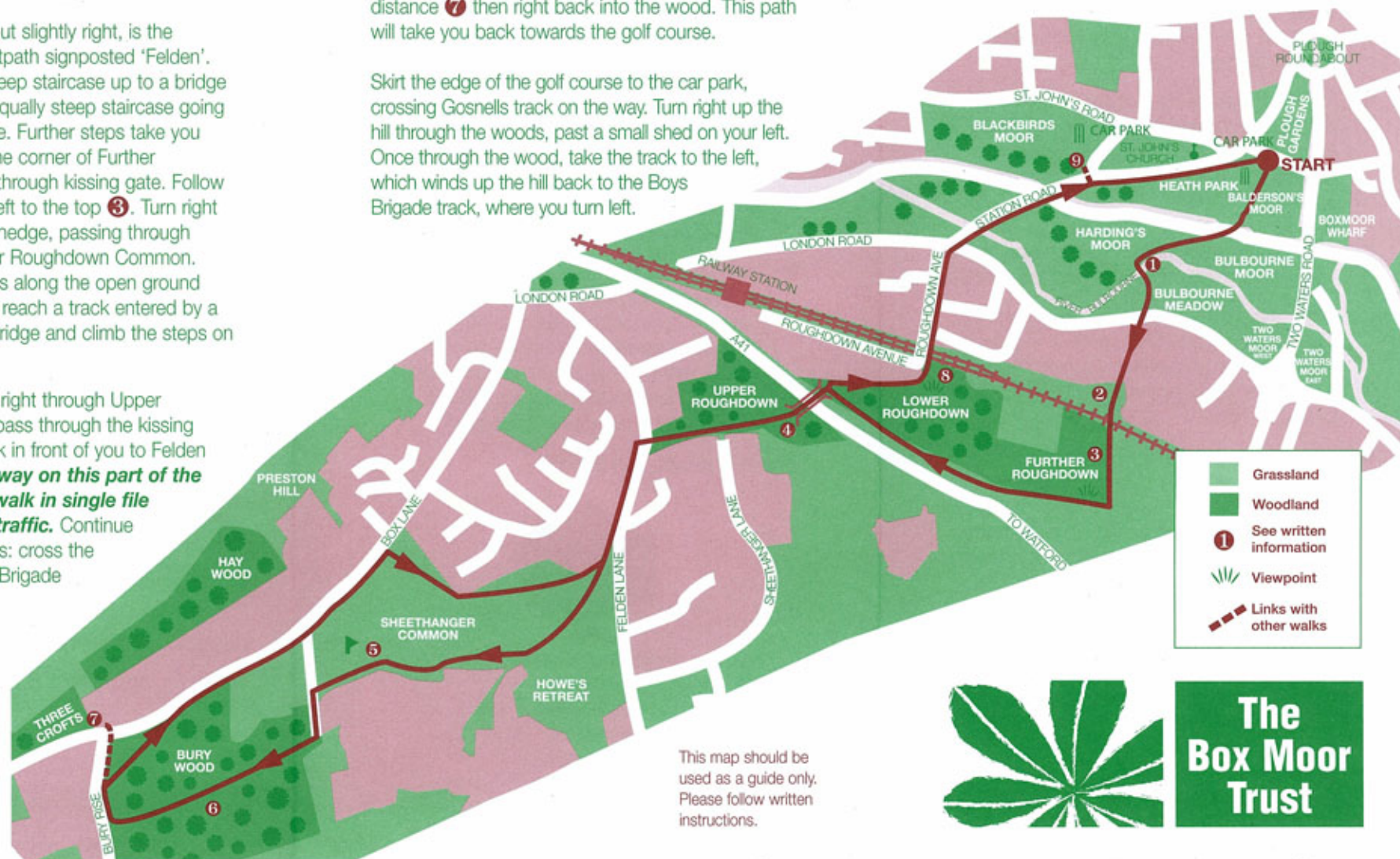
Box Moor Trust Estate

Continue along the drive until you see a thatched cottage on your left, watching out for golfers as you cross the fairway. Turn right and follow the brideway into the woods, keeping the golf course to your right **5**.

At the fork, bear right, continuing down the hill until you meet a driveway. At this point turn left then right into Bury Wood **6**. At the end of the wood, you will meet Bury Rise, a private road. Turn right for a short distance **7** then right back into the wood. This path will take you back towards the golf course.

Skirt the edge of the golf course to the car park, crossing Gosnells track on the way. Turn right up the hill through the woods, past a small shed on your left. Once through the wood, take the track to the left, which winds up the hill back to the Boys Brigade track, where you turn left.

Return through Upper Roughdown wood to the bridge over the A41. This time, continue down to the end of the track **8**. Turn left and follow the road, crossing the railway bridge, until you reach the junction with London Road at the mini roundabout. Cross the road and walk down Station Road alongside the moors **9** until you arrive back at your start point at Heath Park.



This map should be used as a guide only. Please follow written instructions.

