

Trees and Woods at Digswell

As the Garden City expanded, plans were drawn up to build housing over the woodland and some trees were cleared around the Campus. Several campaigns, especially post World War II ensured that the woodland was not developed as part of the New Town. It is now the site of an exceptionally fine oak and hornbeam wood and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It is also of great historic interest, containing the 18th century star-shaped rides, wood banks from the parish boundaries and the possible deer park, the old route of the Great North Road and route of the former Luton, Dunstable and Welwyn Junction railway, opened in 1860 and a casualty of the Beeching axe in 1965, together with well houses remains which fed a reservoir and conduit to Digswell House.



Sherrards Park Wood six want way

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Rhododendrons were planted along the rides in the late 19th century.
Image: B Curtis



**Well head in Conduit Field
Sherrards Park Wood**



K Wright



B Curtis

**Woodbank in May 1967 (far left)
and the woods in 2015 (left)**

There are also magnificent trees in the housing areas, remaining from the earlier parkland landscape. The belt of woodland along Digswell Park Road is seen as a perimeter belt on the early maps, typical of the work of Capability Brown.



K Wright



K Wright



Brooms Close, Pentley Park, Willow Grove