

The Hainault Centenary and Havering Opening Celebration Event 1906 – 2006



Crowds arrived by carriage and on foot to assemble on Cabin Hill for the Official Opening of Hainault Forest at 3pm on Saturday 21st July 1906 and were entertained before and after the ceremony by the London County Council Parks Band. The President of the Board of Agriculture the Rt. Hon. the Earl Carrington accompanied by the Countess Carrington were met at 2.40pm. near All Saints, Chigwell Row by the Chairman and Councillors of the London County Council, Essex County Councillors, Councillors from Ilford and other Towns, The High Sheriff of Essex and Mr Edward North Buxton, together with the ladies, proceeding in carriages into the Forest for a tour of inspection and making their way to a platform bedecked with flags and bunting on Cabin Hill.

Saturday 15th July saw the centenary of the opening of Hainault Forest as a Public Open Space. The formal opening in 1906 was made by the Rt. Hon Earl Carrington and this year his nephew, Lord Carrington was at the centenary celebrations which also doubled up as the opening event for Havering Park.

The purchase of Havering Park, 130 acres of land adjacent to Hainault Forest, is a part of the Green Arc Initiative which aims to significantly improve the environment and accessibility of the Green Belt, open space and countryside around the north and east of London and in the southern parts of Hertfordshire and Essex. The aim is to build on the success of the existing initiatives already operating in the area, such as Epping Forest, the adjacent Hainault Forest, Thames Chase and the Lee Valley Regional Park thereby bringing significant improvements to the area and helping to guide and shape future environmental development. Such an approach is consistent with the view that a 'world class City should have a world class environment'.



Activities throughout the day included:

- Hainault Forest Centenary Concert
- Swing boats, ring the bell and other traditional fair ground games
- Kite workshops and flying
- Football, Cricket, orienteering and archery workshops.
- History of Hainault Forest Museum Exhibition
- Nature trails and environmental games.
- Train trips in the park
- Shire Horse and carriage rides
- Morris Dancing
- Punch and Judy
- Photographic competition and exhibition of old photos
- Hainault Forest Centenary Companion Dog Show and Scurry

Green Flag Award

Hainault Forest Country Park was one of just a handful of parks awarded the coveted Green Flag Award this year by the Civic Trust. These annual awards set the standard for the very best parks and green spaces in England and Wales. And it's a first for Redbridge.

To qualify for the award, the Council, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, had to demonstrate to the judges that the park is maintained to a high level and has a good standard of facilities. Equally important, was demonstrating that the Park had achieved a high standard of community development.

Some of the features which helped win the Award were:-

- Running guided walks and workshops for school and community groups.
- Sculpture workshops that produced dramatic pieces of artwork that can now be found on the Nature Trail.
- Four self-guided walks around the forest areas with maps and way-markers to help people find their way, as well as paths for disabled visitors. All making it a very user-friendly place to visit.
- The fabulous *Woodhenge* behind the lake made up of four large sculptures in a circle, with plans to add another four sculptures to it next year.



The Civic Trust presented the much sought after flag to Country Park Manager, Paul Browne at a ceremony in Birmingham in August. It will be proudly flown outside the Visitors' Centre.

Commenting on this fantastic achievement, the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and The Olympics, Councillor Keith Prince said, "It's thanks to the enthusiasm of the staff at Hainault Country Park that we have received this award. Not only do they operate an extensive events programme, they are committed to continually improving the

park and finding ways of making it accessible to the whole community. It's well worth a visit, as every corner you turn, you unearth something natural and new".

Woodland Trust Senior Officer, Geoff Sinclair, paid tribute to the hundreds of people who have nurtured Hainault Forest and made it the site it is today. He said, "I am delighted the Park has won national recognition. It also demonstrates the strong working links we have with Redbridge. It is a key milestone in raising the Park's profile and highlighting how it is improving all the time."

Schools programme

Throughout the summer and autumn terms 587 children from local primary schools joined the Woodland Trust's Woodland Discovery Days. Activities included hug a tree, storytelling, environmental arts and acorn collecting. The acorns will be grown on back at their schools and will be planted the following year at the Woodland Trust's newly acquired sites at Havering and Theydon Bois.



Throughout November and January up to 2000 school children will be involved planting trees at two of the Woodland Trust's newly acquired sites, Theydon and Havering as part of the Tree for All campaign which aims to plant 12 million trees throughout the UK by September 2009.

Teacher Feedback

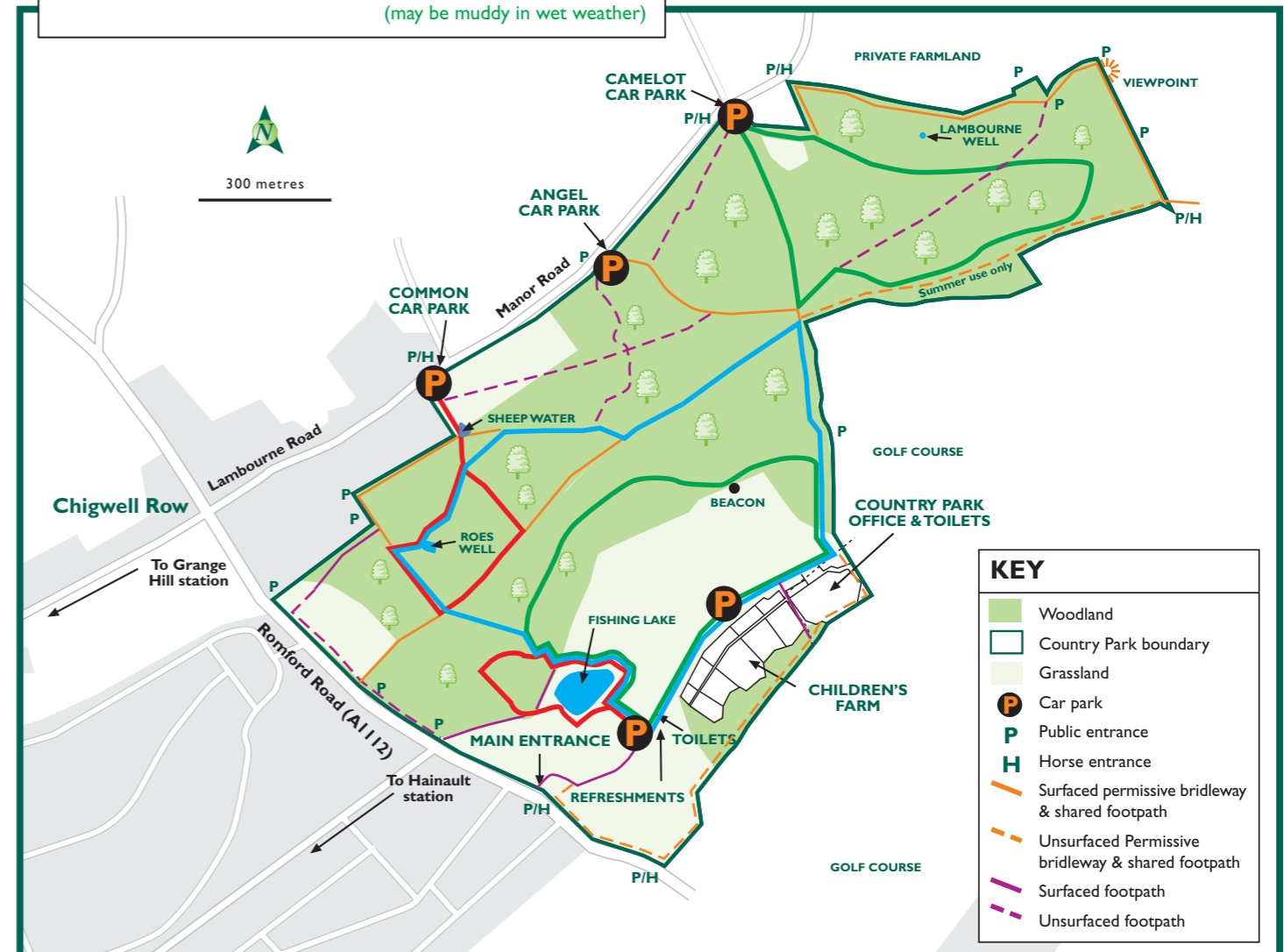
Teachers at Coppice Primary:

"We really should do this more often. Now we've been here with you, we know what to look for and could come here on our own."

"One girl at the start of the day said she was scared of the forest because she didn't know what she'd find in it and that's why she never comes. By the end of the trip, she said she'd really enjoyed it and would be back."

WAYMARKED TRAILS

- Pond trail (red) 1.5km } surfaced routes with seating at regular intervals
- Lake trail (red) 1.8km }
- Forest trail (blue) 4.5km – surfaced route around the Country Park
- Wild Wood trails (green) 2.5km – choice of two unsurfaced routes (may be muddy in wet weather)



KEY	
	Woodland
	Country Park boundary
	Grassland
	Car park
	Public entrance
	Horse entrance
	Surfaced permissive bridleway & shared footpath
	Unsurfaced Permissive bridleway & shared footpath
	Surfaced footpath
	Unsurfaced footpath

Redbridge Healthy Walks Programme

This is a group that visits and walks around many of the country parks and open spaces in the London Borough of Redbridge. They usually meet on Monday and Thursday mornings but also on a Wednesday for those wanting a longer walk. Below are dates they will visit Hainault Forest but for further information and details contact:

Linda Herbert (Events Officer) **020 8500 7353**
Linda.Herbert@redbridge.gov.uk

Wednesday 20 December, 10am

WINTER SOLSTICE, HAINAULT FOREST COUNTRY PARK

Meeting point - 1st Car Park. Buses 247 or 362. Hilly walk on unsurfaced paths through woodland.
 3 miles, allow 2 hours.

Thursday 14 December 2006, 11am

Hainault Forest Country Park - Meeting point - 1st Car Park

Want to be kept informed?

This year there will be much more happening in Hainault Forest than we can put in our newsletter. So if you would like to be kept informed of all events and updates the easiest way for us is to send you an e-newsletter detailing all local events. If you would like to be kept informed in this way please send your email address to GlennMulleady@woodland-trust.org.uk stating your interest.

Events 2006-07

Where booking is required please telephone Hainault Forest Country Park
Tel: 0208 500 7353 or visit www.hainaultforest.co.uk

Tree planting event

Saturday 2nd December, 10am–2pm

Come and help us plant native tree species to create a wildlife hedge on the southern boundary of newly acquired Woodland Trust land adjacent to the main forest. Meet at the visitor centre and drive or walk up to and along a newly created access path to where we shall plant the hedge. Be prepared for muddy conditions so dress appropriately.

Meet at: Hainault Forest Visitor Centre
Call Glenn Mulleady on 01708 642953

“Try your hand”,

Hainault Forest Heathland bash

Sunday 28th January 2007, 10am–2pm

An introduction to practical volunteer work on the heath at Hainault. Learn how to use the relevant tools and how your work will benefit wildlife. All tools and instruction will be provided by Countrycare staff as will tea and coffee. Please bring your own packed lunch.

Meet at: car park opposite Maypole Pub, Romford Road
Cost: free
Call Glenn Mulleady on 01708 642953

Tree Identification Walk

Sunday 4 February, 11am

If you are interested in learning how to identify trees come and join Brian Ecott on this informative walk.

Meet at: Visitor Centre.
Free – no booking required
Approx distance 3 miles, approx 2 hours.

Hainault Forest Heathland bash

Sunday 25th February, 10am–2pm

Continuing our conservation work on the heath by removing tree species such as silver birch and aspen.

Meet at: car park opposite Maypole Pub, Romford Road
Cost: free
Call Glenn Mulleady on 01708 642953

Lower Plants Walk

Sunday 4 March, 11am

Get to know some of the forest's common lichens, mosses and ferns. To appreciate their beauty you could bring along a magnifying glass or hand lens.

Meet at: Visitor Centre.
Free – no booking required
Come prepared to walk approx 3 miles, approx 2 hours

Equinox Woodland Ramble

Saturday 17 March, 10am

This is an opportunity for nature enthusiasts to join a ramble around Hainault Forest to mark the equinox, when night and day are the same length. Discover spring is in the air, and see all things of interest and woodland wildlife to be found this time of the year.

Meet at: Visitor Centre
Free – no Booking required
Approx distance 3 miles, approx 2 hours

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Nature Trail Tour

Saturday 21 April 11am

Opened in September 2005 the trail has become an attractive addition at the Country Park. The route is lined with sculptures and way marker posts that local residents and Community Groups of all ages have carved and crafted, under the supervision of talented sculptors and artists during workshops held at the Country Park.

Meet at: Visitor Centre.
Free – no Booking required.
Approx distance 2 miles, approx 1½ hours

“A walk in the woods”

Sunday 29th April 11am–1pm

Celebrate the arrival of spring and join us for a walk around Hainault Forest to discuss the sights and sounds of the season.

Meet at: Camelot Car Park
Approx distance 3 miles
Cost: free
Call Glenn Mulleady on 01708 642953

Walk in the Woods

Sunday 6 May, 11am

Celebrate the Tree Council's annual Walk in the Woods campaign promoting awareness of local sites that are available for public use, by joining this guided walk to look for bluebells and spring blossom.

Free: no booking required
Meet at: Visitor Centre
Approx distance 3 miles, approx 2 hours

Wider Events

Christmas Crafts Day

Thursday 21st December 2006

10.30–3pm

at Fairmead Campsite
Church Road
High Beach
Essex IG10 4AJ

For 8 – 11 year olds

Join us for a fun day of craft activities and a visit to the Forest. We will be visiting Epping Forest to collect materials to make Christmas decorations as well as cooking Christmas lunch and some Christmas games and activities.

For further details or to book places please contact Epping Forest Centenary Trust on 0208 508 9061

Cost: £5 per child