

1. Broadfields Farm is an historic farm complex including a Grade II listed 17th or 18th century elm barn and 19th century stable block with complete king-post truss roof. It now forms the historic heart of the Thames Chase Community Forest and The Forest Centre.
2. The rich farmland of the area was well known for its market gardening for many generations. Its historic use is often reflected in local road names: look out here for Pike, Pea and Bramble Lanes.
3. North Ockendon dates back to AD630 and a visit by St Cedd. This two-centred historic settlement is still linked across the fields by a footpath, now the North Ockendon Conservation Area centred on the medieval Grade I listed church and cluster of other listed and historic buildings. The adjacent Victorian farm complex, now converted to private homes, is within the ancient moated site of the 16th century Ockendon Hall – demolished through a direct bomb hit during WWII. During the reign of Henry II the Lord of the Manor was Reginald Fitzurse the knight who smote the first blow against Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.
4. St Cedd's well - it is thought that St Cedd used the well to baptise Christians on his missionary journeys through Essex.
5. Bulphan Fens – the fens, or Saxon 'fanns' here once stretched from Rainham in the west all the way to Canvey Island in the east and are recorded here in names such as Fen Lane and Puddle Dock. In the 13th century a Pilgrim route passed through here via Pilgrim's Hatch and St Thomas' Chapel in Brentwood, down through Great Warley, Franks via barge here to be guided across the marshes and ferried across the river Thames. The Pilgrims were on their way, just as in Chancer's famous tale, to the shrine of Thomas Beckett at Canterbury Cathedral.

The heritage information acknowledgements:

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



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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](mailto:enquiries@thameschase.org.uk)  
Web site: [www.thameschase.org.uk](http://www.thameschase.org.uk)  
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Transforming  
landscapes,  
transforming  
lives

# Thames Chase Walk No. 1

Circular walk via:  
St. Mary Magdalene Church  
North Ockendon

3 miles (approx)

1.5 hours (approx)

(Can be muddy in places and the culvert under the M25 can be impassable after heavy rainfall.)



Thames Chase Trust



1. From the Forest Centre walk south up the hill past the Trusty Oak and keeping to the left path, over the wooden bridge to the adjoining field.

2. Walk along the edge of the field passing through the staggered gap in to the Ockendon Road.

3. Cross the road and the motorway to footpath number 231 to St Mary's Church.

4. Step over the crash barrier and the stile into the field. Keep to the edge of the field parallel to the motorway to a footbridge through the hedge.

5. Cross the bridge and turn left on the broad pathway. Go through a wooden gate marked with foot path signs and then on to a metal gate.

6. Just after the greenhouse take the footpath to your left through the hedge into the field. Pass along the edge of the field and through the gate into St Mary Magdalene churchyard. To your right is St Cedd's well. There is a gate and steps down to the well but take care if you decide to take a look. The steps can be slippery and there is a pond alongside.

7. Proceed to the gate into Church Lane. Turn left and walk to the end of the lane to the Ockendon Road.

8. Turn right along the pavement for 10 yards. Carefully cross the main road to the concrete road. Pass through/round the gate and proceed to the radio mast and enter Thames Chase grounds through/round another heavy iron gate on your left.

9. Turn right and walk down the hill next to the hedge. Here the paths can be quite muddy in very wet weather. There is an abundance of wildlife in the thick hedges and undergrowth.

- 9a. Alternate route when main route is water logged.

10. At the bottom of the hill take the culvert under the motorway next to the stream taking care in wet weather as the slope can be very slippery. Also in very wet weather the path can be flooded and impassable.

*The little egret visits the stream regularly and kingfishers have been seen here. There are also great crested newts in the stream and water voles have been seen along this stretch of the stream.*

11. From here you can either follow the path by the stream watching out for kingfishers, dragonflies and damselflies, or the path past the discovery hut. Both paths lead back to the Forest Centre.

