

- 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 Visitor 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** Cranham Hall is a listed Georgian house at the centre of Cranham Conservation Area. The house is built on the site of an earlier mansion the home of General James Oglethorpe (1691 – 1785) but the 16th century walled garden survives. Many of the friends of Oglethorpe entertained at his Cranham home were great academics and thinkers of their day, including Dr Johnson and James Boswell.
- 4** All Saints Church, The Chase 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.
- 5** 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.
- 6** The Chase dates from medieval times. This route leads north at least as far as the ancient St Marys 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 plants 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.
- 7** Within Cranham Conservation Area the Cranham Marsh Local Nature Reserve is an excellent combination of ancient wet woodland, wet meadow and marsh, a survival from the once marshland habitat of much of the area. In the late 18th century the stream here was dammed further along at Parklands to form a large ornamental lake, and then it continues on eventually to join the once navigable river Ingrebourne, and on to join the Thames.

The heritage information acknowledgements:

Haivering 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



/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
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Transforming
landscapes,
transforming
lives

Thames Chase Walk No.2

Circular walk via:
Cranham Nature Reserve
3.5 miles (approx)
1.5 - 2 hours (approx)



Thames Chase Trust



