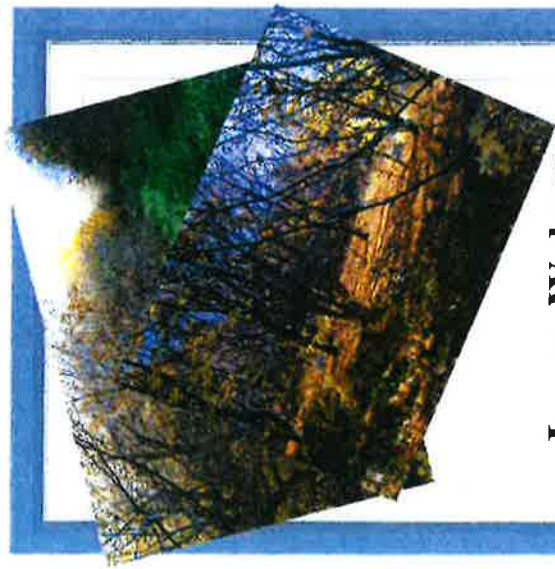


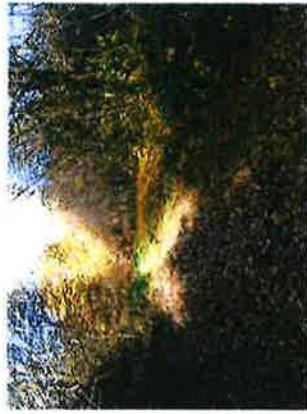


Lower Wyburns Wood

Woodland walk

Easy wooded amble

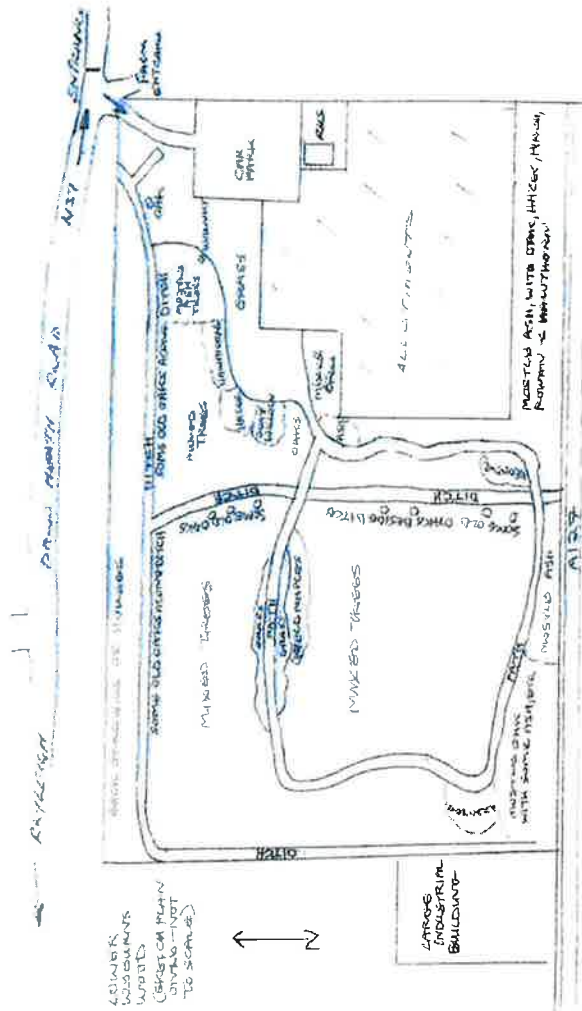
Lower Wyburns is a secluded young urban woodland tucked away next to the A127 in Rayleigh, Essex. In 1992/93 Rochford District Council planted the 3.4 hectare site with native broadleaved species such as oak, ash, field maple, hornbeam, silver birch, small-leaved lime and some woody shrubs.



This maturing woodland is a small and hidden ancient wooded treasure. It has a diverse range of habitats provided by its mix of open ground, scrub and young woodland. Mature oak, hedgerows and a trickling stream only add to the increasing diversity. As well as providing a valuable habitat for an array of wildlife the wood is occasionally frequented by locals from the surrounding neighbourhood in 1995 the management of the woodland was taken over by Rayleigh Town Council on a 999 year lease from the Woodland Trust.

The Town Council also owns and manages the adjacent Allotments site and has established a management programme of the woods. It has commissioned surveys to determine the condition of trees and to understand the flora and wildlife that inhabit the area. The Essex Wildlife Trust has surveyed the wood to find it a haven for many ancient woodland fauna and flowers. The current trend is for the wildlife to slowly return to the wood and encourage the many wild and local animals, reptiles and birds to re-inhabit the area. There is an intention to provide a wetland to seduce the water and insect population.

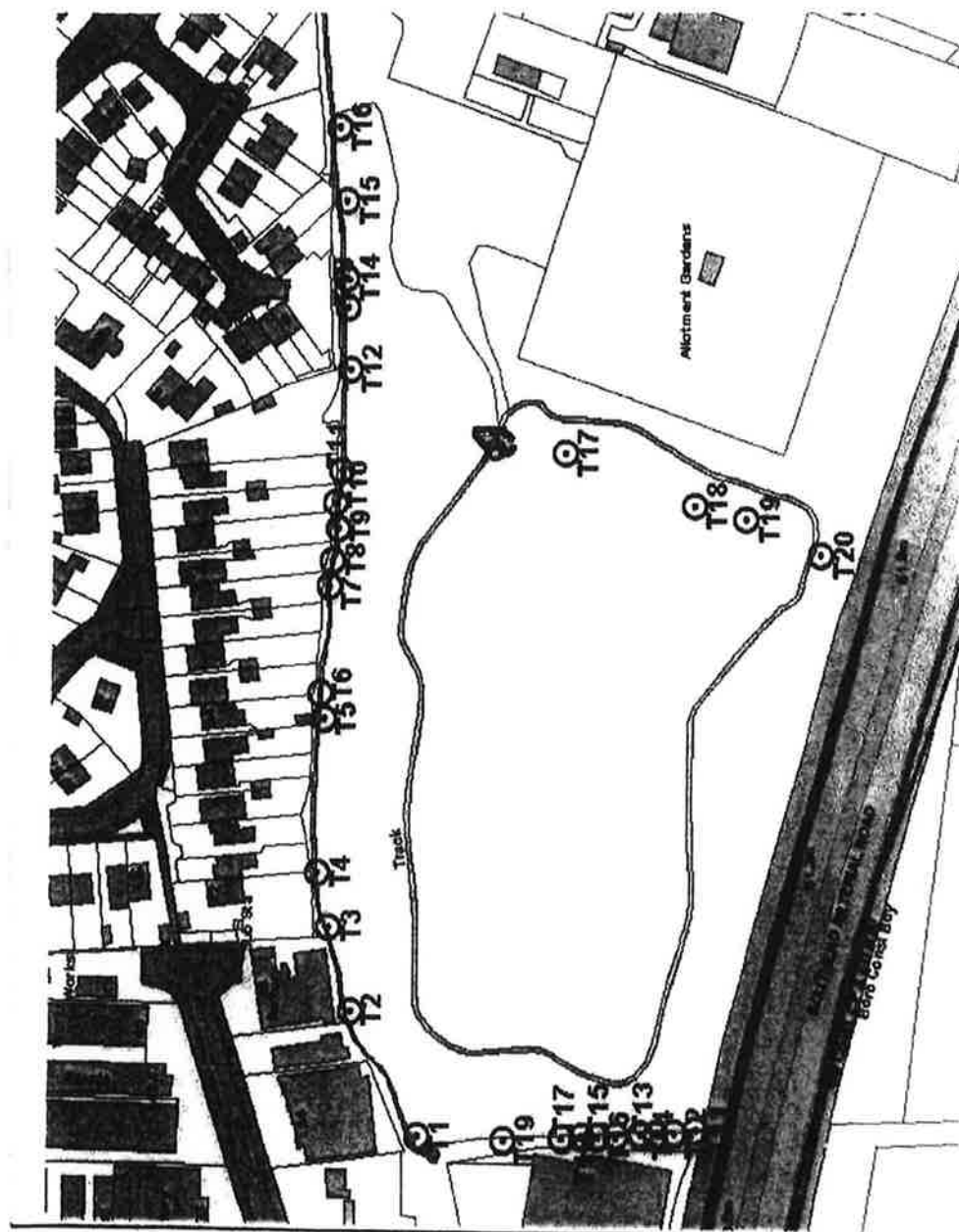
There are a varied number of trees and shrubs within this woodland with the future management it is anticipated that this will be an important woodland for numerous animals and insects. The improvements that have been undertaken so far by the Town Council includes necessary thinning and coppicing of trees, the reinstatement of pathways by the introduction of bark chippings that were donated free of charge from a local business, and the addition of two picnic benches, dog waste bin and notice boards giving information about the woodland and contact details for the Town Council. The Community Pay Back Team at no cost to the Town Council has conducted most of the maintenance work. The team planted over 1,000 saplings received from the Woodland Trust.



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Directions: - from Rayleigh Town Centre take the Eastwood road and turn right into Daws Heath Road in the direction of the A127, although visitors from Eastwood (and the A127 towards Southend) will turn left into Daws Heath road follow the road for about one mile and on the right is an access through double gates to the free car park by the Rayleigh Horticultural Centre. Alight from your vehicle and walk into the woodland through the small grassland area to the beginning of the wood. Here you will meet a division in the path. Walk straight ahead through the wood and to the left, along the top end to where the wood again bears left. At this point you may walk straight on to the corner of the woodland and here you will find an opening leading to the industrial area, or turn to the left follow the path along the parallel with the A127 again left by the allotment area and return to the grassland area where you commenced the walk.

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Kind regards



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