1 All Saints Church is a Listed Victorian church built in Gothic style on a medieval site by the great local benefactor Richard Benyon MP. The church contains a memorial to General Oglethorpe. He was the founder of the State of Georgia in America where he led expeditions against the Spanish during the War of Jenkins Ear and soon after won the Battle of Bloody Marsh. The churchyard is included in the London Inventory of Historic Green Spaces and contains the Listed 18th century railed tomb to Thomas Woodroffe, a rector of the parish and a pillar of the community.

2 The Victorian farm complex was also built by Benyon as a planned model farm where the buildings were designed for the efficient transit and processing of livestock and farm produce. Now buildings are converted but originally included two cottages and a fine quadrangle of farm buildings. Together with the church and Hall the farm buildings are a landmark and form the focus for views across the farmland.

3 The Chase dates from medieval times. This route leads north at least as far as the ancient St Mary's Lane (until recently the longest lane in England) and, as footpath No. 228, it continues south to Stubbers, now an Outdoor Adventure Centre. In the early 17th century the botanist William Coys first introduced many plans into this country at Stubbers, including tomatoes, yucca and the ivy-leaved toadflax. It is also claimed that here hops were first introduced into ale to make beer. At Stubbers the lane was diverted by the last great English landscape designer of the 18th century Humphrey Repton, to a position slightly further west where it now forms Stubbers Lane

4 Parklands – the listed bridge and the greensward here are remains of the historic Gaynes Park running down to the lake, island and (later) boat dock created by the gardener Mr Tadlow to the design of James Paine, the greatest architect of his day. Paine built the Georgian Gaynes mansion here for Sir James Esdaile. Sir James went on to revive Upminster's then flagging economy with an extensive building programme at the time and introduced early commuting to the area in the 18th century.

5 The tree plantation and meandering path were part of the once 100 acre (40.5 ha.) parkland to Gaynes Park.

6 Hacton House – is a small Georgian mansion built by William Braund in 1762/5, converted into flats and bungalows in 1954. The path here follows the original cart track between the neighbouring great houses and crosses a listed bridge by James Paine now just off The Grove.

The heritage information acknowledgements:

Havering Local Studies & Family History Centre, Central Library, St Edwards Way, Romford RM1 3AR

Upminster The Story of a Garden Suburb by Tony Benton (available in the Centre shop).

Sue Smith Conservation Planner S & G (Smith) Ltd

Thames Chase - Community Forest

Environmental improvements within the borders of Thames Chase Community Forest are all around you in the many green spaces that are enjoyed through its 40 sq miles of countryside.
This landscape regeneration project is now being managed by the Thames Chase Trust.
The Forest Centre provides information about the Community Forest and a focus for community activities. There is a wide range of events to interest all ages - pick up a leaflet at the Forest Centre.

Opening Hours

Visitor Centre: Late March to October;
10am - 5pm every day.
November to Late March;
10am - 4pm each day.
Site: Daily; 8.30am - to dusk.

Car parking

A fixed daily donation to Thames Chase Trust payable at the ticket machine.

Thames Chase Walks are sponsored by

Veolia
North Thames
Trust

/Thame Chase

For more information and to make bookings please ring 01708 642970 or call at The Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS
E-mail: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
Web site: www.thameschase.org.uk
Charity no. 1115627. Company No. 5687558

Design & Artwork by P A Vine Mobile: 07940570194 Email: pavl23@rocketmail.com

30 YEARS 1990-2020

Transforming landscapes, transforming lives

Thames Chase Walk No.5

Circular walk via:
Berwick Glades and Ingrebourne Valley
10 miles (approx)
5 hours (approx)

(Approx 10 miles over mainly footpaths, which may include some muddy going atcertain times of the year, allow 5 hoursfor completion of the walk.)

THAMES CHASE

Thames Chase Trust

These are more walks in the Thames Chase range

THAMES CHASE WALK

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1. From the Forest Centre walk to the main entrance along the path through the wood and cross Pike Lane to FP 227. (Note this path can be very muddy during wet weather)
2. Walk straight ahead for around 200 metres to the trees then turn right and after 20 metres turn left following the path through the hedgerow.
3. Keep to the edge of the cultivated field with the hedge on your left. Continue around the field until the path turns left under the railway.
4. After passing under the railway the path crosses an arable field in a south westerly direction towards Cranham All Saints Church.
5. Approaching Cranham Church the footpath passes through fenced land to right and left. Cross over the stile into the Church grounds exiting through the main gate into The Chase.
6. Turn left passing Cranham Hall gates on your left and then go through a pedestrian gate where the path passes through meadows where horses graze. Continue straight ahead into the nature reserve.
7. Walk past the Reserve map with carved wooden posts bearing right past the Essex Nature Reserve hut on your left.
8. Continue along this path passing 2 fenced fields on your right where sheep graze in the summer. (note this stretch can be very waterlogged). At the end of the fenced fields ignore the path to your right that leads to the reed beds and the old marsh and follow the path half right across the open meadow to a wooden footbridge.
9. Cross the bridge over the stream then turn left over another wooden bridge and through a kissing gate onto a path that follows the stream with the Crematorium on your left and Gaynes School playing fields on your right. (note this path can be very muddy with pools of water especially after the crematorium). Follow the path over a stile and through the private woods. On reaching an open field turn right along the edge of the field through houses emerging onto Huntsman Drive.
10. Turn right and then left into Meadowside Road which meets Corbets Tey Road.
11. Turn right into Corbets Tey Road and after about 30 metres carefully cross the main road into Parklands.
12. Walk through Parklands with the fishing lake to your left until you meet a small car park. At the far side of the car park the path is waymarked to your right.

13. Take this path which winds its way through holly woods emerging at an arable field.
14. Turn right along the edge of the field to the hedge dividing another field. At FP sign 219 to Park Farm turn left and walk alongside the hedge to the end of the field and then turn right at FP sign 219 to Little Gaynes Lane.
15. After a short distance the footpath turns left over a footbridge and stile and then passes between 2 fields with grazing horses. The path turns right round the field on your right passing the woods on your left and emerges in Little Gaynes Lane opposite the Optimist Pub.
16. Carefully cross the lane and walk downhill alongside Hacton Lane, past the Optimist Pub on your right crossing the bridge over the River Ingrebourne to the pedestrian crossing.
17. Cross Hacton Lane at the crossing and enter the Parkway where the tarmac path passes between the car park on your left and the playground and outdoor gym on your right. You will follow this path keeping the river to your left for about a mile.
18. After walking for about 15 minutes the path bears right through staggered metal gates before going uphill. At this point close to the river the path is prone to flooding following prolonged wet weather. On reaching the playground with its model Spitfire turn left and after 400 metres on your left there is a small picnic area overlooking the attractive wetlands.
19. Continue walking for another 100 yards then turn left at FP sign 216 Berwick Ponds. Pass through the gate to the footbridge over the river. Good views of the wetlands can be seen here.
20. Cross the bridge and follow the path uphill to Berwick Ponds Road passing Berwick Glades on your left and Berwick Woods on your right.
21. Just before the road take the path to your left walking straight ahead with Berwick Glades on you left. The path leaves the Glades crossing a bridge/stile where the path passes through farmland. Follow the path for about half a mile to another bridge/stile.
22. Cross the bridge then turn left following the path into the woods and downhill over a boardwalk to a bridge over the Ingrebourne. (Take care going down the hill as the path here can be very slippery especially in wet weather).
23. Cross over the river then turn right and rejoin the tarmac path back to the car park and playground at Hacton Lane entrance to Parkway.
24. Retrace the route from step 16 to Broadfields.