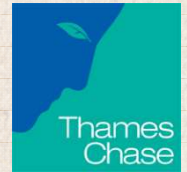


# Mardyke Valley Restoration

## Lead Partner

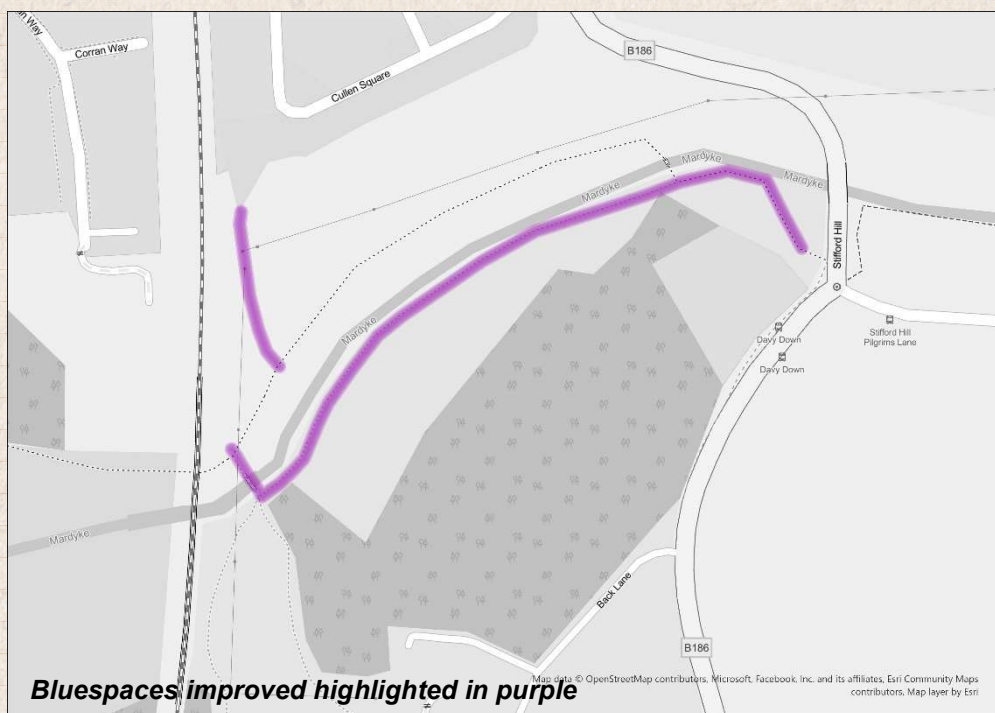
Thames Chase



Location	Bluespaces improved	Delivery Year	Project Value
Davy Down, Thurrock, Essex	0.6km	2021	£69,500

## Project Overview

Thames Chase, Thames21, The Land Trust, Thurrock Council and Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) have worked collaboratively to develop and deliver 0.6km of Bluespaces improvements. The project has enhanced publicly accessible water environments along the Mardyke River. The project has also raised engagement with customers and the community allowing extra understanding of the area’s heritage. The project has helped to improve the connectivity of freshwater habitats. 840m<sup>2</sup> of floodplain has been removed to aid the connectivity of the water bodies – depth and area is different to give different types of habitats. A new surfaced pathway has been constructed to connect to South Ockendon and the existing pathways in the area have been upgraded. Educational events in London rivers week took place to give those interested good insight.



## Partnership Information

The Thames Chase Trust is an environmentally focused charity. This charity promotes woodland creation and biodiversity alongside work to improve landscape. The charity aims to work with local communities to ensure the countryside and landscape is improved for visitors. Thames Chase was established to improve landscapes in East London and South Essex. There is potential to influence the 650,000 people who live within 10 miles of the catchment area.



## Project Achievements

### Access, facilities, and recreation

- Repairs and upgrades to existing paths and a new footpath has been installed to link to South Ockendon. The worn knee rail at the wetland habitat has been replaced and extended.
- To aid learning – public talks, events and activities were carried out alongside volunteer days and adult courses.



**Newly excavated pond**

### Wildlife and biodiversity

- There were excavations for two wetland scrapes on the south side of the river.
- Three wildlife ponds were created on the north side of the river – resulting in 840m<sup>2</sup> of floodplain excavated.
- Aquatic sampling is undertaken to track progress.
- The ponds have been planted with species that are native – as a result frogs were observed within the first year of the scrape.



**A diagram showing new changes**

### Water quality

- Due to the wetland scrapes and ponds being set up – the river is now more natural, and it has improved the aesthetic of the river.

## Testimonials

*“The Mardyke Valley Habitat Creation and Restoration Project provided environment improvements for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity, water quality and enhanced access and facilities. The Water Improvement Fund from Essex and Suffolk Water has given the project a fantastic opportunity to develop interpretation for the River Mardyke and wetland habitat, enabling new and returning visitors to explore and discover areas that they may not have noticed before. It is wonderful to see the wetland ponds and scrapes already full with water, creating a fantastic mosaic of water bodies which will introduce greater biodiversity”*

**Aisling Woodhead, Project Delivery Officer, Thames Chase**

