

RSPB Church Wood- Accessibility Statement, December 2023

Introduction

- Open dawn until dusk, 365 days a year. Free entry.
- RSPB Church Wood is a beautiful place for a quiet woodland walk. You can take a stroll along dappled paths through beech, ash and oak trees. In springtime you can enjoy a carpet of sweet scented bluebells throughout the woodland glades.
- Church Wood is situated on a hillside. The footpaths are generally gradual slopes with some steeper sections.
- There are no toilets, catering, car park or reception staff at Church Wood.

Pre-arrival

- By road- Hedgerley Village and the entrance to Church Wood is 3 miles (5 km) from Junction 2 of the M40.
- By rail- The nearest railway station is Gerrards Cross, 3 miles (5 km) away. There is a Taxi rank.
- By bus- The nearest bus stop is on Stevenson Road, a 10-minute walk from Church Wood. The 583 runs Monday to Saturday. More information can be found at: <http://www.londonbusroutes.net/times/583.htm>

Car parking facilities and arrival

- There are no parking spaces specifically for Church Wood. The only parking is on the road in the adjacent village of Hedgerley. Please park with consideration as space is limited.
- There is no reserved or blue badge parking for Church Wood.
- From the village walk down the private track (to right of village pond). This is an unpaved lane, with no lighting, that can be muddy when wet (photo 1). Follow this lane for 200 metres. The reserve entrance is on left through kissing gate into the meadow (photo 2) or through another kissing gate, into a neighbouring field and through another kissing gate into the wood (photos 5 and 6).
- The entrance into the meadow consists of four steps with a handrail leading to a kissing gate with 90cm clearance (see Photo 2). The leads to an unpaved footpath which slopes up through the meadow (see Photos 3 and 4). The path can be slippery in wet conditions and muddy after rain. This path leads to another kissing gate giving access to the woods behind the church.



Photo 1- Lane leading from village to Church Wood



Photo 2- Steps up to kissing gate and meadow.



Photo 3- Footpath to meadow



Photo 4- Footpath through meadow

- A second entrance can be found further along the track by passing through a gate into a field and then turning left through a second kissing gate (photos 5 and 6).
- The field leading to the second entrance can be muddy and will sometimes have a small herd of cattle grazing. The area by the gate can be muddy (see Photo 5) and is uneven due to rubble in the top layer of soil. The kissing gate into Church Wood (photo 6) has 80cm clearance and leads to a path that slopes uphill through the wood (photo 7) and a second undulating path to the right which leads along the lower boundary of Church Wood and the sign posted circular walk (photo 8).



Photo 5- Kissing gate at end of lane.



Photo 6- Kissing gate into woods.



Photo 7- Path leading to the left



Photo 8- Path along the lower boundary of Church Wood.

Nature trails

- One marked trail of 1.25 miles (2 km) is on sloping ground accessed by a kissing gate (photo 6). This path can be muddy when wet and there are places where the ground can be uneven with some areas of exposed roots.
- The paths are generally wide enough for two people to walk side by side although there are pinch points by large trees and drainage channels. There are some stony areas, but the path is predominantly muddy. Tree roots may also be a trip hazard (photo 9).



Photo 9- Some extruding tree roots may present a trip hazard.

Viewing facilities

- There is one bench in Church Wood (indicated by the green dot on the map below). This bench is a fixed bench with no arm rests or back support along the north easterly loop of the circular walk.
- There are no viewing hides or screens and no bird feeding stations.



Map 1- Footpaths (lime green dashes) and bench (dark green dot) in Church Wood.

Public toilets

- There are no public toilets at Church Wood.
- Nearest toilets with accessible and baby changing facilities are situated with Beaconsfield Service area at Junction 2 of the M40 (2 miles).

Catering

- There is no catering at Church Wood.
- The public house in Hedgerley serves food and drink.
- A convenience store is located on Hedgerley Hill, SL2 3RP (not late opening).
- A range of shops and food outlets can be found at Beaconsfield Service area at Junction 2 of the M40 (2 miles).