

Ufford Heritage Trail

15. Parklands

These woods and the houses beyond are part of the original park area of Ufford Place Estate. The wooded area is now owned by Ufford Parish Council and is looked after by the Friends of Parklands Wood, a local volunteer group.

The area was requisitioned by the army during WW2 for R.E.M.E. development workshops associated with the development of specialist tank and other tracked vehicles, known as 'Hobart's Funnies', deployed in the Normandy landings. The concrete bases of the accommodation huts, used as barracks, can still be seen hidden in the undergrowth.

A Hobart Funny



A Churchill AVRE tank with petard spigot mortar could fire 40lb high explosive bombs to destroy concrete fortifications, such as pill boxes and bunkers. They were used at the Normandy Landings on D-Day and after.

Further information about Parklands Wood and the role of Parklands in WW2 can be found on the two information boards near the community hall carpark.

Near the Information Boards you will see the Recreation Ground and Community Hall; in early Victorian times this area was the site of the Ufford Brickworks. As Suffolk has little natural stone, small brickworks were common here until the late 1800s. The red bricks, made from local clay, were used to face the outside of Ufford Place and to build the garden walls, the Orangery and the coach house.