

Danbury Walk 4: Pheasanthouse Wood



Distance and estimated time taken:

5.8 miles (9.3 km) approx 3 hrs

Parking:

Danbury Sports and Social Centre (free)
Mayes Lane (free)
Blake's Wood (free)

Toilets:

Sports and Social Centre

Maps:

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

Danbury - Lingwood Common - Pheasanthouse Wood - 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 track turn right and take the footpath towards St. John The Baptist Church for about 20 yards and then turn left into the footpath through the church yard. Proceed along this footpath, passing the allotments and continue down a slight incline until a small woody triangle is reached. Bear right and take the footpath passing the rear gardens of houses on your left until the A414 is reached. Cross the the road with care, turn left, walk approx.100 yards before turning right into Colemans Lane.

Walk to the bottom of the lane down a slight incline and then continue straight ahead uphill into Lingwood Common Woods. At the top of the hill turn left onto the bridleway and carry on straight ahead for while and turn right onto a footpath just before a slight rise leading to a seat. Continue on this footpath through the woods until a junction is reached beside a Scout Camp. Turn right and follow the path with a ditch on your right until a private road is reached. Continue on this footpath, with the private road on your left, until the main road, The Ridge, is reached.

With care cross over the road and walk down Fir Tree Lane past all the houses until the entrance of the wood is reached. Take the footpath straight ahead through the wood until a cross road is reached at a Nature Reserve sign. Go straight across the junction with the Nature Reserve sign on your right and continue along the path with Pheasanthouse Wood on your left. At another Danbury Ridge Nature Reserve sign follow the main track around to the left and soon after take a left fork, looking for an old boundary bank on your left. With the bank and Pheasanthouse Wood on your left follow the path through the trees and down a slope until you reach the corner of Pheasanthouse Wood. Turn left and cross a bridge into a field.

Keeping follow the field edge to your right until you reach a gate at the top the field by the farm buildings. Turn left, continue on a footpath towards the the woodland with the fence on your left, passing through a couple of gates on the way. Go through the kissing gate at the top of the field and turn right onto a bridleway. Follow the bridleway until Spring Elms Lane is reached. Take the footpath on the opposite side of the Lane. Follow this path between the fences of private gardens bearing right around the back of Froggs Hall until a gravel track is reached near Wedlock Green. Turn left onto the track. Walk to the end, note the view to the right of the Chelmer valley, and turn left onto the bridleway. Continue on past a large house on the left, walking on its gravel driveway, then turn left at a way marker post, passing some old tennis courts and continue until you reach Spring Elms Lane.

Cross straight over into Mill Lane. At the end of the lane turn right, cross the road and turn left into Parsonage lane. Walk to the end of Parsonage Lane always bearing to the left, past the school until Blakes Mead house is reached. Take the footpath to the right of the house and take the left hand path into Blake's Wood. Keep bearing left as you go through the wood following the NT signs on posts. Cross over a bridge and continue up the hill to come out at Blake's Wood car park.

Turn right into Riffihams Chase and continue for approx. 300 yards, before turning left onto a bridleway just after the White House. Follow the bridleway into Lingwood Common passing 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.

