**Introduction**

There are two purposes to this visit: (i) to explore the wood and for members to share their knowledge about its natural history with others (ii) to take the opportunity for members to get to know one another better by sharing their conversations while walking through the wood. The leader is Mervyn Dobbin.

**Location, Access and Meeting Time**

Howe Park Wood is located in the north east corner of the Tattenhoe grid square between Tattenhoe Street V2 and Chaffron Way H7. A Visitor and Education Centre car park is located just off Chaffron Way H7 opposite the Westcroft District Centre.

Postcode: MK4 3GG Grid Ref: SP83060 34524

You are requested to be at the car park by 7.00pm. The walk will finish about 9.00pm.

**The Wood: Background**

Howe Park Wood is a ‘Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI)’ because of its significance for natural history and conservation and as such is protected much like heritage areas in the centres of towns are protected by Conservation Areas. On its website, the Parks Trust, which manages the wood describes the wood: ‘ *Howe Park is probably the woodland mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Parts of it may be rare surviving fragments of the ‘wildwood’ that covered most of lowland Britain*…’ See the link: <http://www.theparkstrust.com/parks/howe-park-wood>

**Natural History**

There is a great variety of wildlife in the wood such as fox, badger, green woodpecker, sparrowhawk)and there are some 200 plant species which have been identified. In May early evening birdsong should be a feature of the walk. On the last visit to the wood, a group was able to stay long enough to observe Noctule bats flying from their roosts.

