



Bengo Trails 8: Bengo Field to St. John's Wood

Starts and ends: Beginning of Byway 1, Wadesmill Road, SG14 3HJ

Distance: Around 1.5m/2.4km

Conditions: Footpath and muddy woodland areas. Uphill and downhill sections

The iconic path across Bengo Field is familiar to many. This trail builds on [Bengo Trails 3](#) by taking walkers further along Byway 1 to St. John's Wood, with information along the way about the importance of Bengo Field to the community.

This trail was produced by the [Love Bengo Community Group](#). Although there are no pubs or cafes on the trail, the Greyhound Pub, 146 Bengo Street, SG14 3EY is nearby.



This trail starts at the Public Restricted Byway 1 sign on the left of Wadesmill Road, shortly after the junction with Sacombe Road, and just past the gate to [Bengo Allotments](#). The approach to the Byway sign is across a grassed area. Turn left onto Byway 1, and, with the phone mast on your left, follow the Byway north onto Bengo Field.

In 2025, planning permission was granted for housing development at the top of Bengo Field despite substantial efforts by the community, to preserve it, led by the ['Save Bengo Field'](#) group.

Construction works may result in temporary detours for this part of Byway 1.

The 'Lonely Oak' can be seen at the bottom of the slope. From this part of the field, views north towards St. John's Wood, and east towards Ware Park Manor, have additional protection from development. There's more information on these important views in the [Bengo Neighbourhood Area Plan](#). Continue on Byway 1 towards St. John's Wood.



In 2024, the [subsoil under Byway 1](#) was registered as an [Asset of Community Value](#) by the Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan Community Steering Group (now the Love Bengoe Community Group). The scheme gives community groups the right to identify land or property and ask the council to list it as being of value to the community. It will remain on the register until December 2029.



At the end of Byway 1, enter St. John's Wood, which has ancient woodland status. Follow the path uphill to the edge of the woodland. This trail doesn't go further north than the edge of the wood.

Retrace your steps through the wood, exiting back onto Byway 1, where the Lonely Oak can be



seen ahead. Looking east from here, the lakes at [Westmill Farm](#) can be seen in the distance. A view from Westmill Farm, 'Three Lakes towards west Bengoe', has additional protection through the Neighbourhood Plan.

A 5.7 hectare area (to the left of the Lonely Oak from here) is designated as [Local Green Space](#) through the Neighbourhood Plan, giving it additional protection from development.

Continue south on Byway 1 until you reach the exit onto Wadesmill Road, where this trail ends.



Bengoe Trails 8: Bengoe Field to St. John's Wood (map sourced through openstreetmap.org)

