

# Weald Common Local Nature Reserve

**Reserve Area:** 1.86 Hectares

**Access:** There is access to Thornhill 2 via a kissing Gate by North Weald Village Hall car park. There is no public access to Thornhill 1, however the wildflower meadow can be viewed from the road.

**Parking:** There is parking at North Weald Village Hall nearest postcode: CM16 6DB/CM16 6DL

**What3words:** dice.issues.stem    **Grid Ref:** TL 49754 03976

**LNR declaration:** 2002

**Wildlife Site Designation:** Ep124 1992



**Wasp Spider**



**Betony**



**Cowslips**

**Site Description:** Weald Common Local Nature Reserve – Thornhill 1 & 2 are made up of two meadows separated by fields owned by North Weald Parish Council.

**Site Management:** Weald Common is cut annually to prevent invasive grasses from out competing the wildflowers. The pond and the ditches running through the sites are dug out every few years to prevent it silting up. The hedgerows surrounding the site have all been laid in the past, to help create a better habitat for birds and a wildlife corridor for mammals and to help prolong the life of the hedges. These hedgerows are cut every few years to help prevent them becoming leggy and gappy.

**Seasonal:** These two wildflower sites are at their best during spring and summer when the meadow attracts invertebrates such as Wasp Spiders and Meadow Grasshoppers. Thornhill 1, although only visible from the road, is well worth a visit because it is one of only a handful of sites in Essex which has Betony growing on it and has a particularly fine display of Cowslips in late spring.