

## A lane like no other

Welcome to Queen Mary's Wood and to the best preserved remnant of an ancient lane that played host to one of the most important journeys in the history of the English monarchy. It is a peaceful place now, but that was not always so...

## Imagine the scene

The date is 24<sup>th</sup> July 1553. Tudor England, racked by power struggles, finds itself in truly turbulent times. The newly proclaimed Queen has been lodged at Framlingham Castle since 12<sup>th</sup> July, galvanising support for her cause, gathering together a loyal army of thousands.

And today she rides out, firm of purpose, seated high on her white horse, taking her place at the head of a great and colourful cavalcade. Streaming behind her are lines of archers and pikemen, cavalymen and barquebusiers (gunners), their flags billowing in the Suffolk breeze.

Queen Mary Tudor leads the way down this very lane, her horse's hooves scooping at this very same soil, as she goes forth towards London to claim the throne of England.

## A queen like no other

Queen Mary Tudor has a unique place in the history of England as the first woman to be crowned monarch in her own right. She was proclaimed Queen on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1553 whilst at Framlingham Castle.

Her reign was short-lived, lasting little more than 5 years, but during this time she rightly or wrongly gained a reputation that has pursued her down the ages through the nickname 'Bloody Queen Mary'.



# Queen Mary's Lane

## From Framlingham to the Throne



Look to the past...

Just why has this section of Queen Mary's Lane survived all these years?

Visit: [www.QueenMarysLane.info](http://www.QueenMarysLane.info)

## More ancient ways

Queen Mary's Wood which borders this historic lane is a coppice wood. Coppicing is a traditional, sustainable form of woodland management which is very beneficial for wildlife.

Here's how coppicing works:

- Native broad-leaved trees (eg. ash/hazel) are cut down.
- The tree stumps (stools) and roots re-grow.
- The renewable supply of wood can be harvested regularly for fuel and building materials.
- Over time, the woodland flora and fauna adapt to the cycles of light and shade.

On a 5 year cycle, a quarter of the wood is coppiced, providing firewood, posts, hedging stakes, bean poles and pea sticks. Coppicing was re-introduced to Queen Mary's Wood by Paul Briscoe in 1984.

## Please follow the Countryside code

- Always stay on footpaths and bridleways
- Keep dogs under close control
- Protect plants/animals
- Take your litter home

This route passes through a working farm.

By arrangement of JC Larter & Co in co-operation with the Woodland Trust  
Part-funded through Higher Level Stewardship provided by Natural England  
Design & Illustrations: [www.wearadab.net](http://www.wearadab.net). Editorial: [www.xtracoad.co.uk](http://www.xtracoad.co.uk)



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