

Keep the magic alive

Bluebells are the bounty of spring. Get out and enjoy what they have to offer, but watch where you put your feet.

- Stick to the waymarked paths
- Ensure dogs stick to the paths too – dogs can also damage bluebells through trampling
- Use the designated den-building area for honing your family survival skills

Your actions will determine the future of Heartwood's bluebells. Play your part in making it a bright one.

Now you see them, now you don't

Bluebells flower between mid-April and late May, making the most of the sunlight before the full woodland canopy casts its shade. They then die back naturally over summer and autumn before reappearing in late winter.

Even when not visible above ground, bluebells can still be damaged if the soil above the bulbs becomes compacted from the weight of footfall above.

So watching your step is important all year round, not just in spring. Stick to the waymarked paths in all seasons to secure the future of these blue woodland beauties.

Getting here



Heartwood Forest lies on either side of the B651, sandwiched between Harpenden, Wheathampstead and Sandridge; 4.8km (3 miles) north of St Albans and only 32km (20 miles) from central London.

The nearest postcode is AL4 9DQ. The entrance to the car park is marked with a brown tourist sign.

Stand up for woods and trees. Join us!

Discover more about Heartwood Forest. Visit heartwood.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Visit woodlandtrust.org.uk to find out more about the work of the Woodland Trust and how you can take action to protect trees and woodland.

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL



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Heartwood Bluebells

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WOODLAND TRUST

Discover a magic carpet

Every spring the floor of the ancient woodlands at Heartwood Forest is transformed into a mass of fragrant bluebells. This spectacular carpet of vibrant blue captures the very essence of British woodland.

Bluebell factfile

- Common name: bluebell; Scientific name: *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*; Family: Asparagaceae
- Also known as: English bluebell, British bluebell, wild hyacinth, wood bell, fairy flower, bell bottle
- One fifth of the world's bluebells grow here in the UK
- Bluebells are an ancient woodland indicator, meaning they are more commonly found in ancient rather than new or semi-mature woodland
- Bluebells are important early flowers for bees, hoverflies and butterflies which feed on the nectar

Watch your step

Your boots could be doing more damage than you realise. Over an acre of bluebells have been lost in Langley Wood (equivalent to over half the size of Wembley football pitch). This is due to visitors wandering off the paths and trampling the bluebells.

Trampling: the facts

- Bluebells are particularly sensitive to trampling
- Once damaged, leaves are unable to produce food to put back into their bulbs which means they're less able to produce flowers and seeds
- Large bluebell colonies take a long time to establish; each plant takes around 5-7 years to flower from seed
- After 200 trampling incidents, bluebells are unable to produce any seeds at all
- Woodlands take many years to regenerate from trampling damage



Key:

- All weather route with step free access into Langley Wood. Kissing gates en route
- Most direct route along bridleway, steps into wood (can be muddy)
- Other woodland paths
- Car park track
- P Car park

For more information on access and facilities, see the access guide for Heartwood Forest, available at heartwood.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Should you require an alternative format, please contact us.