

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet contains eight great trails for walking and cycling in and around Wellesley Woodlands

Most trails start from a free public car park. You can create longer routes by combining trails or complete the circular trails in either direction for a change of scenery. Sections of some trails can also be completed as linear walks.

From a short 1km stroll around the Holly Trail to the extensive 9.4 km Willow Trail there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Most trails are waymarked. The **Holly** and **Birch** Trails are wheelchair accessible

Information about the trails begins overleaf with map 1 and continues with maps 2 and 3 on this side of the leaflet.



WELCOME

स्वागत छ

यस ब्रोशरले वेलेस्ली वुडल्याण्ड्स भर्तिर वरपर सातवटा उत्कृष्ट ट्रेलहरू समावेश गर्दछ ।



GET INVOLVED

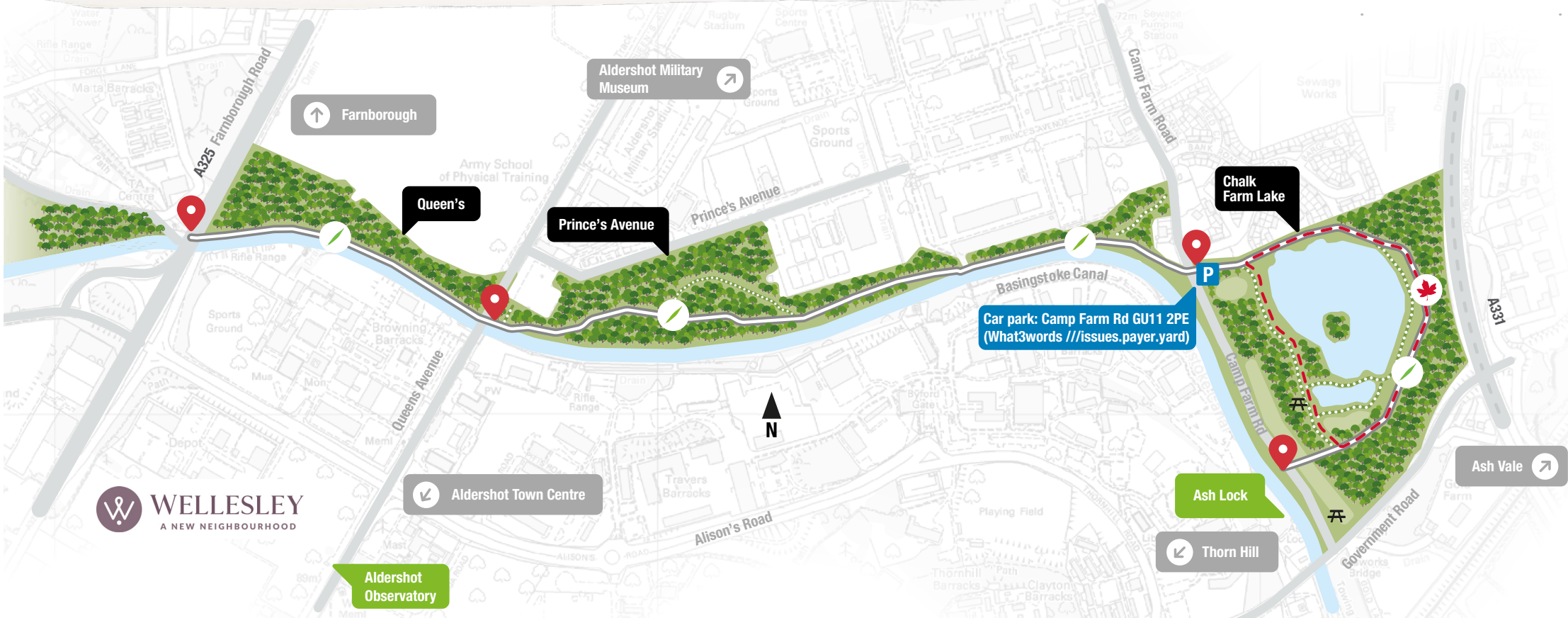
For further information on Wellesley Woodlands events, volunteering, corporate opportunities and downloadable resources visit:

wellesleywoodlands.co.uk

[facebook.com/WellesleyWoodlands](https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyWoodlands)

Printed on 100% recycled cocoon offset.

LAKE & CANAL SIDE (MAP 2)



HEATHER HILL & THORN HILL (MAP 3)



BRILLIANT BIODIVERSITY

Whilst retaining features revealing its military past and areas of forestry plantation, much of the woodland has a natural feel enhanced by an attractive lake and the adjacent Basingstoke Canal.

When exploring the trails you will pass through mature plantations of beech, grey poplar, western hemlock and scots pine, see scattered mature pedunculate oak and sweet chestnut and occasional Turkey oak and false acacia. Other common tree species include sycamore, ash, birch, holly and willow.

Open areas include small blocks of heathland, neutral grassland and short mown amenity grass. Wetland features include Claycart and Rushmoor flashes and areas of wet woodland.

Over 50 bird species have been recorded including bullfinch and firecrest and 16 butterfly species including grayling and silver-washed fritillary. Mammals include mole, badger, fox, grey squirrel, roe deer, bank vole and wood mouse and 9 bat species.

The long-term management aim is restoration of a species rich woodland that contributes to the habitat diversity and attractiveness of the local landscape.

MANAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP

The Land Trust works in partnership with Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP), TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) and Grainger PLC to ensure Wellesley Woodlands is maintained and enhanced as a thriving community greenspace in perpetuity.

The Land Trust is a charity committed to the long-term sustainable management of open space for community benefit. The Trust took on the management of the Woodlands in 2014.

Grainger PLC is the UK's largest specialist residential property owner, manager and developer and is responsible for the overall Wellesley Aldershot project.

BVCP is a partnership project between Hampshire County Council, other local authorities and community organisations working to improve and maintain the River Blackwater and associated green spaces. BVCP undertakes the day-to-day site management of the Woodlands.

TCV is the UK's community volunteer charity that works to create healthier and happier communities through environmental conservation. Their mission is to connect people and green spaces to deliver lasting outcomes for both. TCV are responsible for developing community engagement in the Woodlands.

AWARD-WINNING GREENSPACE



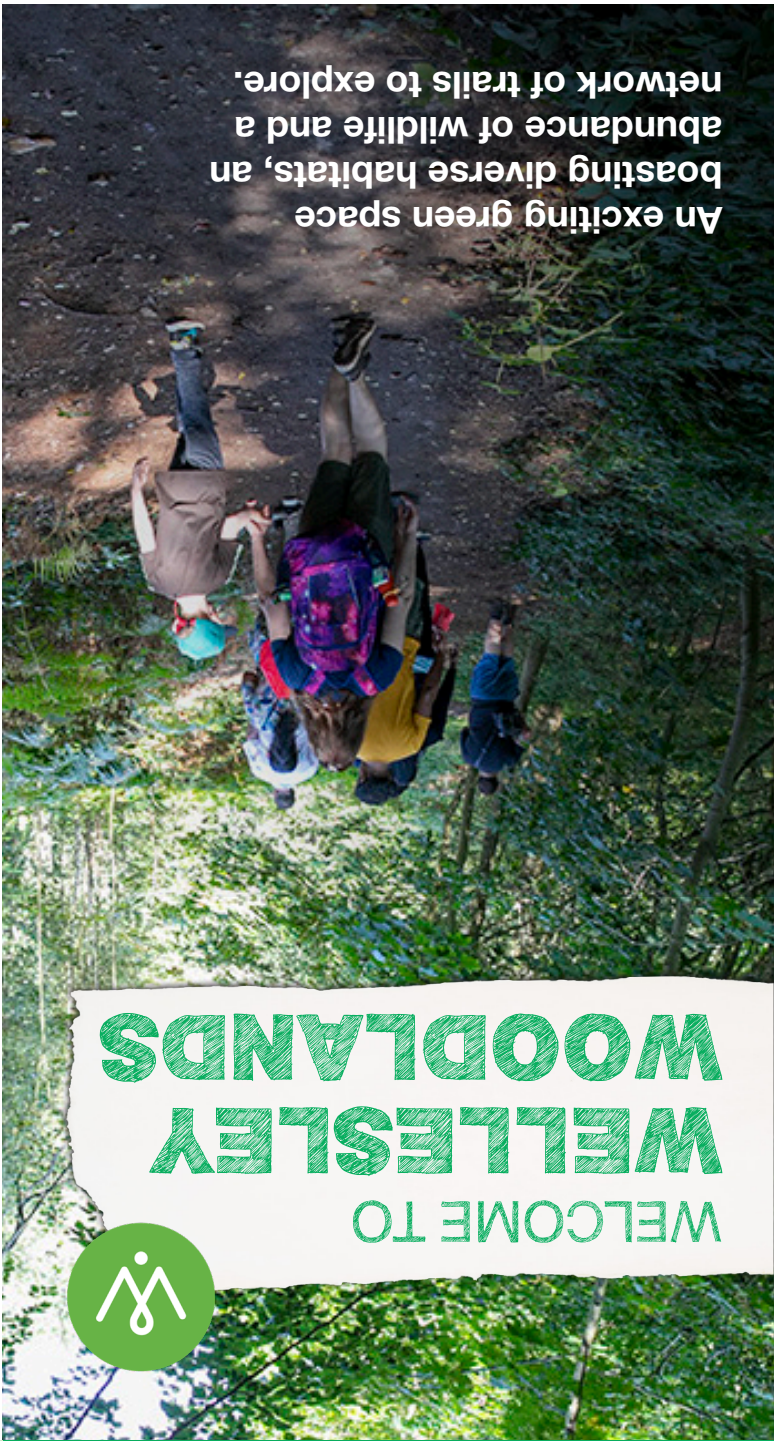
The Partnership's commitment to high-quality management at Wellesley Woodlands was recognised in 2022 when the site received its first Green Flag Award, the international mark of quality for well-managed parks and green spaces.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a great way to get out in the fresh air, learn new skills, meet people and help the woodlands and wildlife of Wellesley flourish. Anyone can help and you do not need prior experience, all you need is enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference.

You can help with practical conservation tasks such as fencing, habitat management, improving footpaths and recreational features etc. You can also help us with wildlife surveys, our events, community engagement and health walks etc. To find out more visit:

wellesleywoodlands.co.uk



LOCATION

Only 1km from central Aldershot
See location map inside

SITE CONTACT

The site contact for Wellesley Woodlands is The BVCP Ranger Team

Tel: 01252 331 353
blackwater.valley@hants.gov.uk



[facebook.com/WellesleyWoodlands](https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyWoodlands)

The Land Trust, 7 Birchwood One, Dewhurst Road
Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7GB
www.thelandtrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1138337
Registered Company No. 5077263

WELLESLEY WOODLANDS

Wellesley Woodlands forms an important part of the new Wellesley residential development on the former training grounds for the Ministry of Defence's Aldershot Garrison.

Comprising 110 hectares of woodlands, wildlife habitats, heritage features and lakes interlinked by footpaths and canal-side walks, this beautiful greenspace is available for the community to enjoy all year round.

The woodlands are divided into two main areas, **Duke's Wood** to the west and **Lake**

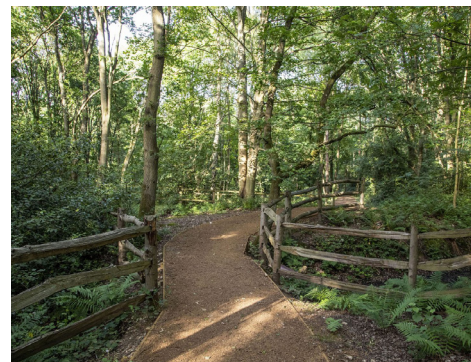
and Canal Side to the east. Separate from these areas are two smaller woodlands **Heather Hill** and **Thorn Hill**.

There are eight wonderful waymarked trails to experience as shown on maps 1-3 in this leaflet. More detailed trail information and resources can be downloaded from the Wellesley Woodlands website wellesleywoodlands.co.uk

The map below shows the location of the four woodland areas that together make up the Wellesley Woodlands.



LOCATION



WAYMARKED TRAILS

MAP 1

Chestnut Trail 1.6km (Puckridge)

A pleasant walk through the most westerly section of Duke's Wood

Oak Trail 1.1km (Claycart)

Done separately or as an extension to the Chestnut Trail runs through the northern area of Duke's Wood

Plane Trail – 1.5km (Rushmoor Bottom - South)

A lovely walk through the Rushmoor Bottom area of Duke's Wood

Beech Trail – 1.5km (Rushmoor Bottom - North)

Done separately or as an extension to the Plane Trail this walk takes you further through the mature beech trees in Rushmoor Bottom

Holly Trail – 1km (Wharf Plantation - short)

A great walk for all abilities beside the Basingstoke Canal

Birch Trail – 1.5km (Wharf Plantation - extended)

An extension of the Holly Trail

Willow Trail 9.4 km

As well as the shorter trails you can also follow the longer Willow Trail which runs throughout Duke's Wood and Lake & Canal Side (through the areas known as Queen's and Prince's Avenue) to Chalk Farm Lake. In the future this trail will be extended with waymarking through to Thorn Hill and Heather Hill to provide a loop connecting all the Wellesley Woodlands.

Nature & Heritage Rubbings Trail

This trail comprises 18 rubbing posts along the **Beech** and **Plane** Trails. Follow the trail to discover some of the featured nature and heritage of the Woodlands. To download a trail booklet visit: wellesleywoodlands.co.uk

DUKE'S WOOD (MAP 1)



What3words

In each blue car park location box shown on the maps, there are 3 word addresses in the form **///word.word.word**

To find a car park easily, download the free What3words app and enter the 3 words into the search bar.

WAYMARKED TRAILS

MAP 2








Sycamore Trail 1.1 km (Chalk Farm)

A gentle circular walk around Chalk Farm Lakes

Aldershot Heritage Trails

For more great trails nearby visit: aldershot.placesandtrails.com





MAP KEY

-  Access Point
-  Woodland compartment name
-  Parking (24 hours)
-  Parking (not 24 hours)
-  Wheelchair accessible trail
-  Toilets
-  Picnic Area



FEATURES OF INTEREST

TO DISCOVER ALONG THE COLOUR-CODED TRAILS

MAP 1

-  **Chestnut Trail**
Stumpery for stag beetles
Love Seat sculpture
Claycart Flash
Puckridge Heath
-  **Oak Trail**
Claycart Army Girder Bridge
Rushmoor Flash
-  **Plane Trail**
Wellington Statue
WWI & WWII Firing Walls
-  **Holly Trail**
Inglis Pipe Bridge
WWII Pillbox
Hand Holding a Tree sculpture

MAP 2

-  **Sycamore Trail**
Birds & Leaves sculpture
-  **Willow Trail**
Iron Bridge (Queen's Avenue)
Angel sculpture

MAP 3

-  **Willow Trail (not waymarked)**
Owl sculpture