

About Oxhey Woods

Oxhey Woods is the largest Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Three Rivers District. The character of the woods is varied, created by centuries of management for a variety of woodland products. Today Prestwick Road and Oxhey Drive divide the woods into three separate areas.

The woods are an important Wildlife Site, notable for the unusual Wild Service Tree. Sometimes known as the 'Chequers Tree' because of its distinctively patterned bark, the leaves and berries form the LNR logo.



Some parts of the LNR are ancient woodland, having been continuously wooded for at least four hundred years, and possibly up to ten thousand years. Features such as sunken pathways, earth banks and ditches can be seen. In the past these earth works often marked boundaries between different land uses and ownership.



Key

- South Oxhey Circular Walk
- London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP)
- Long Walk 4km
- Multi-user Trail 1km
- Short Walk 3km
- Stream
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Bus Stop
- Interpretation Panel location
- Approximately 100m



Red Campion



In the southern woodland the older trees are widely spaced with spreading branches, indicating that the woods were once more open. Plants such as Heather, Wavy-hair grass and Gorse can be found in sunny heathland glades. In the past grazing by cows and sheep stopped the glades from becoming overgrown. Today they are kept open by periodically cutting down encroaching trees.

Rhododendron was introduced to Britain in the eighteenth century. It thrives on our moist, fertile, woodland soils, though its evergreen leaves cast a deep shade, smothering native woodland flowers. To help prevent damage to the woodland the spread of Rhododendron is controlled.



Hornbeam

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