

Notes

Please note that distances are approximate.

- 1 Meeting point with Red Walk.
- 2 The original concrete bridge was constructed in 1906 and replaced in 1997. The avenue of horse chestnut trees was planted in 1902 to celebrate the Coronation of Edward VII. As they approach the end of their natural life span, the horse chestnuts become susceptible to disease and therefore some are being felled. A new re-planting scheme is under way with species such as alder, willow, sweet chestnut, black walnut, walnut, hickory, turkey oak and evergreen oak, which are more suited to the soil conditions.
- 3 Herdsman's Moor - so called because it was the site of the original Herdsman's Cottage demolished to make way for the A41 Bypass.

These moors are the remnants of the open land that the Trust first acquired in 1594 now having been dissected by the canal, the railway and several roads. Grazed in the summer by the Trust's own Belted Galloway cattle, they have a rich diversity of natural grasses.

The common thief, James Snook (often called Robert Snook the highwayman), is buried on the Moor. He was hanged at the scene of his crime (robbing a post boy) in March 1802. The original gravestone marker was placed by the Trustees in 1904.

- 4 To join the Green Walk you will need to turn right and walk approximately 100 metres, then you will see a sign for the Box Moor Trust Old Barn. You will need to cross the road (take care, this is a busy road) and turn into Westbrook Hay Drive and the small parking area approx 100 metres on your left is the starting point for the Green Walk.

- 5 These old watercress beds were once common along the River Bulbourne and supplied London with watercress. There were about 5 'farms' on the Trust land at one time.

Over the river is Chaulden Meadow, owned by the Box Moor Trust and used by the Hemel Hempstead Rugby Club (also known as Camelot RUFC).

- 6 Fishery Moor (formerly referred to as Harrison's Moor) is an old flood meadow that has now been designated a Heritage site. The wetland area in the second half by the canal has a wide variety of marshland flowers including lady's smock or cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and locally uncommon lady's mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*).

- 7 The willows along this stretch of the river are grown as a crop for the cricket bat industry. Each tree takes approximately 15-20 years to mature before it is harvested and sold to the cleft makers.

It is along this stretch of the moor that water loving birds can be seen including the kingfisher, which nests in the bank of the stream and feeds off small fish along its length.

Warning: Horses and cattle can sometimes be inquisitive, which may feel intimidating. We would urge you not to encourage the livestock by feeding/stroking.



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Registered Charity No 206142

The Valley Floor

The
Box Moor
Trust

An easy walk through
traditionally grazed meadows

BLUE
WALK

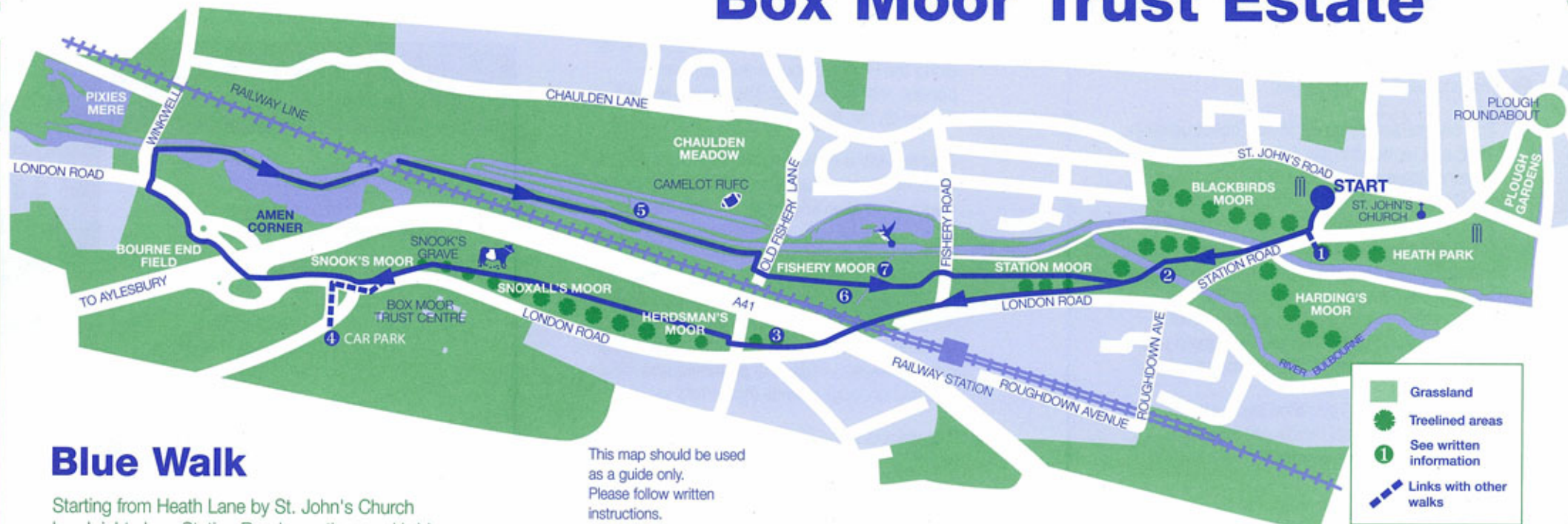
Length : approx 4 km (2½ miles)

Time : approx 2 hours

(follow the **BLUE** markers)

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Box Moor Trust Estate



Blue Walk

Starting from Heath Lane by St. John's Church head right along Station Road over the canal bridge **1** and down the steps onto the tow path. Turn left on to the Moor, through the kissing gate.

Walk through the avenue of horse chestnut trees towards the bridge **2**. Cross the bridge and continue to the kissing gate opposite the Station. Turn right along London Road and then cross Fishery Road (take care, this is a busy road).

Pass under the railway bridge and turn right through the kissing gate on to Herdsman's Moor **3**. Continue through these moors via kissing gates approximately 500 metres apart.

When you reach the fourth meadow, you will see Snooks Grave directly in front of you as you pass through the gate. Walk over towards London Road to a flight of steps and a further kissing gate on to the road. (At this point, to make the walk circular, you will have to leave the Trust land. If you wish to

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

avoid the roads, return through the moors or join the Green Walk **4**.)

Once through the gate, turn right and follow the pavement towards Bourne End, over the bypass (take care crossing the slip road) and walk towards the service station. Immediately after this, turn right into Winkwell.

You will soon reach the canal (with the Three Horseshoes pub on your left). Before the swing bridge, turn right on to the towpath.

Pass under the railway bridge and continue along the tow path **5** until you reach the bridge carrying Old Fishery Lane over the canal. Turn right on to the road, which you cross and enter the field ahead of you via a kissing gate. The railway embankment will be on your right.

6 Cross a small ditch via an open bridge into a further field. Cross this diagonally to the left **7** towards the Fishery Road Bridge. Cross Fishery Road and enter Station Moor via the kissing gate ahead.

Walk through Station Moor to the river bridge then retrace your steps over the canal bridge back to the starting point.

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



**The
Box Moor
Trust**