

Danbury Walk 2: Blake's Wood

Distance and estimated time taken:

5.65 miles (8.8 km) approx 3 hrs

Parking:

Danbury Sports and Social Centre (free)
Mayes Lane (free)
Danbury Common (NT) (free)
Danbury Country Park. (fee required)

Toilets:

Sports and Social Centre
Danbury Country Park



Maps:

Ordnance Survey OS Explorer 183
Danbury Parish Footpath map
Little Baddow Parish Footpath map

Danbury - Danbury Country Park - Blake's Wood -Lingwood Common - Danbury

Directions:

From the Danbury Sports and Social Centre, walk to the rear of the main car park and proceed up past the Armada Beacon to the radio mast. Walk past the beacon and at the end of the path turn left and proceed down the hill. At the bottom of the hill turn right and walk past the pub (The Cricketer's Arms PH) until you reach the cross roads. Cross over into Sporhams Lane and then take the footpath on the righthand side going diagonally across the common, over a small bridge into Fitzwilliam Lane. Turn immediately right and continue along the lane past all the houses until the junction with Woodhill Road is reached.

With care, cross Woodhill Road and take the footpath opposite between the houses. Continue along the footpath until after approx. 150 yards turn left at a t-junction. Follow the footpath, through the housing estate until Well Lane is reached. Enter Danbury Country Park through a gate opposite The Heights Road entrance. Go straight through the woods bearing slightly right until you reach an open grassed area. Proceed along the right hand side of the open area and go through a kissing gate into the Outdoor Pursuits Centre field. Turn left onto the footpath and follow the yellow footpath signs. Turn right just before a marker post indicating a junction of paths and follow the yellow footpath signs to the right until the the edge of the Outdoor Pursuits Centre is reached beside the A414. Follow the footpath with the A414 on your left until it passes by Danbury Park school. Leave the footpath and continue past the bus stop to the pedestrian crossing. Cross over turn left and proceed to Riffhams Lane the first road on the right.

Continue along Riffhams Lane past houses on your right until a stile on your left is reached opposite Elm Green Lane. Cross over the stile into the field and follow the path until a stile is reached at the entrance to Hall Wood. Note Riffhams House and lakes on your right. Cross over the stile and into the wood, follow the main path over a bridge and past large pipes until you reach a corner of a field. Follow the path around the right edge of the field going past Riffhams Farm on your right until a stile is reached. Cross the stile and turn left onto Graces Lane and then almost immediately turn right and go through a kissing gate into an old orchard.

Follow the path through the orchard and continue down a slope into Blake's Wood. Cross over a stream and at the end of the wood cross a grassed area and take the path opposite between New Lodge and New Lodge Farm. Carry on along this path, crossing a stile, bridge and track. Go over another the stile opposite and head straight across the field towards a stile at the junction of Hurrells Lane and Chapel Lane. Turn right into Chapel Lane and take the next footpath on the right. Continue on this path until Belle Vue Farm is reached.

Turn right immediately after the farm and take the footpath (past a National Trust sign) into Blake's Wood and follow the 'Wildside Walk' signs through the wood. Following the signs take the third bridge on the right which leads onto Little Baddow and follow this path until the NT car park on Riffhams Chase is reached. Turn right into Riffhams Chase and continue for approx. 300 yards, before turning left by a finger post into Lingwood Common just after the White House.

Follow the bridleway going past a seat on the left until you reach another seat at the top of a slope. Turn right and follow the footpath until you reach a concrete driveway on the edge of Bellhill Wood. Follow this path (Moores Bridge Lane) until you reach the A414. Turn right and with care cross the road and proceed to St. John The Baptist Church. Take the path to the left of the church, turning left after the radio mast, pass the Armada Beacon and return to the Danbury Sports and Social Centre.

