



Forestry Commission
England

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Mardyke Woods

Welcome to
your woods!

www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase



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mardyke woods

MEDIEVAL MARDYKE WOODS

Mardyke Woods was originally three woodlands: Brannetts Wood, Millard's Garden and Low Well Wood. Medieval woodbanks (earth mounds with trees planted along the top), which would have divided these three woods, can still be seen today.

All three woods were once part of the Belhus Park Estate and trees were cut (or 'coppiced') to supply wood for building in the 1800s.

Mardyke Woods is the second oldest recorded woodland in Essex, dating back to 1339!

The woods were probably here long before records began – during construction of the A13, the skeleton of a Jungle Cat was found by archaeologists!

WELCOME TO YOUR WOODS!

Have you visited Mardyke Woods? It's an ancient woodland in the heart of South Ockendon, right on your doorstep.

The woods are the ideal place to have a break from urban life and there's something for everyone. Whether you fancy taking a quiet walk to listen to the birds singing, mountain

biking along the paths or exploring nature with your family.

The Forestry Commission knows the woods need a little love to make them the perfect place for local people and wildlife - and thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Veolia North Thames Trust, we are in the process of making some big improvements.

But you are the key to making the woods a better place; after all, it's your woods! We would love your involvement and input into what we're doing - whether it's attending fun events, getting physical on volunteer days or giving us your feedback.

Keep an eye on our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase for events and activities.



There's a lot of more recent history still to be told. If you have any stories about your own memories and experiences, we would love to hear from you and feature them in the next newsletter.

FUN IN THE FOREST

Woods are a great place for kids to explore the outdoors. We have been working with Somers Heath Primary School this year, to make use of their nearby 'outdoor classroom'.

Led by our Community Ranger, all nine classes visited the woods in June for their Science Week. Classes learnt more about wildlife and natural materials found in the woods by creating wildlife and fairy dens and making 'muddy art'.

FAIRY FUN!

Fancy making your own fairy fun in the forest? Free downloads are available at [forestry.gov.uk/fairytales](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/fairytales)



TALK TO US!

Contact your Community Ranger on **01708 642964** or email thameschase@forestry.gsi.gov.uk





CUT ALONG DASHED LINE

MARDYKE WOODS – HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Forestry Commission wants your input on the things you want to see and do at Mardyke Woods. You can also fill this in online at: <https://englandconsult.forestry.gov.uk/> As a thank you for your feedback, you will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Go Outdoors voucher.



1. How often do you visit Mardyke Woods?

- Once a week (or more)
- Once a month
- A few times a year
- Once every few years
- Once or twice in total
- Never

4. What improvements would you like to see in Mardyke Woods?

2. What do you enjoy doing in Mardyke Woods? (tick your top 3)

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Bike riding
- Horse riding
- Running
- Enjoying the peace and quiet
- Spending time outdoors
- Nature spotting
- Other:

5. Any other comments?

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3. What activities are you interested in getting involved with?

- Family fun events
- Children's free holiday workshops
- Focussed events e.g. dog days, wildlife walks
- Conservation volunteering
- Guided walks
- Educational activities
- Other:

6. Your details:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

- Yes, I would like to be entered into the free prize draw to win a £100 Go Outdoors voucher (tick box)
- Yes, I would like more information on Mardyke Woods in quarterly email updates (tick box)

Thank you for your feedback.

Competition Terms & Conditions:

1. Only one entry per person, entrants must live in Thurrock. 2. Entries must be received by Friday 15th November 2013. The winner will be contacted within 14 days of the competition closing date. 3. No cash alternative to the prizes will be offered. The prizes are not transferable. 4. The winner agrees to the use of his/her name and image in any publicity material. 5. You are providing your information to the Forestry Commission only. Your details will remain confidential and will not be passed on to any other party.

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WELCOME TO YOUR WOODS!



Mardyke Woods



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mardyke woods



Public Transport:

Visit www.transportdirect.info

Thames Chase Community Forest:

Thames Chase is part of 12 Community Forests in England. With a network of 47 sites, its aim is to help the creation and continuing development of greenspace on the edge of East London and South Essex. The Forestry Commission own and manage 10 community woodlands within this area.

OS Ref:

TQ 585 805

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Get the App:

To find out more about England's forests, download the Forestry Commission's smartphone app.

Website:

www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase

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Mardyke Woods

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Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.

The mark of responsible forestry



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The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible for the protection of England's woods and forests. We have been working closely with organisations including Public Health England, Fera, The Royal Parks, Richmond Upon Thames Borough Council, The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and the City of London.



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