

Harpenden Common is a place of natural scenic beauty providing residents and visitors alike with an unsurpassed amenity and recreational resource.

# Welcome to Harpenden Common

Harpenden Town Council wants your visit to the Common to be a memorable and enjoyable one. This leaflet will help you to find your way around and discover the unique features of this open space.

With 3 colour coded walking trails to explore, a permissive circular horseride, picnic area, the opportunity to watch a game of cricket or football or have a go on the dodgems at the various visiting fairs; there is plenty for everyone to see and do!



## Location

Harpenden is situated in Hertfordshire between the city of St Albans and Luton. Harpenden Common stretches alongside the A1081 (St Albans Road) for almost 2 miles from the Town Centre southwards.

## Public Transport

**Bus:** Services 321 and HA1. Call Traveline on: 0871 200 22 33  
**Train:** Nearest station is Harpenden on the Thameslink Line. Call National Rail Enquiries on: 08457 48 49 50  
**National Cycle Route:** Route 6

## Contact:

Harpenden Town Council  
Town Hall, Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2LX  
Tel: 01582 768278 Fax: 01582 760026  
E-mail: [harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk](mailto:harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.harpenden.gov.uk](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk)

# Harpenden Common

Designed by Splatt Design, Harpenden. 01582 712251. [www.splattdesign.co.uk](http://www.splattdesign.co.uk)



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# Plants and Wildlife on Harpenden Common

Harpenden Common is a designated County Wildlife site due to its make up of amenity and acid grassland habitats; scrub and broadleaved woodland and three drainage ponds. All these habitats support a huge species list including many herbs, grasses, ferns, fungi, trees, birds, insects and bats.

## Common FAQ's

### What is common land?

It is often thought that common land is so called because everyone 'owns it' but this is not correct. Common land is usually land owned by one person but which another person/s is entitled to exercise rights of common such as the right to graze livestock or collect wood or turf for fuel. People with these rights are called 'commoners'. Commoners often live in the local area but sometimes choose not to exercise their rights or the rights die out.

### What sort of land is common land?

The main features of common land are that it is generally open and unfenced. Common land can be found all over England and Wales including many upland areas; Cumbria, Northumberland and Dartmoor as well as lowland areas of common, particularly in the south-east of England.

### How can I find out if land is common land?

All commons are registered. A member of the public can view the register of commons at their local county council, London borough, metropolitan district or other unitary authority office. National park authorities may also register commons.

## How Harpenden Common is Managed

To safeguard the wildlife interest of the Common and provide public access for recreation, careful planning is required. A Management Plan drawn up by Harpenden Town Council in conjunction with Hertfordshire Countryside Management Service forms the basis of any works undertaken on the Common.

The sports clubs along with the Harpenden Common volunteers group also help to look after the Common. Local residents are able to express their views at regular council and public meetings and schools can learn about its importance through a range of educational materials.



# Visitor Information

## Car Parking

Car parking is available at several designated locations on the Common.

Parking is free of charge although there are time restrictions at the Leyton Road and Baa Lambs car parks.

There are numerous pay and display car parks in Harpenden Town Centre that are signposted.

Visitors are requested not to park on the Common verges.

## Byelaws

Harpenden Common is governed by a set of byelaws which helps everyone to respect, protect & enjoy the Common.

Displayed on various notice boards around the Common, visitors are asked to comply with the byelaws at all times.

Harpenden Common is patrolled by Harpenden Town Council staff for your safety and enjoyment. Should you see a problem on Harpenden Common then please call: Harpenden Town Council on 01582 768278 (Mon – Fri office hours only, answer phone at all other times).

If you need to report a crime or incident please contact Hertfordshire Police on 0845 33 00 222 or 999 in an emergency.

## Golf

Please be aware that part of Harpenden Common is used as a golf course. Watch out for golfers at all times. Members of the public are free to roam on and across the course with the exception of the Jockey Field which is in private ownership. Please keep to the marked public footpath through this area.

## Dogs

Please keep dogs under close control on the golf course and on leads around Southdown Ponds. Please use the dog waste bags and bins provided.



Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Harebell



Minibeasts and Shrew



Oak Leaf



Sycamore Leaf



Holly Leaf



Horse Chestnut Leaf



Slow Worm



Linnet



Meadow Brown Butterfly

Trail Map (distances are approximate)		Key to Map	
<b>Yellow Trail</b>	<b>Red Trail</b>	Public Car Parks	Public Toilets
1.2 miles (1.9 km)	0.5 miles (0.8 km)	Information Point	Public Site
Allow approx 30 mins	Allow approx 15 mins	Public House	Church
Easy walking with some	Easy walking, fair safety,	School	Postbox
at regular intervals	please keep to easy marked	Footpath	Footpath
	routes on golf course	Footpath	Footpath
<b>Blue Trail</b>	<b>Green Trail</b>	Footpath	Footpath
0.7 miles (1.1 km)	0.5 miles (0.8 km)	Footpath	Footpath
Allow approx 15 mins	Easy walking with slight	Footpath	Footpath
easy walking with some	steep gradients	Footpath	Footpath
		Footpath	Footpath