

Theydon Bois History

The village of Theydon Bois dates back to at least medieval times. In 1066 the villagers numbered 10. The name Theydon Bois comes from the Bois family (de Bosco) who held the manor in the 12th and 13th century.

In 1381 the villagers of Theydon Bois took part in the peasant's revolt. Between 1348 and 1351 the Black Death killed approximately 30% of the population. The peasants were hit the hardest because there was a shortage of labour and food was scarce. The statute of labours meant the peasants could not demand more money for their labour and therefore could not profit from the shortage. Poll tax to pay for the Hundred Years War was introduced as a one off tax but it was so successful it was repeated three more times. This was the last straw for the peasants and in May 1381 riots broke out in Essex. These quickly spread across the country. The riots lasted a month before the King agreed to the peasants' demands and convinced them to return home. After this the King sent out orders to execute the rebels. In Essex around 500 people were put to death without any form of trial. In other counties the death toll was even higher.

The notorious highwayman John Rann was known to frequent the area. His nick name was Sixteen String Jack.

This came from the 16 colourful strings he wore around the knees of his breaches. He was arrested for highway robbery six times before finally being convicted and hung in 1774 at the age of 24.



Sixteen String Jack. Picture from Wikipedia.org



About the Walk



Theydon Bois Country Walk is 5.5km (3½ miles) and should take approximately 2 hours to walk.

The footpaths on the walk are in good condition, but they will become muddy after wet weather. There is a small amount of road walking involved along main roads, please take care whilst walking along these. Please follow the Country Code. Keep dogs on a lead near livestock, and keep to the footpath when walking across privately owned land.

There is a pay and display car park next to Theydon Bois underground station.

For any footpath queries please contact Essex County Council on 08457 430 430.

Countrycare website: www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare

Email: contactcountrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Twitter or Facebook:   @EFCountrycare

Theydon Bois Country Walk



Points of Interest

1. Theydon Bois Station

Today's Central line started life in 1865 as an extension, from Loughton to Ongar, of the Great Eastern Railway. It was mostly for passenger use and encouraged the development of towns such as Loughton, Theydon Bois and Epping. Suburban influences did not reach Theydon Bois and beyond until after the war; until the fields supplied farm produce, especially milk, which was delivered to the stations on farm carts for daily transport into London.



2. The church of All Saints

The Church was constructed and reconstructed in phases over the centuries. Part of the nave is dated to the 13th Century and the tower was constructed in 1520. The Church is situated near an ancient Roman Road and an old medieval road both of which were main routes into London at one time.



3. Monks Walk

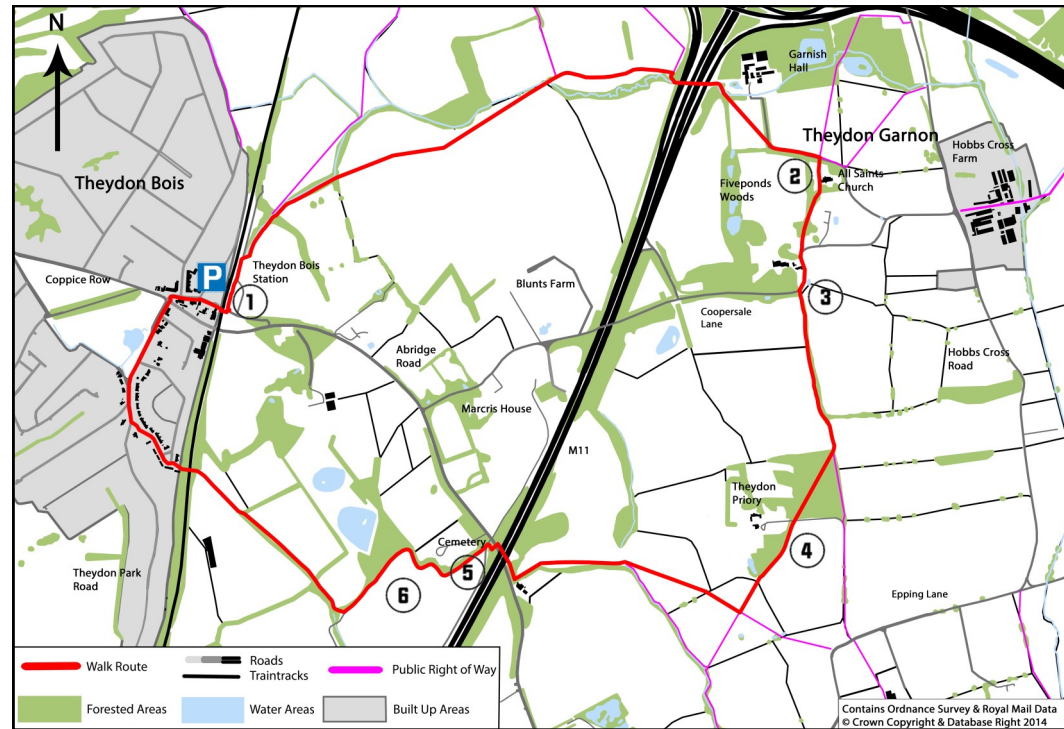
This green lane, known as "monks walk" dates back to medieval times. It was once the main route between Abridge and Harlow and was probably much wider. Now, however hedgerows and scrub have encroached and the path is only wide enough to travel on foot.

4. Roding View

The view to the south across the valley of the river Roding is an attractive mosaic of fields, hedges and woodlands. These ancient woodlands can be seen close up if you follow the Lambourne Country walks.

5. London View

On a clear day this section of the walk offers a wonderful view of the London skyline.



Theydon Bois Pond, on the green next to Poplar Row.

6. Woodland Trust Site, Theydon Bois

This section of the walk belongs to the Woodland Trust. It is believed to have once been part of Epping Forest and remnants of ancient woodland can be seen in the hedgerows and nearby. This site has been newly planted to restore the habitat to woodland. Sections have also been left as grassland habitat and a small orchard has now been planted too.