

HORKESLEY PARK

HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION CENTRE

"A CELEBRATION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE"

Horkesley Park Main Content



John Constable 1776-1837



The Chantry



Breeding Suffolk
Punches



Working Suffolk

- ★ an interactive interpretation experience of the 'Life and Times of John Constable', (H),
- ★ a Fine Art 'outstation' for national and other leading galleries will be accommodated in The Chantry (a magnificent Georgian property with all the hallmarks of a classic Regency villa inspired by the work of Sir John Soane). This will display the works of John Constable and other great artists of the region in or near to the area in which they were painted, (C);
- ★ a Suffolk Punch breeding centre, sufficient in size and capability to help save from extinction East Anglia's only breed of heavy horse, (P);
- ★ an educational area within the Suffolk Punch breeding centre for learning about the heavy horse, (P);
- ★ restored gardens to reflect the period of the Great Plant Collectors (1750-1850), which spanned John Constable's lifetime (1776-1837), (C);
- ★ an authentic Chinese Garden with a tea pavilion that will relate to Bunting & Sons' historical trading links with the Far East and enhance relationships between the UK, Essex in particular, and China, (C);
- ★ a high quality garden centre specialising in garden products linked to the Great Plant Collectors' gardens and the Chinese garden, (H);
- ★ exhibitions within the garden centre, featuring Bunting & Sons' 185 year history, (particularly lily growing at the nursery as well as in the Far East, and also pioneering work at the nursery and around the world in production and use of beneficial insects for Biological Control of pests on crops), (H);
- ★ sculpture trails around the parklands, woods, ponds and fishing lakes, (C) and (P);
- ★ flower arranging and creative design workshops, (C);
- ★ an interpretation centre featuring the many civilisations that have existed in the River Stour Valley since the end of the last ice age, over 10,000 years ago, and also other heritage and conservation interests, (H);
- ★ a virtual reality re-creation of the deserted mediaeval settlements that once stood close to the 12th Century Church of All Saints' which adjoins the site, (P) and (H);
- ★ a 'Farming Yesteryear' exhibition cross-linked and contrasted with a modern day 'Food Experience' (where visitors, particularly children, are able to learn where food in the region comes from, how it is made, how to cook it and what it tastes like), (H);
- ★ Suffolk Punch horses at work on the land and drawing passenger carrying vehicles, (P);
- ★ restoration and reconstruction workshops employing traditional skills for Stour Lighter (barge) building and restoration of historic farm equipment and vehicles, (H);
- ★ domesticated farm animals in a Farm Barn for children in particular to feed, groom and pet, (P);
- ★ rustic adventure play areas catering for young children as well as keen parents, (P);
- ★ a nature watch created within the underground 'warren' that incorporates interactive hidden cameras observing bird life and other animals, (P);
- ★ exhibitions and living displays of an underwater cross-section of natural river life, (H);
- ★ a country park providing an outlet for contained informal recreation within the Dedham Vale AONB (P); and
- ★ visitor information centre and cycle hire shop, (H).

These key elements will be supported by a full range of ancillary facilities such as eating and refreshment areas, lecture theatres and workroom facilities for educational parties and other groups.

Key

The following symbols are stated after the key elements listed to indicate where they are situated within Horkesley Park:

(H): The Heritage and Conservation Centre main building and adjoining building;

(C): The Chantry and its grounds;

(P): The Country Park, Suffolk Punch Centre and other areas.

More information overleaf

HORKESLEY PARK

HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION CENTRE

"A CELEBRATION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE"

Horkesley Park Key Aims

- to rekindle and safeguard valued aspects of traditional English rural and artistic life;
- to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of the life and times of John Constable;
- to provide a focal point for the understanding and appreciation of rural activities and the landscape of the region;
- to promote the Suffolk Punch and help safeguard the future of the breed;
- to stimulate interest in country gardens, Chinese gardens and gardening;
- to make a positive contribution to the local rural economy through the creation of a range of new quality jobs and by promotion and marketing of rural produce;
- to provide a forum for heritage, conservation and amenity bodies and organisations with interests in the Stour Valley;
- to regenerate the landscape character of the site;
- to infuse excitement and interest in, and understanding of, the English countryside - past, present and future - especially amongst children;
- to promote respect for the rural environment in conjunction with conservation measures to help secure a sustainable future for our countryside; and
- to open to the general public in early 2009.

Background

Bunting & Sons, one of Colchester's oldest family businesses established in 1820, has been planning for many years to create an outstanding Heritage and Conservation Centre in Great Horkesley.

A full Environmental impact Assessment has been completed in respect of what is proposed and the results of this show a raft of potential benefits with no significant adverse affects. When technical and other issues arising have been dealt with a final Planning Application will be submitted.

Main Proposals

Demolition and clearance of all of the existing glasshouses, other buildings and structures on Bunting & Sons nursery site. Redevelopment and change of use of that nursery site and adjoining land to create a heritage and conservation centre, incorporating main centre building, Suffolk Punch horse breeding centre, farm barn, nature watch (underground) building and rustic adventure playground, and ancillary specialist garden centre; all with ancillary catering and parking facilities. Change of use of The Chantry main house to art gallery, outbuildings to craft studios and part of private gardens to public gardens. Change of use of 27 hectares (66.7 acres) of land to form country park with informal recreation and visitor facilities. The new buildings will have a total footprint of approximately half that of the existing on the nursery site.

Location

Horkesley Park is alongside the A134 (Colchester-Sudbury Road) about 4 miles north west of Colchester Town Centre.

Further Information

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Visit:

www.horkesleypark.co.uk
www.buntingandsons.co.uk
www.anchorayland.co.uk

Come and see:

The Suffolk Punches working from time to time at the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm, Nayland. For details contact the Anchor Inn on 01206 262313.