

Mardyke Woods



Amongst the oldest surviving woods in Essex, Mardyke Woods is actually composed of three – Brannett's Wood, Millard's Wood and Low Well Wood.

All were probably well established when the Romans first arrived here in 54BC! These three historic woods have been officially designated Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands. They are natural and so far they've been allowed to grow and rejuvenate with minimal intervention. But soon we'll be making the woods a better place for people and wildlife by introducing practices that stimulate growth, helping the woods to return to their former glory. There are two adjacent play areas. Also nearby the Mardyke Way runs through the valley linking Ship Lane and Stifford Bridge.

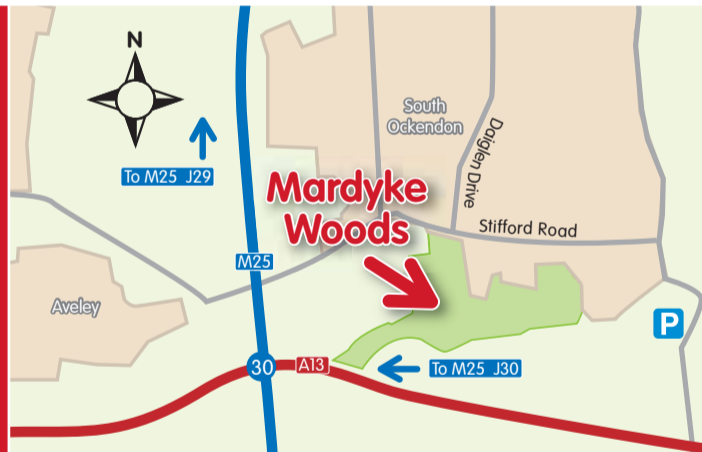
Mardyke Woods, an excellent mix of the old and new that all ages can enjoy.



Locations and information Enjoy your visit



Thames Chase



Visit Mardyke Woods

Enjoy & Discover your forests & woodlands



Public Transport:
Visit www.transportdirect.info

OS Ref:
TQ 585 805

Post Code:
RM15 6BD



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 promote 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.

Contact:
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» www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase

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Mardyke Woods



Key

- Walkers or cyclists
- Bridleway
- Play area
- Meadow
- Woodland
- Urban area

0 80m
Scale

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N

Mardyke Woods Fact File

Size: 27ha
 Walks: 1.2km (all un-surfaced)
 Cycling: 1.2km
 Horses: 0.5km
 Two adjacent play areas
 Open: 8.00am to dusk



Medieval Mardyke

Mardyke is composed of three separate ancient woods. Dating from 1339 is Brannett's Wood, the second oldest recorded Essex woodland was then called Brendewode. Millard's Garden is first mentioned shortly after in 1397 as Maynwares Garden and Low Wells Wood is documented in 1619 as Hanginge Wood.

Traces of medieval woodbanks dividing these three woods can still be found today.

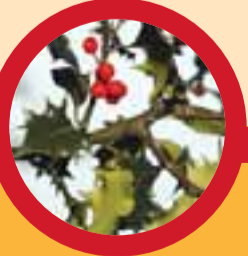
All three were then part of the Belhus Park Estate and were probably coppiced and used to supply woodland products. By 1880 all had fallen into neglect, but now the Forestry Commission is reintroducing management practices that will restore the woods' quality.



Woodland Code: Cycle with care. Respect the peace and quiet of the woods and wildlife. Take your litter home with you. Never light fires and smokers take care. Dogs are welcome but please keep them under close control and always clean up after your pet.

Riders Code: Please walk or trot on the marked trails. Do not canter or gallop. Please do not ride on the pink paths – they are for pedestrians.

What else is nearby?
 Davy Down Riverside Park, the gateway to the Mardyke Valley, is just a short step away. The River runs down from the hills south of Brentwood, through the Bulphan and Orsett Fens, exiting into the Thames at Purfleet.



What's out or about?

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wintering fieldfare and redwings Territorial robins	Elder first leaves Kestrels hunting from perches	Wood anemone	Primroses	Bluebells	Skylark sing	Hovering kestrels Ox-eye daisys bloom	Dragonflies hawking Green woodpeckers anting	Swallows and martins gather before migrating south	Autumn colours	Elderberry and sloes on blackthorn Weasels hunting	Holly blossoms

There's plenty to see and hear throughout the year