

Old Park and Chequer's Wood


CANTERBURY



Points of interest

-  Reed pond
-  WW1 training trenches
-  Bluebell woods & ancient woodland
-  Site of special scientific interest
-  Acidic grassland
-  Veteran hawthorn tree

Notable wildlife

-  Nightingales
-  Rare butterflies
-  Wild Badger
-  Turtle Doves
-  Grass Snakes
-  Buzzards

Join our community campaign to protect Old Park for future generations

About the Old Park

The Old Park is an extraordinary, 264 acres (107 hectares) site of ecological, archaeological and historical importance. Its story begins 500,000 years ago, with evidence of early humans, and continues into recent times, with reminders of training for two World Wars. Now it is a hidden greenspace in one of England's most famous cities.

The Old Park is unique because it has:

- >> A history of **people**, from Stone Age civilisations to a vibrant community youth group today, with the woods well-used by walkers, cyclists and families.
- >> A wealth of **wildlife**, including 26 varieties of butterflies, bluebell woods, badgers, and many rare and protected species.
- >> Rare and protected **greenspace** such as ancient woodland, acid grassland, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



Buzzard



The threats facing the Old Park

The area is owned by the Ministry of Defence (MoD/DIO) and Canterbury City Council, among others. However, the MoD has now withdrawn from Canterbury and plans to sell the site. The Old Park faces three key threats:

- >> **The risk of development**
The MoD has added the Old Park to the sites available for development. While we understand the need for new homes, many have already been built adjacent to Old Park, so this area must be protected as greenspace for future generations.
- >> **The risk of neglect**
The Old Park will become less safe if it is not properly maintained and managed. Paths need to be kept clear, undergrowth cleared and anti-social behaviour discouraged.
- >> **The plan for an eastern by-pass**
The council is proposing a by-pass which would sever Old Park and Chequer's Wood in two.



Peacock butterfly



Painted Lady



White Admiral

Who we are and the Old Park campaign

The Friends of Old Park and Chequer's Wood has been set up to safeguard the park and surrounding areas.

We want to work closely with the local community to ensure the site is protected from development, and managed for the benefit of people and wildlife.



Nightingale

How you can help

- >> To get in touch and keep up-to-date with the latest developments and events, sign up to our Facebook page on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofoldpark>
- >> To contact us, or sign up for regular updates by email, contact: friendsopcw@gmail.com
- >> To express your support for the campaign, sign the petition at: www.change.org/SaveOldPark

Grass Snake

