

# Thames Chase Forest Centre



The Forest Centre is the hub of the Forest at the geographical heart of Thames Chase.

It offers lots of features and bags of room to provide more than enough activity for a full family day out. There are good walks, with no roads to cross, connecting open areas to relaxing woodland especially to the south of the site where the plantings are starting to take on the appearance of mature woodland. There are also ponds, meadows and even an orchard planted with traditional Essex apple and pear varieties.



Scattered around the site are fun environmental sculptures too, including The Trusty Oak and the Discovery Den where children can play freely and learn more about nature as they do so, plus the Centre's play area. Finally, and by no means least, there's the Thames Chase Visitor Centre with its host of facilities, including a shop, café, information centre and interpretation displays for children to interact with. There's also an education room for environmental studies – this is an important activity for schools and families alike.

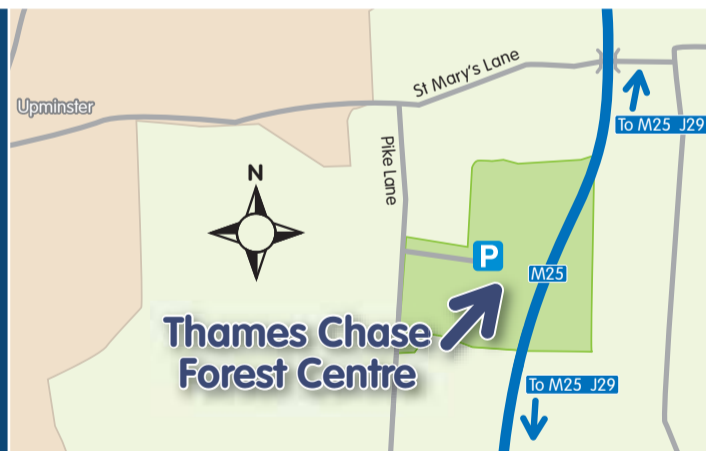
## A piece of history

The Grade II-listed barn next to the Centre is a classic example of a seventeenth century Essex Barn. It's one of the last remaining and best preserved of this once common county sight. Constructed over 400 years ago from older barns and local timber, it shows just how substantial Cranham's trees once were.

## Locations and information Enjoy your visit



Thames Chase



## Visit Thames Chase Forest Centre

Enjoy & Discover your forests & woodlands

**Public Transport:**  
Visit [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

**OS Ref:**  
TQ 585 865

**Post Code:**  
RM14 3NS

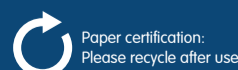


**Thames Chase Community Forest:**  
Thames Chase is part of 12 Community Forests in England. With a network of 47 sites, its aim is to help promote the creation and continuing development of greenspace on the edge of East London and South Essex. The Forestry Commission own and manage 10 community woodlands within this area.

**Contact:**  
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» To find out more about England's Forests,  
get the Forestry Commission's iPhone App now.  
» [www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase)

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[www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase)



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**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.

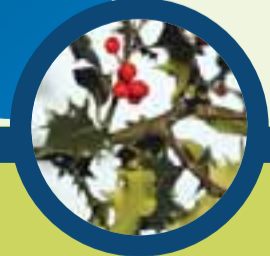
**Riders Code:** Please walk or trot on the marked trails. Do not canter or gallop. Please do not ride on the pink paths – they are for pedestrians.

## Key

- Grass ride
  - Walkers or cyclists
  - Footpath
  - Horses
  - Pond
  - Visitor Centre
  - Bench
  - Car Park
  - Wildlife Hide
  - Play area
  - Picnic table
  - Dog bins
  - Meadow
  - Woodland
  - Urban area
- 0 105m  
Scale  
↑  
N

## Thames Chase Forest Centre Fact File

**Size:** 56ha  
**Walks:** 6.4km (2.7km is un-surfaced)  
**Cycling:** 6.4km  
**Horses:** 1.5km  
**Visitor Centre**  
**Toilets**  
**Environmental play sculptures**  
**Discovery den**  
**Open:** 9.00am to dusk  
**Parking:** £1.00  
**Created:** 2001



## 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  
Great crested and smooth newts plus frogs return to ponds  
Warblers arrive  
Red campion  
Barn owls active  
Corn cockle  
Skylark flight song  
Grass snakes basking  
Water voles active  
Fox cubs playing  
Dragonflies hawking  
Green woodpeckers anting  
Pipistrelle hunting  
Michaelmas daisies  
Hops abundant  
Autumn colours  
Elderberry and sloes on blackthorn  
Weasels hunting  
Holly blossoms

There's plenty to see and hear throughout the year