

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST
LOCAL LIST: **DACORUM**

Present Name of Site: **VICTORIA WOOD**

Historic Name (if known)

Parish/Town Wigginton

National Grid Reference: SP 947 089

Present Area (approximate)

Hectares

Brief Description

This appears on the 1898 OS map and was planted to commemorate the holder of Hertfordshire's first Victoria Cross, James 'Jacko' Osborne (1857-1928), 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

He was born in Wigginton in 1857 and was awarded the Victoria Cross for rescuing comrades under heavy fire in South Africa during the Boer War in 1881.

Osborne was one of a group of mounted soldiers who raced to the rescue of a group of native tribesmen being ambushed by the Boers. Osborne returned under heavy fire to rescue an injured comrade. He left the army in 1883 and returned to Wigginton with his pet monkey. He was employed on the Rothschild estate at Tring. He died in 1928 was buried in Wigginton churchyard with his rescued comrade's two children in attendance.

The wood is still in existence though much out of shape and is situated just to the north of Champneys.

Important people associated with site: James Osborne
Assessment of significance.
Principal Uses: Woodland
Public Access/Rights of Way: None
Designations: (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Area, Listed Buildings, EH Register of Historic Parks & Gardens, Tree Preservation Orders, SSSIs, Nature Reserve, National Trust, County Wildlife Site, etc) Green Belt Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Landscape Character Area: 110 Ashlyns and Wigginton Plateau
Sources of information: Dacorum Heritage Trust
Site visited by: Date:

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1898 Sheet XXXII.3 Scale 25":1 mile

