1 The village of Cranham appears in the Domesday Book covering roughly the same area as it does today, although the two recorded manors within the parish employed as many workers as all the Upminster manors together. Most of the population was employed in agriculture.

2 St Mary's Lane passes through the centre of both parishes and has long been recorded as a main thoroughfare from the east coast to London.

3 The area to the north and north east of Upminster sits on a rich seam of clay at the edge of the gravel belt whose affect on the landscape led to the establishment of the Community Forest. The rich clay beds led to the development of brick and tile production in the area recorded as early as 1774. Brick kilns and drying sheds were built near Bird Lane (hence Pot Kiln Wood) and clay was gathered by hand from the fields around this area. Many short narrow gage railway lines were used to transport the bricks to Upminster station for transporting to London. However, bricks were used locally for house building in Bird Lane and the building of Upminster Court in 1906.

4 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.

Acknowledgements;

A History of Upminster and Cranham by John Drury (Sadly out of print)

Havering History Review – Hornchurch and District Historical Society (April 1972)

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

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30 YEARS 1990-2020

Thames Chase

Transforming landscapes, transforming lives

Thames Chase Walk No.3



Circular walk via: Cranham Brick Fields

3 miles (approx)

1.5 hours (approx)

(Can be very muddy waterproof boots recommended. Two high stiles at railway crossing.)

THAMES CHASE WALK

Thames Chase Trust

1. Walk to the end of the drive through the wood then cross over the drive and take FP No. 288 across the wooden bridge over the ditch and follow the path along the edge of the golf course. Go through the kissing gate and across St. Mary's Lane taking FP No. 193 over the ditch then through another kissing gate. Follow the path north to the railway line. There is a high but sturdy metal stile on either side of the line. Take care crossing the railway line. The field on the far side of the railway line can be very waterlogged in wet weather.
2. Turn sharp right after crossing the railway and follow the hedge into Franks Wood. Continue walking through the wood with the railway on your right. The wood is home to many species of bird including woodpecker.
3. On exiting the wood turn left and follow the path alongside the wood and cross the arable field. Turn left before the hedge and walk along the edge of the field with the hedge on your right until you reach a gap in the hedge on your right with a bridge over a ditch.
4. Cross the bridge and over/around a small stile into a recreation ground. Turn left along the edge of the recreation ground and then turn second left onto a path into the Nature Reserve. This grit path circles around the pond and if you continue on it will take you back to the recreation ground.
5. Where the path bears left leave this path and go straight ahead on a wide open grass path.
6. At the end of the path cross the field back to the railway crossing (step 2).
7. Carefully cross the railway and retrace your steps back to the Thames Chase Forest Centre where refreshments can be enjoyed in the cafe.

Note: St Mary's Lane has 2 pubs, The Thatched House and Jobbers Rest, Oak general stores and bus stops for 347 Romford/Ockendon station.



