

Introduction

Mardley Heath is an unusual and interesting mixture of old gravel workings, remnant heathland, ponds and woodland. It covers approximately 37 hectares and is home to some of Hertfordshire's finest old hornbeam trees. There is a good network of paths which can be used to explore the nature reserve on foot, horseback or by bicycle.

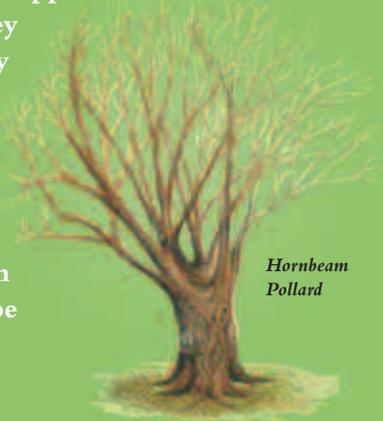
History

In Mediaeval times, Mardley Heath was used by commoners who gathered fuel wood, grazed their livestock and cut fodder and bedding for their animals. By the middle of the 19th century, much of the common had been enclosed by the landowner and planted with trees such as oak, sweet chestnut and hornbeam. These were managed for timber, charcoal and woodfuel. From the 1930s to about 1960, a mineral company extracted gravel from parts of the site creating several pits. The large pit on the North side of the Heath was used for domestic waste. Soon after this, the Heath was acquired by the local council for public recreation.

You can Help!

Much of the work undertaken on the Local Nature Reserve could not be achieved without the help and support of the Friends of Mardley Heath who give many hours of their time and energy each year in practical maintenance tasks.

For more information contact The Landscape and Ecology Officer.



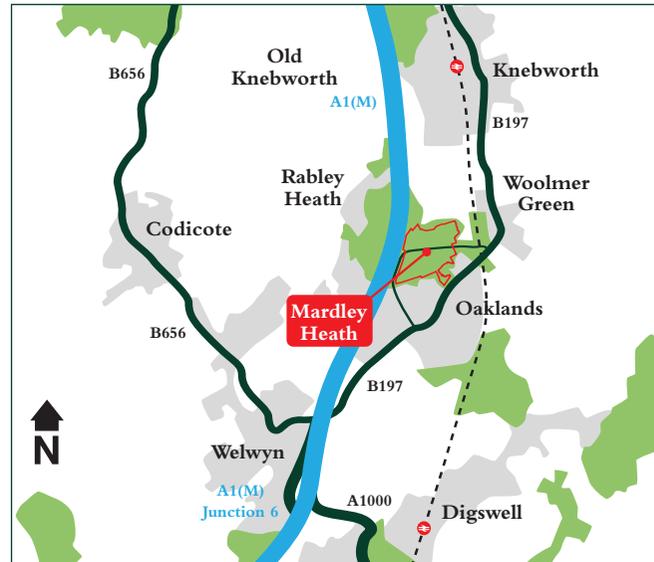
Hornbeam
Pollard

Getting here by road

From A1(M) leave at junction 6, take Welwyn By Pass Road A1000, then turn right towards Knebworth onto B197 Great North Road/Mardley Hill. Take either Cannonsfield Road or Heath Road on the left. Car park is on Heath Road.

Getting here by public transport

For travel details contact Intalink Travelline on 0871 200 2233 or www.intalink.org.uk



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019606

For further information contact

The Landscape & Ecology Officer, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, Tel: 01707 357000 www.welhat.gov.uk

The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works with communities in Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment. For more information contact us at: Tel: 01462 459395 www.hertslink.org/cms



MARDLEY HEATH

Local Nature Reserve

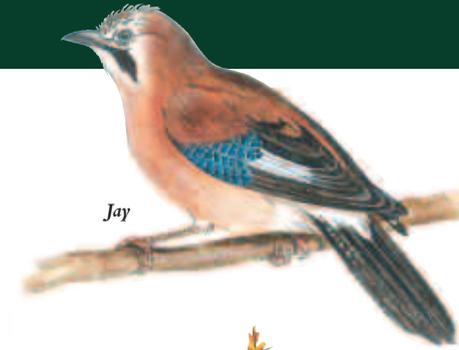


Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer creative - 0800 130 3630

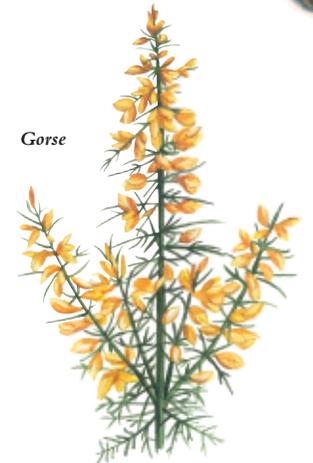


MARDLEY HEATH

Local Nature Reserve



Jay



Gorse



Puffballs

Horse riders and cyclists are allowed only on the public bridleways and on the Multi-user Route.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019606
Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions

You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form. (This restriction may not apply to HCC and its licensed contractors, agents & partners.)



0 Approx. 100m

Key:

- Entrance
- Boundary
- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Easy Access Route
- Multi-user Route



Bluebells