

## GSRW and associated routes

### Request for Historic Environment and Heritage Information

We are seeking to gather a wealth of information about the history and heritage of the Greensand Country. In particular we are asking for information on features which can be seen from the Greensand Ridge Walk Ridge walk/ Cycle Ride; or within just a few minutes' walk / ride from those routes. The information provided will inform information boards, leaflets and websites detailing these routes.

Maps showing the route sections of the GSRW can be viewed at:

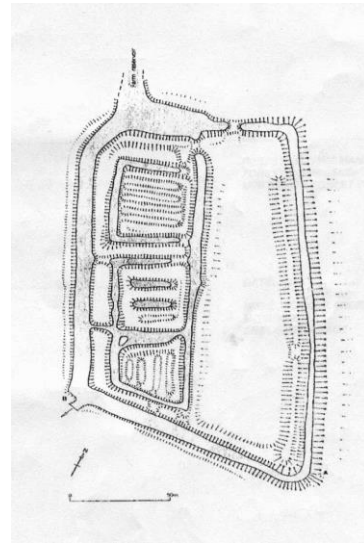
<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/walking/greensand-ridge.aspx>

Maps showing the route sections of the GSR Cycle Ride can be viewed at:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/cycling/overview.aspx>

<b>Feature – Name</b> What name is the feature known by – officially and/ or locally?	Home Wood Medieval Fishponds, Northill
<b>Feature - Type</b> Is the feature an existing building, the site of a previous building, a visible earthwork, the location of a historic event, etc?	A visible earthwork and moat that remain from a twelfth century complex of fishponds
<b>Location – Grid reference</b> Grid reference can be found by visiting: <a href="http://www.bnhs.co.uk/focuson/grabagridref/html/">http://www.bnhs.co.uk/focuson/grabagridref/html/</a>	TL14394631
<b>Location – Brief description</b> Please provide 1-2 sentences describing the location of the feature; indicating how people can see it; i.e. whether it can be seen directly from the route of the GSRW, or whether a short detour along another path / road is required.	The medieval fishpond and warren complex can be found by a short circular walk just off the Greensand Ridge Walk in Home Wood, Northill.
<b>Feature summary</b>	
<p>The largely undisturbed fishery complex in Home Wood is exceptionally well preserved, retaining visible evidence of all the major components which made up the stock and water management systems on the site. The complex is believed to have been attached to the medieval estate of Northill Manor which was probably about half a mile away towards the east. Fishponds were used from the medieval period onwards so that protein from fish could replace fresh meat that was difficult obtain during the winter.</p> <p>The earthworks in Home Wood include evidence for the establishment of a sizeable artificial warren alongside the fishpond complex. The tradition of constructing artificial warrens dates from the 12th century, following the introduction of rabbits into England from the continent.</p> <p>The earliest record of these fishponds is a map of 1781 made for John Harvey around the time of the enclosure.</p>	
<b>Images</b> Please provide any photo's / pictures – historic or recent - of the feature that could be used on leaflets, websites etc. Please clearly reference	

the photos/ images with a tile/ caption. Please provide contact details of the photographer/ artist, or source of the image.



Earthwork plan of Home Wood Fishery and Warren.  
[From Simco, A 1988 Archaeological survey report of Home Wood Fishery, Northill, Bedfordshire]



Snowdrops on walk around Northill Home Wood Medieval Fishery.  
[Photo by Chris Deverell].

**Sources of more information**

If additional information about this feature exists, please indicate where this material can be viewed/ obtained; together with any contact details.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1018455?section=official-listing>