MARDLEY HEATH
Local Nature Reserve

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.

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

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