

Epping Forest Countrycare

23rd Annual Report

2008 – 2009



Epping Forest District Council

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Countrycare's five key objectives are:

- To conserve and promote the biodiversity of the district.
- To improve public access to the countryside and provide for informal recreation.
- To promote a greater understanding and respect for the countryside.
- To involve local communities in all aspects of the Service's work.
- To implement the goals of the Council's Community Plan.

For information about all the services work, details of all the EFDC LNRs, Countrycare work sites, news and information see www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare



Veteran oak, High Beach, Epping Forest. One of two thousand five hundred trees recorded as part of the Epping Forest Veteran Tree Hunt . © Epcot Images

Introduction

Epping Forest Countrycare is Epping Forest District Council's Countryside Management Service. Based within the Policy and Environment section of the Directorate of Planning and Economic Development, Countrycare is fully funded by the District Council and is the key resource for advice, information and practical assistance on countryside and nature conservation issues.

Operating across the entire Epping Forest District, Countrycare undertakes a wide variety of community-based activities and coordinates a regular programme of practical conservation work. The ability of Countrycare to engage and involve the local community in "hands on" practical conservation work remains its key strength. As one of the Council's primary "enablers" Countrycare involves people of all ages and abilities in every aspect of its work.

Since its establishment in 1986, Countrycare has developed a credible and proven track record for delivering quality projects. This in turn has developed strong community support and trust, which staff have been able to harness to good affect. The obvious public enthusiasm and desire of people to make a difference is reflected in Countrycare's ability to recruit and keep a wide volunteer base.

Examples of Countrycare's core activities over the last year include;

- Habitat management and creation – managing 30 sites across the District including ponds, grassland, woodland and hedgerows.
- Access improvements – Work on the public rights of way network and access improvement works to public green spaces.
- Educational activities – work with schools, coordinating the district Tree Warden Scheme, organising guided walks and events.

Through 2008/09, Countrycare had 4 permanent staff complemented by volunteers, student work placements and temporary seasonal staff.

Personnel	Role	Dates
Paul Hewitt	Countryside Manager	
Andrew Vaughan	Assistant Countryside Manager	
Jordan Thomas	Assistant Countryside Manager	
David Roddick	Countryside Assistant	
Abigail Oldham	Veteran Tree Hunt Project Officer	Left 30/05/2008
Abigail Oldham	Local Wildlife Sites Surveyor	From 07/01/2009
Lee Sprigs	Work Experience Student	21/04/08 to 30/05/08

For information about all the services work, details of all the EFDC LNRs, Countrycare work sites, news and information see www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare

Principle Achievements for 2008/09.

The Service's principal achievements of 2008/09 can be summarised as follows:

- 931 volunteer days (5586 hours) given on 105 practical tasks organised this year. Equates in to £34,912 @ £6.25 per hour.
- Organised and attended 41 walks, talks and educational events,
- 39 project days spent improving the District's 9 Local Nature Reserves. Involving 3,008 hours of staff and volunteer time.
- 19 project days dedicated to access improvement projects involving 234 staff hours and 736 volunteer hours.
- 70 project days dedicated to improving biodiversity across 32 sites including 13 Local Wildlife Sites. Involved 1312 staff hours and 4544 volunteer days.
- Generating a total income of £25,863 for the Council.
- Continuation of the Epping Forest Veteran Tree Hunt. Total number of trees recorded 31 March 2009 - 2,500 veteran and notable trees.

Major projects in 2008/09. Enhancement of biodiversity across the district continues to be one of the Service's key aims. A great deal of staff time and effort has been spent improving sites and liaising with private landowners and other nature conservation bodies across the district. In 2008/09 management work has been undertaken on 32 sites, the majority of which the District Council either owns or to which Countrycare has had a long-term commitment. In total 70 project days were organised to enhance biodiversity involving 5,856 hours of staff and volunteer time. This included work on 3 sites of special scientific interest, 13 Wildlife Sites and 9 Local Nature Reserves. For a third year, Chigwell Row Wood LNR was again received the most attention and been a major focus for the Services project work. With its population of 360 veteran trees, associated rare insects and heathland the site has received good funding and volunteer work. In all 11 volunteer projects days were held on the LNR with over 1,200 hours of staff, contractor and volunteer time given. The restoration of the heathland has proved to be highly successful with heather and 200 rosettes of the uncommon Lousewort recorded in the spring 2009.

Working with the Community. In addition to the regular Thursday Volunteer Group which is coordinated by staff each week, staff also worked with a range of other community groups and volunteers. We have again worked closely with Capel Manor College in Enfield. Students have assisted with a number of practical days over a range of sites. Staff continue to work with a number of Friends Groups in Chigwell Row and at Swaines Green as well as other conservation volunteer groups such as the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers, BTCV, the Woodland Trust and the Essex Wildlife Trust. In total 931 adult volunteer days were given and 544 children were involved in practical conservation work. By using a figure provided by Natural England, the Government's statutory agency for nature conservation, of £6.25 per hour, it is possible to put a financial value on the adult volunteer's time of just under £35,000. This figure equates to around a quarter of Countrycare's net expenditure. As ever a massive thank you goes out to all the dedicated volunteers who have given so much of their time.

Working with young people. This year the Service worked with a range of youth groups and 8 schools from across the District. Over 500 young people were involved in practical conservation work or a Countrycare event. In February 2009, the “Green Team” was resurrected in partnership with EFDC Community Development Team aimed at involving 11 to 16 year olds in practical conservation projects.

Guided walks, talks and events. This year staff organised a total of 41 walks, talks and events aimed at increasing people's knowledge and understanding of the countryside. A total audience of just under 1,500 people attended.

Projects for 2009/10

Key objectives include:

Projects	Comments/Objectives
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	<p>Continue to work towards the designation of Norton Heath Common, High Ongar as a Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Assist with the creation of Bobbingworth Pocket Park.</p> <p>Work with Essex County Council to investigate the promotion and management of Apes Grove Wood, Lambourne as a LNR.</p>
NI 197 – Biodiversity and Local Wildlife Sites	<p>Achieve the target set by the Local Area Agreement of having 35 LoWS in positive conservation management by March 2010.</p> <p>Epping Forest Green Lane project is a priority.</p>
Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) Review.	<p>Coordinate the review of the LoWS register by Essex Ecology Services for the district. To be completed by December 2009.</p>
Epping Forest Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>Continue to implement the District's Biodiversity Action Plan in partnership with the Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership and EFDC's Environmental Coordinator.</p>
Site Management Plans and Management Agreements.	<p>Complete the new Management agreement for the Roding Valley Meadows LNR between Epping Forest District Council, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Grange Farm Centre Trust.</p> <p>To complete reviews of the existing plans for Linder's Field LNR, Weald Common LNR and World's End LoWS. Produce full new plans for Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey.</p> <p>Investigate management agreements for Foster Street Burial ground</p>
Epping Forest Veteran Tree Hunt of the district.	<p>In partnership with the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt undertake a veteran tree survey of the District on a Parish basis. Complete surveys of Chigwell, Nazeing, Ongar and Waltham Abbey.</p> <p>Achieve the recording of 3,500 veteran trees on the favourite trees website by March 2010.</p>

Further Information

NI 197 and Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS)

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Local_Wildlife_Sites.asp

Epping Forest Veteran Tree Hunt

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Epping_forest_veteran_tree_hunt.asp

Epping Forest Biodiversity Action Plan

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Biodiversity.asp

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Countrycare_LNR.asp

Within the following appendices are the major projects undertaken in the course of the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, with full descriptions of each projects. Throughout this report every attempt has been made to avoid jargon and specialist terms where possible, however where used an asterix* indicates that the term is explained in the glossary of terms in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 - Access to the countryside

Summary

Worked in 9 parishes on 19 project days, improving 16 public rights of way row by installing 40m of hardened pathway, 5 kissing gates, 4 bridges, 10 waymarker posts and clearing of over 745m of pathway. 234 staff hours and 736 volunteer hours were given equating to £4,600 of volunteer time @£6.25/hr.

The following is a list of access projects undertaken by the West Essex Ramblers Working Party working alongside staff from Countrycare and Essex County Council's Right of Way Section. Other groups are mentioned by name.

Beauchamp Roding, Diggin's Farm, Footpath 19. Staff and volunteers installed a footbridge and 2 waymarker posts to improve this public right of way. In total 12 staff hours and 30 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the path.

Fyfield, Footpaths 18, 28 and 36. Staff and volunteers installed a waymarker post, cleared 30m of encroaching vegetation and the fixed a set on hand rails on a footbridge. In total 9 staff hours and 15 volunteer hours.

Loughton, Home Mead LNR. Staff and volunteers from the Thursday Volunteer Group undertook maintenance to the hardened pathway constructed in 2006 and cut vegetation beside the pathways. In total 16 staff hours and 28 volunteer hours were dedicated to the reserve on a single project day this year.

Loughton, Roding Valley Meadows LNR* Local Wildlife Site* G10 (SSSI) (56.5 h). Staff and volunteers from the Thursday Volunteer Group worked with Essex Wildlife Trust Warden Patrick Bailly undertaking the following:

- **31 July 2008** – staff and volunteers installed a kissing gate, a field gate and part of a bridleway gate to allow public access and cattle grazing on the meadows.
- **21 August 2008** – 2 kissing gates and clearance around old gateways.

In total 37 staff hours and 162 volunteer hours were dedicated to the task over 2 project days.

North Weald Bassett, Footpaths 1 and 27 and Weald Common. On Weald Common staff and volunteers from the regular Thursday Countrycare Volunteer Group installed a bridge and a flight of steps leading from Higham View onto Weald Common. On footpath 27 the West Essex Ramblers Working Party cleared 150m of encroaching vegetation and installed a waymarker post on footpath 1. In all 42 staff hours and 90 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving access in the parish.

Ongar, Footpaths 5, 19 and 37 – On footpath 19, staff and volunteers spent a project day improving the drainage to this pathway as it passes beside the Castle Street Allotments. Work involved installation of drainage pipes and surfacing around the entrance gates.

On Footpath 37, Hallsford Bridge Meadow, staff and volunteers spent 2 project days undertaking the clearance of 200m of encroaching scrub and bramble to open up footpath 37 on its definitive line. They also installed a section of post and rail fencing at the entrance to the site to improve access.

On Footpath 5, as part of the Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve Project staff and volunteers undertook major improvements to the right of way. For full details see Appendix 2.

In total 39 staff hours and 126 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving access in the parish over 3 project days this year. (Excludes work on footpath 5 see Appendix 2)

Roydon, Footpaths 29, 32 and 33. Bridleway 70. Staff and volunteers undertook the clearance of 300m of encroaching bramble and installed 4 waymarker posts. In all 12 staff hours and 27 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the 4 public rights of way.

Stanford Rivers, Widows Farm, Footpath 53 – Over 2 project days staff and volunteers installed 3 kissing gates, 2 waymarker posts, a rambler gate and cleared 65m of encroaching vegetation. In total 24 staff hours and 96 volunteer hours were given to the task.

Theydon Garnon, Footpath 2, Gernon Bushes NR. Staff and volunteers installed a bridge, cleared a set of steps and put non-slip wire on the existing boardwalk. In total 6 staff hours and 60 volunteer hours were dedicated to the task.

Willingale, Diggin's Farm, Footpath 1 and 24. Staff and volunteers cleared vegetation from 80m of pathway and installed 2 fingerposts, a footbridge and 2 waymarker posts to improve these 2 public rights of way. In total 20 staff hours and 45 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the path over 2 project days.

Appendix 2 – Biodiversity and Landscape enhancement.

In total 79 project days were undertaken across 32 sites including 13 Local Wildlife Sites to increase their biodiversity value. A total of 1,312 staff hours and 4,544 volunteer hours were given equating to £28,400 @£6.25/hr. The following lists conservation projects undertaken by the regular Countrycare Volunteer Group working alongside Countrycare staff unless. Other groups are mentioned by name.

Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding, All Saint's Church (0.5h). Countrycare have managed All Saints Churchyard since 1995. However, with a change of ownership our services are no longer needed. The volunteer day on 7 August 2008 was the last for now as the volunteers undertook a hay cut of the churchyard and paddock field. It is hoped our work will be rewarded with Local Wildlife Site status for the site. In all 12 staff hours and 66 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site.

Bobbingworth, Bobbingworth Former Landfill Site (9 hectares). This District Council owned site is located to the south of Moreton village. During the 1950s, it was used for gravel extraction following which from 1961 to 1972 it was used to take domestic rubbish. By 1974, the site had been filled and "restored" to green open space. However, when the tip was filled in the 1960s, recycling was non-existent. Consequently, newspapers, bottles, plastics and cans all went into the tip. During trial works in 2007 much of this rubbish was revealed which despite being in the ground nearly 40 years looked like it had been put there yesterday. Unfortunately, restoration of the tip's surface cap on completion in the 1970s and later in the 1980s has proved inadequate. Pollution has been found coming from the site, which has required a comprehensive project to stop the migration of any pollution and restore the former tips surface to a usable state. This involved major soil importation and movement. This engineering phase of the project was completed in October 2008 and the next few years will see major landscaping. This is where Countrycare have been and will be involved into the future. The Council's contractors Veolia will be managing and maintaining the site for the next seven years. However, during this time as well as ensuring the design is working they will be working closely with Countrycare in trying to create a biodiversity resource with wetlands, a wildflower meadow, copses and hedgerows. In November 2008, Countrycare staff, schoolchildren and volunteers planted nearly a 1,000 trees over 5 volunteer days. In all 81 staff hours, 131 volunteer hours and 18 children were involved in the project. Further details can be found at http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/bobbingworth_tip.asp

Buckhurst Hill, Linder's Field LNR, Local Wildlife Site M19 (3.6h). Linder's Field is in fact far more than just a field; it is actually a mixture of habitats. Combined with the grassland is ancient woodland (50%), scrub and 2 small ponds. Since 1963, the land has been managed as a charitable trust with first Chigwell Urban District Council and now Epping Forest District Council acting as managing trustees. Since 1990, Countrycare have worked on the field to make both habitat and access improvements. In May 1996, the importance of the site was recognised by its declaration as Local Wildlife Site and this was followed in August 2000 by its declaration as a statutory LNR. Each year staff and volunteer undertake a range of projects and this year the following works have been undertaken:

- **24 April 2008** – Installed 3 entrance sign waymarkers, a new bench, completed fencing down the entranceway and cut out the grass pathways.
- **30 May 2008** – 70% of the grassland area was cut.
- **3 September 2008** – Staff installed dog bin
- **6 November 2008** – Cleared bramble from within Pluckett's Wood. Prepared the tree planting site on the sites western boundary.
- **29 January 2009** – Planted 30m of hedge along the western field boundary, selective thinning of trees in the woodland and bluebell area in Pluckett's Wood.
- **18 February 2009** – Completed tree planting with Buckhurst Hill Guides

In total 67 staff hours and 255 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over 4 project days this year. Further details can be found at:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Linders_Field.asp

Chigwell, Hainault Forest, Local Wildlife Site W43 (5.0h). The Essex section of Hainault Forest is managed by the Woodland Trust (WT). Over the last five years Countrycare has worked in partnership with the Trust and coordinated occasional volunteer days within the Forest. The Trust has also purchased 53 hectares (131 acres) of adjoining land and is once more expanding Hainault Forest. This former agricultural land is being planted with trees which will in the future develop into woodland and expand this great forest. This year a number of projects have taken place including the following;

- **19 and 22 June 2008** – Staff and volunteer from the regular Countrycare Group and the BTCV undertook management of the heath land area on the eastern side of the Romford Road.
- **16 November 2008** – WT and Countrycare staff spent the day organising a community tree planting day on the Hainault Forest extension involving a range of community groups. Over 150 members of the public attended.
- **14 December 2008** – Staff worked with volunteers from the BTCV to plant trees within the Hainault Forest Extension.

In all 36 staff hours and 255 volunteer hours were given to the site over 3 project days. Plus 150 members of the public on the 16 November 2008.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/our-woods/Pages/wood-details.aspx?wood=5067>

Chigwell, Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Local Wildlife Site W41 (15h). As a remnant of Hainault Forest, Chigwell Row Wood is the only significant section of Hainault Forest surviving today to the west of the Romford Road. This hugely significant and valuable site is home to a variety of habitats from Ancient Woodland with its magnificent veteran trees and dead wood insects through to relic heathland and its rare plants such as Lousewort. Since 1950, the land has been managed as Charitable Trust first by Chigwell Urban District Council and since 1974 by Epping Forest District Council.

Since its declaration as a LNR in August 2000, the site has been a major focus for Countrycare staff and volunteers. A massive volunteer programme has been put together that has seen the restoration of many veteran pollards and a large area of heathland. In addition, the opening up of woodland rides and glades has been very successful. Since April 2004, nearly 5,000 hours of volunteer time equating to nearly £30,000 has been given to improving the LNR.

Again this year the LNR has been a major focus. Staff have worked alongside the regular Thursday Countrycare Volunteer Group, the Friends of Chigwell Row, students from Capel Manor College and the Waltham Forest Youth Offending Team. The following work has been undertaken:

- **11 April 2008** – Staff installed a new metal gate on the 2nd Brockett Way reserve entrance.
- **1 May 2008** – Sensitive clearance of the heathland – bramble and scrub, replaced 2 waymarker posts on the woodland trail and litter clearance.
- **11, 18, 22 and 29 July 2008** – Litter clearance staff and bramble clearance on the rides, management of the heathland including poisoning aspen
- **20 and 28 August 2008** – Cutting heathland and main rides
- **15 and 25 September 2008** – Staff and contractors felled a number of unsafe trees. Volunteers cut and raked the ride north of the heathland.
- **6 October 2008** – Ride cutting and access paths
- **15, 16 and 17 December 2008** – Restoration work and haloing of veteran pollards.
- **15 and 17 January 2009** – Clearance of main ride and glade on the western side of the wood.
- **9, 12 and 13 February 2009** – Clearance of the ride network including the main ride.
- **16, 17, 19, 20 and 26 March 2009** – Cutting holly and major expansion and restoration work to the heathland area including soil stripping. Felling of trees around the “jelly pond”.

In total 270 staff hours, 897 volunteer hours and 99 contractor hours have been dedicated to the wood over 12 volunteer days this year. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/chigwell_row_lnr.asp

Epping, Civic Offices Newt Pond. Around 1900 ponds were a common feature in Epping with 20 ponds on the northern side of the High Street alone. The Civic Offices pond was one of these and is shown on the 1881 OS map. Unfortunately, a hundred years later the Civic Offices pond is the only survivor, as all the others had been lost as development extended north from the High Street. Even this pond was initially threatened with extension proposals for the Civic offices in 1988. The pond and its surrounding field (0.3 ha) was initially allocated for car parking, but the discovery of 400 great crested newts led to the plans being amended and the ponds future secured. Whilst the majority of the field was lost, the pond and a small area of grassland surrounding the pond were saved. This area was enclosed by a wall and planted with various trees and shrubs. In addition, thought was given to creating safe access for the newts between the breeding pond and surrounding gardens, which are now their main feeding area. This arrangement has been successful as the colony of great crested newts is still very much present. Countrycare have managed the pond and the newts since 1995.

This year in addition to the regular management work a population survey was undertaken. Full details of the findings are on the Countrycare website. See link below.

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Civic_offices_pond.asp

Epping, Swaines Green, Local Wildlife Site G40. (9.64 h) Swaines Green lies to the north of Epping Town and since 1994 had been managed by Countrycare on behalf of Epping Town Council and local residents under a management and access agreement with the landowner. However, since 2005 the land has been owned and managed by the City of London and Epping Town Council. Countrycare now works in partnership with the 2 landowners and the Friends of Swaines Green undertaking management work. The site itself has developed from four former agricultural fields, which had been left unmanaged since the early 1980's. Nature quickly took hold and today the site is a mosaic of grassland, scrub and developing woodland bordered by thick hedgerows, the seed source for much of the woodland coming from the major hedge bordering Bolt Cellar Lane.

The Friends of Swaines Green were instrumental in securing the land into public ownership in 2005 and they continue to hold regular monthly volunteer days on the Green supported were possible by Countrycare. This year the Service assisted on the following days undertaking the following works:

- **8 October 2008** – Cut a section of Middle Lincoln's Field for the Friends of Swaines Green to removed on their weekend task.
- **2 November 2008** –Volunteers from the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers worked with the Friends of Swaines Green to restore 100m² of meadow in Lovelocks Field. This involved the removal of scrub and bramble.
- **11 January 2009** – Staff and volunteers undertook some grass cutting (0.1h) and the continued scrub and bramble clearance of Lovelock's Meadow.
- **9 March 2009** - continued scrub and bramble clearance of Lovelock's Meadow.

In total 21 staff hours and 174 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over the 3 project days Countrycare staff assisted with. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Swaines_Green.asp

Epping Upland, All Saints Churchyard, Local Wildlife Site G14. (0.8h) Countrycare has managed the wildflower conservation area of this churchyard since 1993, working in partnership with the churchwardens. To date over 138 different flowering plants have been recorded within the churchyard's conservation area. In recognition of the sites wildlife value it is a Local Wildlife Site. To help maintain the diversity of wildflowers, especially the highly impressive display of Cowslips in the spring, the grass is cut annually and all the cuttings removed. This year a single project day was organised on the 11 September 2008 involving 18 staff hours and 90 volunteer hours. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/All_Saints_Churchyard.asp

Epping Upland, Epping Green Millennium Wildlife Garden. (0.5h) In 1999, Epping Upland Parish Council received a small grant from the Millennium Festival "Awards for All Scheme". This went towards creating a Millennium Wildlife Area on redundant allotments within Epping Green village. Over the last nine years, Countrycare has worked in partnership with the parish council to create an ever improving wildlife area. A meadow area has been created, a pond dug and hedgerows planted all of which are now starting to mature. Wildflowers such as Cowslip and Common Spotted Orchid are now establishing. In 2006, a formal management agreement was signed between Countrycare and the parish council that will see this work continue in the long term. This year the following work was undertaken:

- **21 April 2008** – Staff cut and raked the pathways
- **7 and 10 July 2008** – Cut the main area of grassland
- **6 August 2008** – Installed Field Gate
- **9 February 2009** – Laid 30m of hedgerow
- **5 March 2009** – Cleared bramble from the site and planted 30 trees in the hedgerow.

In total 48 staff hours and 162 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over 5 project days (3 volunteer days) this year. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/millennium_garden.asp

High Ongar, Norton Heath Common. Candidate Local Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve (4.3h)

Norton Heath is a registered common with EFDC acting as the managing trustees and Countrycare has been undertaking small scale projects on the common since the late 1980s. Today, this former heathland has largely reverted to secondary woodland. It has a largely closed canopy of oak and birch, overlying very acid gravel soils. The only exception is a small glade, which has been created in the centre of the site this year. This year the following work has been undertaken:

- **3 April 2008** - Felled 20 oak trees from around the central pond, installed a site notice board and cleared litter from the site.
- **11 and 12 December 2008** – Thinning of a further 40 oak and birch trees in central area of the common.
- **19 February 2009** – Installed bollards beside main road, litter picked the site and removed stumps and brash.

In total 57 staff hours and 186 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over 3 project days this year. For more information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/norton_heath.asp

High Ongar, High Ongar Community Hall. Staff worked with volunteers and children from High Ongar Primary School to plant a 50m mixed hedge with the ground of the hall. In all 12 staff hours and 60 children were involved in the project.

Lambourne, Featherbed Lane, Local Wildlife Site W54 This ancient green lane runs for nearly 2 kilometres north from Hainault Forest in Lambourne Church. Its old hedgerows are full of magnificent veteran trees and half of the lane is currently designated a Local Wildlife Site. Over many years now Countrycare has worked on various parts of the lane improving drainage and managing the ponds and veteran pollards, scrub from the centre of land and the boundary hedgerows. This year the following was undertaken in partnership with the Woodland Trust who managed Hainault Forest:

- **16 and 30 October 2008** – staff and volunteers undertook the laying of 100m of hedgerow on the northern end of the lane where it passes the Lambourne End Centre. This section of the lane was created in the early 1990s when the lane was upgraded to bridleway status.

In total 45 staff hours and 120 volunteer hours were dedicated to the task over 3 project days.

Lambourne, Hainault Forest, Local Wildlife Site W50, SSSI. The Essex section of Hainault Forest is managed by the Woodland Trust. Over the last few years Countrycare has worked in partnership with the Trust coordinating occasional volunteer days in the Forest

- **23 October 2008** – staff and volunteers spent a project day creating a new glade within Taylors Plain. This involved the creation of numerous new pollards.

In total 16 staff hours and 96 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over a project day.

Lambourne, St Mary and All Saints Church. On 25 November 2008 in National Tree Week, staff worked with local tree wardens, church wardens, volunteers and Lambourne Primary School to plant a new 70m hawthorn hedge on the front boundary of the churchyard. In all 36 staff hours, 30 volunteer hours and 45 children were involved in the project.

Loughton, Loughton Brook Flood Meadow, Epping Forest, Local Wildlife Site M7, SSSI. (0.6h) Loughton Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme was created back in 1995, in a joint initiative between the then National Rivers Authority and the District Council. The land itself is still dedicated Epping Forest land and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Countrycare in partnership with the Council's Land Drainage section and the City of London Keepers help to manage the nature conservation elements of site management. On 17 July 2008, staff and volunteers from the regular Countrycare Group undertook the annual hay cut on the reservoir embankments, which is now starting to establish some good spring flowers. In all 18 staff hours and 60 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over a project day.
http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/land_drainage/Flood_Alleviation_Schemes.asp

Loughton, Home Mead LNR, Candidate Local Wildlife Site. (1.82h) This District Council owned site is a wonderful mosaic of scrub, secondary woodland and acid grassland. For many years the site was simply forgotten about, which allowed much of the scrub encroachment to occur. However in 1999, Countrycare took over management of the site and began a comprehensive habitat restoration programme that continues to the present day. This has involved the creation of a new pond and grassland management combined with rotational scrub coppicing and tree removal. A circular hardened pathway was installed around the site in the summer of 2004. In December 2004, the site was declared a Local Nature Reserve reflecting its biodiversity importance. It is hoped under the 2009 LoWS Review it will be designated as a LoWS. This year, 6 project days were held on the nature reserve involving volunteers from the regular Countrycare group, students from Capel Manor College and young people from "The Green Team". The following work was undertaken;

- **24 July 2008** – Cut and raked 70% of the grassland areas
- **22 January 2009** – Coppiced and removed scrub from the south eastern edge of the site.
- **27 January 2009** – Coppicing of the south eastern boundary of the site (Capel Manor)
- **14 February 2009** – Site "tidy up" and removal of grass from the hardened pathway (Waltham Forest Youth Offenders)
- **17 February 2009** - Coppicing of the south eastern boundary of the site (Green Team)
- **12 March 2009** - Coppicing of the south eastern boundary of the site and removed rubbish.

In total 65.5 staff hours and 360 volunteer hours were dedicated to the nature reserve over 6 project days. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Home_Mead.asp

Loughton, Thomas Willingale School. Staff from Countrycare and the Head Teacher Mrs Smith has made it a goal to plant a continuous hedge around the entire schools boundary. After 6 years this is almost complete. On the 19 January 2009, 90 children were involved in planting a 50m mixed species hedgerow around the boundary of the school grounds. In all 10 staff hours and 90 children were involved in the project.

Matching, Matching Green, Local Wildlife Site G30. (4.9 hectares) Matching Green is one of the largest surviving village greens in Essex and is the 6th largest grassland Local Wildlife Site in the district. Since 1999, the green has been managed sympathetically for its wildflowers in a partnership between Countrycare and the owners including Matching Parish Council. Surveys in 1998, 1999 and 2006 have recorded over 206 species of plant including Burnet Saxifrage, Lady's Smock, Common Restharrow, Quaking grass and Common Spotted Orchid all indicating the greens huge biodiversity value. In June 2008, contractors undertook the annual hay cut of the green (3.5 h). For further information see: http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Matching_Green.asp

Nazeing, Nazeing County Primary School. On the 25 February 2009, staff spent a morning working with 80 children from the school to plant a new 30 metre hedgerow. In all 16 staff hours and 80 children were involved in the day.

Nazeing, Nazeing Triangle LNR, Local Wildlife Site M5 (0.6h). Countrycare and its volunteers have managed this site for over 20 years in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council. It was a designated Local Wildlife Site and was declared a Local Nature Reserve in June 2002. Countrycare have a formal management agreement with the parish council to manage the reserve on their behalf. This year the following work has been undertaken on the reserve:

- **2 October 2008** – installed a field gate at the main entrance, cut the grassland areas and cleared willow for the wetland adjacent to the boardwalk.
- **10 October 2008** – staff burnt brash from the previous volunteer day.
- **3 November** – removed willow from the pond area
- **28 November 2008** – removed reed mace and willow from beside the boardwalk (Capel Manor)
- **20 January 2009** – removed reed mace and willow from beside the boardwalk (Capel Manor)

In all 32 staff hours and 169 volunteer days over the 4 project days. For further information see: http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Nazeing_Triangle.asp

Nazeing, Copy Wood Field, Local Wildlife Site M9 (0.7h). Countrycare has managed this unimproved meadow since 1986. Situated on the northern edge of Nazeing Common, this small field is in fact part of the Coppiced Hall Estate. It is especially notable for its spring flowers and butterflies and forms part of the Epping Long Green Local Wildlife Site Complex. Each year staff and volunteers undertake a hay cut that helps the wildflowers to thrive.

- **12 June 2008** - Staff and volunteers cut and raked 90% of the field

In total 18 staff hours and 48 volunteer hours were dedicated to managing this important wildlife site. http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Copy_Wood_Field.asp

North Weald Bassett, Thornwood Flood Meadow LNR, Candidate Local Wildlife Site (2.7h). This LNR is one of North Weald's three flood storage reservoirs created in 1998 by the District Council and the then National Rivers Authority. Designed to alleviate flooding in Thornwood village. From the outset, the meadow has been designed and sympathetically managed for nature conservation within the primary parameters of flood defence. Specially designed wetland scrapes and a wetland meadow was sown to maximise biodiversity. Its development has been a massive success reflected in its designation as a Local Nature Reserve in December 2004 after just 6 years!

- **26 September 2008** – cut the banks of the bund 4 staff hours
- **8 January 2009** – Coppiced block of planting at the rear of Teasel Mead on the northern boundary. Plus selective thinning of scrub beside the brook.

In all 16 staff hours and 42 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site. For further information see: http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Thornwood_Flood_Meadow.asp

North Weald Bassett, Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR, Local Wildlife Site G41. (3.25 h) In 2009, the LNR celebrated its 20th birthday! In addition, over this time the site has been a major engineering and habitat creation project. Today, it is hard to believe that the meadow was once created from an arable field boasting as it does over 180 species of wild flowers and supporting an impressive array of birds, butterflies and dragonflies. This year a single volunteer day was held on the LNR.

- **9 October 2009** – Staff and volunteer undertook coppicing of willow around the main central pond ($\frac{1}{3}$ rd) and thinning of trees along the northern bund.

In all 12 staff hours and 72 volunteer hours were dedicated to the LNR over a project day.

For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Church_Lane.asp

North Weald Bassett, Thornwood Common Nature Area (0.2h) Back in 1996, Countrycare and North Weald Parish Council created a nature area on a number of redundant allotments at Thornwood Common. Since then Countrycare has managed the grassland areas by cutting and scrub clearance. This has helped to enhance the colony of bee orchids and other wildflowers. This year the grassland was cut by contractors (6 June 2008).

North Weald Bassett, Roughtalley's Wood LNR, Local Wildlife Site W58 (3.4h). Roughtalley's Wood in its entirety is a large ancient woodland covering 25 hectares. However, in 1860s the wood was divided unequally by the creation of the Eastern Counties Railway. The largest section to the south of the railway is now a green burial site while the smaller section is EFDC's LNR declared in 2000.

The LNR can be neatly divided into two distinct areas. The first area is a remnant of ancient woodland and the second is an area of regenerating secondary woodland. The ground flora within the wood is generally poor due to lack of recent management and Bramble tends to dominate, however there are three types of orchid and the occasional patch of bluebell and primrose in the spring. This year the following work was undertaken on the LNR;

- **10 April 2008** – Installed 4 new benches, litter clearance and cutting of the grassland in the centre of the reserve.
- **17 June 2008** – staff undertook maintenance of the rides and grassland areas.
- **16 July 2008** - staff undertook maintenance of the rides
- **18 September 2008** – Cut and raked grassland rides through the wood.
- **26 February 2009** – repaired the boundary fence to the old railway line and thinned trees along the main pathway in the secondary wood.

In total 71 staff hours and 174 volunteer hours were dedicated to the reserve over 3 volunteer project days this year. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/sites/Roughtalleys_Wood.asp

North Weald Bassett, Foster Street Burial Ground, Candidate Local Wildlife Site (0.28h) The origins of the site can be traced back to 1677 and is linked to the Harlow Baptist Church. Countrycare became involved with the site in 2002 following an approach from local volunteers and historians regarding the overgrown plight of the churchyard. Since that time, we have undertaken a series of volunteer days with a minimum of one a year. Many of the graves have been cleared of encroaching bramble and scrub and the more open grassland areas are cut each year with the cuttings be removed to the compost bin. This year the following work was undertaken:

- **14 August 2008** - 10 staff hours and 78 volunteer hours – hay cut
- **18 December 2008** – 20 staff hours and 45 volunteer hours – bramble and scrub clearance

A total of 30 staff hours and 123 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over 2 project days.

Further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Foster_Street_Burial_Ground.asp

North Weald Bassett, Weald Common Flood Meadows LNR, Candidate Local Wildlife Site (2.9h).

The Weald Common flood meadows consist of two meadows created in 1996 as part of flood defence measures to protect the village of North Weald. While their primary role and reason for creation was flood, alleviation it was possible from the outset to maximise the site for biodiversity gain. Over 3,000 trees have been planted creating over a kilometre of new hedgerows, which are starting to mature and offer good habitat for a range of wildlife. These are now starting to be laid and the following project days were held on the LNR undertaking this and other tasks:

- **12 December 2008** – Hedgelaying (30m)
- **2 January 2009** – Hedgelaying (30m)
- **16 January 2009** - Hedgelaying (30m)
- **5 February 2009** – Clearance along the central ditch of the western meadow
- **27 February 2009** – Hedgelaying (30m)

In total 22 staff hours and 254 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the nature reserve over 5 project days. For more information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Weald_Common_Flood_Meadows.asp

Ongar, Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve (1.12h) In October 2007 work finally began on Ongar's first nature reserve. The site itself is located to the south of the town on a thin strip of land running beside Cripsey Brook. Countrycare's partners are Ongar Town Council, who have secured a 25 year lease for the land from Essex County Council and have secured grant funding of over £17,000 to allow enhancement works to take place. Following major clearance of the site in 2007, this year has seen a range of projects to enhance access and continue to establish a wildflower meadow. The following work has been undertaken this year;

- **17 April 2008** – Cleared the new Turners Close entrance of rubbish, erected temporary fencing, cut and raked the established grass areas. (northern section)
- **7, 8, 9 and 12 May 2008** – Constructed a 25m ramp from the High Street onto the site and a new 4m footbridge on the pathway.
- **15 May 2008** – Construction of field gate and fencing to create a new entrance off Turners Close for the site.
- **10 June 2008** – Contractors cut the main ride
- **26 June 2008** – Continued the upgrade of the hardened pathway through the site and grassland management.
- **3 July 2008** – Installed a new section of fencing (50m) dividing the site between open and restricted access land.
- **4 September 2008** – Completed the upgrade of the hardened pathway through the site.
- **20 February 2009** – planted 160 trees at the edge of the reserve. (Green Team)

In total 189 staff hours, 450 volunteer hours and 12 children were involved in management of the reserve over 9 project days this year. For more information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Cripsey_Brook_Nature_Reserve.asp

Roydon, World's End, Wildlife Site W112. (4.6h) World's End is a hazel and willow carr woodland notable for a number of native black poplars (*Populus nigra*). One of these fine trees was listed as one of the 50 Great British Trees by the Tree Council to mark the Queens Jubilee.

Since 1995, Countrycare has worked in partnership with the landowner (a local farmer) and Roydon Countrycare to undertake a programme of coppice management. This has seen huge improvements to

the woodland that was designated as a wildlife site by the Essex Wildlife Trust in May 1996. This year a single volunteer day was held in the wood.

- **20 November 2008** – staff and volunteers spent the day continuing the programme of hazel coppicing within the woodland.

In all 12 staff hours and 48 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site.

Roydon, St Peter’s Churchyard. Roydon Countrycare, the local conservation group, have been managing St Peter’s churchyard for many years. This year on 13 November 2008, staff and volunteers from EFDC Countrycare helped cut grass and cleared bramble in the churchyards wildflower conservation area. In addition a number of trial turf stripping plots were undertaken. In all 12 staff hours and 42 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over a project day.

Theydon Bois, Great Gregories Farm, Buffer Lands Epping Forest. Staff from both the District Council and the City of London worked with school children from Theydon Bois and Ivy Chimneys Primary Schools. The result was the planting of 200m of new hedgerow on the Forest buffer lands at Great Gregories on 26 November 2008. In all 42 staff hours and 120 children were involved on the day.

Waltham Abbey, Old Shire Lane (0.8h) Countrycare has managed this District Council owned site since October 2000. Formally an old nursery, it was given to the Council as a ransom strip when the Swallow Hotel was built. For Countrycare staff and volunteers the site has become the focus of a major habitat creation project. In 2001, over 800 trees were planted creating a copse and boundary hedgerows in addition a wildflower meadow was sown in Spring 2004. This year projects have continued to try and enhance the wildlife value of the site. The following was undertaken:

- **23 and 30 June 2008** - Staff and volunteers from Capel Manor College undertook the maintenance of the grassland area on the northern section of the site.
- **7 October 2008** - Staff and volunteers from Capel Manor College undertook the maintenance of the grassland area over the site.
- **15 October 2008** – Undertook works to the damaged pond to create a wetland area.
- **23 January 2009** – The Countrycare Hedgelaying team laid 38m of boundary hedgerow.
- **13 February 2009** - The Countrycare Hedgelaying team laid 40m of boundary hedgerow.

In total 36 staff hours and 231 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site over 5 project days. For further information see:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Oldshire_land_nature_reserve.asp

Free Tree Scheme 2008/09

The following schemes were supported through Essex County Council's Landscape and Countryside Conservation Grant. A grant of **£5332.50**, helped with the provision of 2855 trees.

1) Lambourne Church, Lambourne (70m of hedgerow) 280 trees
2) Ponders Lodge Farm, Fyfield (130m of hedgerow) 520 trees
3) Nazeing Primary School, Nazeing (40m of hedgerow) 160 trees
4) Thomas Willingale Primary, Loughton (40m of hedgerow) 160 trees
5) Spain’s Hall Farm, Willingale (100m of hedgerow) 400 trees
6) High Ongar Community Hall, High Ongar (50m of hedgerow) 200 trees
7) Old Shire Lane Nature Area, Waltham Abbey (20m of hedgerow) 80 trees
8) Epping Green Nature Area, Epping Upland 10 trees
9) Linder’s Field Local Nature Reserve, Buckhurst Hill (40m of hedgerow) 160 trees
10) Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve, Ongar (40m of hedgerow) 160 trees
11) Rainbow & Dove Public House, North Weald (100m of hedgerow) 400 trees
12) Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve, Loughton – (Woodland planting) 325 trees

Glossary of terms used.

Biodiversity is short for 'biological diversity'. It describes the whole variety of life on Earth and includes all the world's animals, plants and the natural systems in which they live.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) represents the UK's best sites for wildlife and geology. Over half, by area, are internationally important and many play an important part in local culture and economies. Notification as a SSSI is primarily a legal mechanism to protect sites that are of particular conservation interest because of the wildlife they support, or because of the geological features that are found there.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are intended to be places that can be enjoyed and where people can have contact with nature. They can also be places where people can study and learn about nature.

Wildlife Sites are "a discrete area of land which is considered to be of significance for its wildlife features in at least a District/Borough/ Unitary Authority context". WS were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a phase one-habitat survey of the District in 1991 (revised 1996 and 1998). Formerly known as Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) or County Wildlife Sites. The Epping Forest District has 181 Wildlife Sites. That breaks down into 118 Woodlands, 39 grasslands, 19 mosaic sites and 5 fresh water aquatic.

Nationally Notable is a species that occurs within the range of 16 to 100 modern 10km grid squares across the UK.

The red data book (Rdb) lists species whose continued existence is threatened. Rdb species are classified into different categories of perceived risk. Each Rdb usually deals with a specific group of animals or plants (e. reptiles, insects, mosses). They are now being published in many different countries.

Ancient semi-natural woodland is woodland that is known to have existed before 1600 and **Secondary Woodland** is woodland that has developed on land which at sometime has not been wooded.

Coppicing is the process of cutting a tree near ground level and allowing it to regenerate from the stool. Trees, which are regularly coppiced, also have a distinctive shape - a large stool close to ground level with a great many shoots.

Habitat is a place where a plant or animal lives.

A Pollard is a tree that has been cut once or has had regular cutting at a height above which grazing animals can reach normally between 2 and 4 metres. Pollards are characterised by its distinctive shape - a large trunk (or bole) from which commonly radiate numerous smaller branches.

Veteran trees are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition. As a rule, a tree that is either over 250 years old or has a girth of over 3 metres at breast height can be described as a veteran. However, other factors must be considered such as the location and past management of the tree.

Unimproved grassland is grassland that is species rich and has not had chemical fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides applied to it.

Appendix 3 – Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and EFDC owned countryside sites

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the District Council has the power to designate sites of nature conservation interest as statutory Local Nature Reserves. The Epping Forest District now has 9 Local Nature Reserves including:

Roughtalley's Wood LNR, North Weald Bassett (3,4 hectares). This EFDC owned LNR has two distinct areas - semi natural ancient woodland (1.1h) comprising hornbeam coppice with oak standards and planted broadleaved woodland and interesting grassland areas (2.3h).

Access: Entrance off Pike Way. A 600m circular hardened walkway allows easy access for everyone.

Parking: Street parking along Pike Way.

Grid Reference: TL 489 037

Getting There: Off Epping Road (B181) between Epping and North Weald Bassett.

Special plants and animals: Broad-leaved helleborine, bee orchid, common spotted orchid, veteran hornbeam coppice, slow worm and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, W58

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Chigwell (15.6 hectares). This LNR is managed in Trust by the District Council. A remnant of Hainault Forest this valuable ancient woodland contains a variety of habitats but is especially important for its relict heathland and ancient trees that includes over 50 veteran Oaks and hundreds of Hornbeam pollards.

Access: A 370 metre hardened walkway runs north-south through the wood linking up the nearby recreation ground promoting safe and easy access for everyone. There is also a whole network of woodland rides throughout the reserve.

Parking: Lodge Close car park.

Grid Reference: TQ 460 931

Getting There: Off Lambourne Road (B173) past junction with Romford Road (A112).

Special plants and animals: Veteran trees, dead wood insects and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, W41

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Nazeing Triangle LNR, Nazeing (0.6 hectares). This LNR is managed by the District Council in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council. Although the site is small, it contains a mosaic of ponds and wetland that supports a wealth of wildlife.

Access: A hardened granite footpath and boardwalk take you right to the centre of the site.

Parking: Street parking along Betts Lane.

Grid Reference: TL 414 065

Getting There: Off Nazeing Common Road.

Special plants and animals: Great crested newt, emperor dragonfly and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, M5

LNR Declaration: 12 June 2001

Linder's Field LNR, Buckhurst Hill (3.6 hectares). This LNR is managed in trust by EFDC. Half of the LNR comprises of unimproved grassland, scrub with 2 small ponds, while the other half is a semi-natural ancient woodland, Little Pluckett's Wood.

Access: By hardened footpath off Roebuck Lane

Parking: Street parking Roebuck Lane.

Grid Reference: TQ 415 945

Getting There: Roebuck Lane is off Loughton High Road (A121).

Special plants and animals: Wild service trees, wood anemone, bluebell, sneezewort, frogs and toads.

Wildlife Site: Yes, M19

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR, North Weald Bassett. Completed in 1989, this LNR has been the focus of a major engineering and habitat creation scheme. Designed primarily for flood protection, the site can hold 35 million litres of water in a flood event. A wet meadow and large stream fed pond lie within the flood bowl and 2,000 trees have been planted. In addition to the good populations of birds, dragonfly and butterfly over 180 species of flowers, grasses and trees have been recorded.

Reserve area: 3.4 Hectares.

Access: The site can only be accessed via public footpaths. The pathways are informal grass paths.

Parking: Street parking Vicarage Lane at St Andrews Church.

Grid Reference: TL 495 047

Getting There: Church Lane is off Epping Road (B181).

Special plants and animals: Devils-bit scabious, ragged robin, kingfisher, heron and water vole.

Wildlife site? Yes G41

LNR Declaration: 13 May 2002

Home Mead LNR, Loughton. This LNR contains a mosaic of woodland, scrub, acid grassland and a small pond. The woodland has developed over the last 30 years, having spread by natural regeneration into the once open grassland areas. There is still an area of heather on the eastern side of the site, which possibly gives a clue to the once larger heathland community that existed. Areas of scrub now form an interface between the open grassland areas and the woodland.

Reserve area: 1.8 Hectares.

Access: A circular hardened pathway takes you through the site. Entrance England's Lane, Loughton.

Parking: Street parking.

Grid Reference: TQ 439 978

Getting There: From A121 Goldings Hill via Clays Lane.

Special plants and animals: Heather and bird population.

Wildlife site? No

LNR Declaration: 23 December 2004

Roding Valley Meadows LNR, Chigwell. Managed as a partnership between Epping Forest District Council, the Grange Farm Trust and the Essex Wildlife Trust, this beautiful site is a mosaic of hedgerows and open meadows. Situated on the flood plain of the River Roding, these cattle grazed meadows are now the largest surviving area of traditional river valley grassland in Essex.

Reserve area: 56.5 Hectares.

Access: The site has a network of hardened pathways totalling about 1km. There are also many other pathways across the site.

Parking: Car Park, Roding Lane, Chigwell.

Grid Reference: TQ 430 942

Getting There: Off Roding Lane (B170) between Loughton and Chigwell, next to David Lloyd Centre.

Special plants and animals: Numerous plants, Kingfisher and Water vole.

Wildlife site? Yes, G10

LNR Declaration: 13 April 1986

Thornwood Flood Meadow LNR, North Weald Bassett. This EFDC owned LNR was created in 1998 from an arable field, the site can already boast a great wet meadow with specially designed wetland scrapes ideal for wading birds. The meadow is at it best in early summer, when wildflowers such as Ragged Robin, Oxeye Daisy and Knapweed transform the site with colour.

Reserve area: 2.7 Hectares.

Access: The reserve is reached via a public footpath from North Weald High Road, Thornwood.

Parking: Street parking

Grid Reference: TL 471 045

Getting There: Off (B1393) High Road, Thornwood Common.

Special plants and animals: Ragged Robin and Snipe

Wildlife site: No

LNR Declaration: 23 December 2004

Weald Common Flood Meadows LNR. Created in 1996, this EFDC owned flood alleviation scheme has quickly established into a fantastic wildlife site. In spring, Cowslips cover much of the meadow and in early summer Ragged Robin takes over. Grass snake or even a common lizard may be seen basking in a sunny spot. Over 2,000 trees have been planted creating over half a kilometre of new hedgerows.

Reserve area: 2.9 Hectares.

Access: The reserve is reached via Weald Common Open space.

Parking: By Village hall.

Grid References: TL 499 039 and TL 502 042

Getting There: Off (B181) High Road, North Weald.

Special plants and animals: Grass Snake, Common Lizard, Ragged Robin.

Wildlife site: No

LNR Declaration: 23 December 2004

Summary

9 Local Nature Reserves

	Parish	Area (h)	Declared
Roding Valley Meadows*	Chigwell	56.5	13/04/1986
Roughtalley's Wood	North Weald	3.40	17/08/2000
Linder's Field**	Buckhurst Hill	3.60	17/08/2000
Chigwell Row Wood**	Chigwell	15.60	17/08/2000
Nazeing Triangle***	Nazeing	0.60	12/06/2001
Church Lane Flood Meadow	North Weald	3.25	13/05/2002
Weald Common Flood Meadows	North Weald	3.25	23/12/2004
Thornwood Common Flood Meadow	North Weald	2.70	23/12/2004
Home Mead	Loughton	1.82	23/12/2004
	Total	90.02	

4 EFDC owned sites

	Parish	Area (h)
Civic Offices Newt Pond	Epping	0.07
Old Shire Lane	Waltham Abbey	0.80
Norton Heath Common	High Ongar	4.30
Loughton Brook FSR****	Loughton	1.00

* Managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. ** Managed by EFDC as trustees of a charitable trust.

*** Managed by Countrycare in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council

**** Managed by Countrycare, but land part of Epping Forest SSSI, Corporation of London.

12 EFDC Special Roadside Verges

No.	N.G.R	Side	Length (m)	Road	Locality
1	506102-512103	N	600	U	New Way Lane, Matching
2	513129-515128	E	250	U	Sheering Lodge, Sheering
3	576101-578104	W	300	B184	Beauchamp Roding
4	573097-574099	E	300	B184	Beauchamp Roding
5	490013-493016	NW	550	U	Mount End, Theydon Mount
6	435995-439995	S	400	B172	Oak Hill, Epping Forest
7	435995-439995	N	400	B172	Oak Hill, Epping Forest
8	432994-432994	S	50	B172	Jacks Hill, Epping Forest
9	419994-420994	N/S	300	B172	Woodreddon Hill, Epping Forest
10	412971-418965	E/W	900	U	Earls Path, Epping Forest
11	428004-431004	S	300	U	Upshire Road, Epping Forest

Appendix 4 - Guided Walks and Events Organised

Date	Subject	Attendance
08/04/08	Epping Forest Tree Warden Trip to Kew Gardens	15
19/04/08	Youth 2000 – Pond dipping and Environmental games. Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey*	6
05/06/08	Countrycare Volunteers Annual Tour and Thank you.	18
07/06/08	“Insect and tree hunt safari” Chigwell Row Guides Camp (6 - 14yrs)	28
05/07/08	“Summer of Hugs and Favourite Trees Exhibition” High Beach, Epping Forest	100+
08/08/08	“Flower Power”, The wildlife flowers of Matching Green (5 -11 yrs) In partnership with EFDC’s Community Development.	15
18/08/08	“Creature Comforts” Family Pond Dipping Day, Nazeing Scout Hut In partnership with Epping Forest Arts.	30
26/08/08	“Ancient Trees” Gernon Bushes, Theydon Garnon In partnership with EFDC’s Lifewalks	16
27/09/08	“Insect safari” Chigwell Row Guide Camp, Brownies	250
08/10/08	Chigwell Row Wood LNR, “Woodland Management” Epping Forest Rotary Club (Exchange programme)	06
16/10/08	Veteran Tree Hunt, “Hilly Fields”, Loughton	03
01/11/08	Veteran Tree Hunt, Hainault Forest, Lambourne	06
16/11/08	Community Tree Planting Day, Hainault Forest (with Woodland Trust)	150
17/03/09	Training Day – “Surveying Green Lane Local Wildlife Sites”	12
Total		655

Appendix 5 – Talks Given

Date	Audience and Subject	Attendance
23/04/08	Country care Liaison Group Meeting	20
06/05/08	Buckhurst Hill OAP Group “Countrycare”	25
22/09/08	North Chingford Towns Women’s Guild. “Favourite Trees Project”	24
24/09/08	Parish Paths Partnership AGM “Favourite Trees Project”	40
16/03/09	Ongar Wildlife Society, “50 favourite Trees – What Next?”	45
16/03/09	North Weald Horticultural Society “Country care’s Work”	20
Total		174

Appendix 6 – Meetings and Events attended

Date	Audience and Subject	Attendance
19/04/08	Public Walk - Launch of Ongar Tree Strategy	21
28/04/08	Public Meeting – Ongar Town Council AGM – “Future of Cripsey Brook”	40
01/06/08	Public Event – Ashlyn’s Organic Farm, Green Fayre “Favourite Trees”	250+
09/09/08	Epping Forest Tree Warden’s Open Meeting	14
27/09/08	EFDC Green festival, Buckhurst Hill	250+
27/10/08	Launch of Tottenham Hotspur Foundation HOPE Project	60
21/01/09	Epping Forest Tree Warden’s AGM	21
11/02/09	Epping Forest Tree Warden’s Open Meeting	10
Total		666

Special thanks to the following people who assisted Countrycare with this year’s walks and events programme; Bob Macdonald,

Appendix 7 – Schools Work

Date	Group and Subject	Attendance
19/04/08	Youth 2000 – Pond dipping and Environmental games, Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey*	06
25/11/08	Lambourne Primary School, Tree Planting Day, Lambourne Church	44
26/11/08	Theydon Bois Primary School, Tree Planting Day, Great Gregories Farm	90
26/11/08	Ivy Chimneys Primary School, Tree Planting Day, Great Gregories Farm	30
28/11/08	Dr Walkers Primary School, Tree Planting Day, Bobbingworth Tip	18
02/12/08	Dr Walkers Primary School, Practical day “Discovery Wood”	120
19/01/09	Thomas Willingale School, Loughton	90
18/02/09	Buckhurst Hill Guides Linder’s Field LNR	17
25/02/09	Nazeing Primary School, Nazeing	80
25/03/09	High Ongar Primary School, Tree Planting Day HO Community Hall	60
	Total	555

Green Team Days in partnership with EFDC’s Community Development

Date	Group and Subject	Attendance
17/02/09	Green Team - Home Mead LNR, Coppicing day	07
20/02/09	Green Team - Cripsey Brook, tree planting	12
		19

Appendix 8 - Summary of Budget, Income and Resources 2008/09

Expenditure	£'s
Employees	126,194
Transport	8,699
Premises	10,380
Equipment – new	1,809
Equipment – hired	1,512
Equipment - maintenance	1,061
Materials	13,468
Protective Clothing	369
Printing - external	980
Professional fees	3,549
Subsistence expenses - volunteers	603
Local Nature Reserves	9,212
Civic hospitality	36
Support Costs	47,560
Depreciation	3,607
Total expenditure	229,041
Income	
Government grants	1,684
General grants and contributions	33, 868
Fees and charges	0
Total income	35,377
Total	193,664