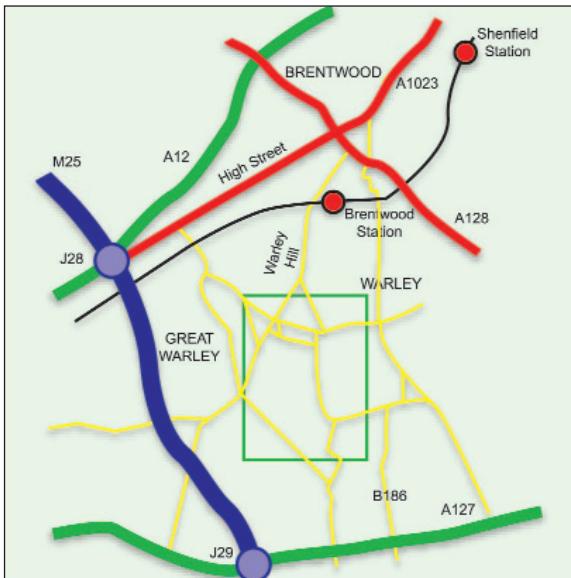


Countryside Walk in Brentwood

Walk your way to a healthy life in Brentwood

Location Map



About the Walk

Parking: Park carefully in roads around Eagle Way.

Length: Approximately 2½ miles.

Terrain: Woods, roads and open farmland.

Footwear: Wear stout footwear as the ground can be uneven or muddy in places.

OS Map: 175 Explorer Southend-on-Sea and Basildon
177 Landranger East London, Billericay and Gravesend

Your Rights of Way



Public footpaths - on foot only
Waymarked in yellow



Bridleways - on foot, horseback and bicycle
Waymarked in blue



Byways - open to all traffic but mainly used for walking and riding
Waymarked in red

Permissive paths - route which landowners allow the public to use, but which can be closed if wished.

Areas of work for the Countryside Department at Brentwood Borough Council include:

- Projects such as tree/hedge planting and pond management.
- Supporting Thames Chase Community Forest.
- Managing Nature Reserves, woodlands and commons.
- Improving access to footpaths and bridleways and encouraging their use.



If you encounter any problems please contact
Brentwood Borough Council
Town Hall, Ingrave Road
Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY
Tel: 01277 312500
www.brentwood.gov.uk



This leaflet is one of a series that has been produced by Brentwood Borough Council. We aim to improve and manage the countryside for wildlife and people.



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Warley

Warley

Only a mile or so from Brentwood High Street on the edge of Warley, there is some attractive rolling countryside with woods, commons, small fields and quiet lanes.

The whole of the Warley area was once a large military camp with a permanent station dating back to 1804. In the 1960's most of the buildings were demolished to make way for the Ford Offices. Only the former officer's mess (now the Marillac Hospital) and the Chapel survive. The Chapel was built in 1857 in an Italianate style and dedicated to the Essex Regiment in 1925. It can be seen from Clive Road.

The walk can be started from any point but it is described here in a clockwise direction. At the end of Clive Road turn left and follow the footpath through the woodland of Warley Gap. This woodland is dominated in different areas by Oak, Beech and Silver Birch. On the woodland floor you may see remains of pits and banks which were created by old gravel workings.

From Bird Lane the footpath follows a "green lane" down the hill along an ancient route where pollarded oaks border the path and breathtaking views overlooking rolling countryside can be enjoyed.

Follow the road up to Great Warley Village Green. This is the old centre of the village. Around the green stand several picturesque and interesting houses. Overlooking the green is a house named Wallets, which dates back to the 15th Century. Local legend says that it was here that the pilgrims left their wallets before undertaking the hazardous journey to Canterbury.

Across the green, to the right of the Thatchers Arms, is the entrance to Warley Place. Between 1875-1934 it was home to Ellen Willmott, a keen horticulturist who collected plants from all over the world. Many plants now bear her name or reference to Warley such as the Miss Willmott Dahlia or the Great Warley Narcissus. Essex Wildlife Trust now manage the site as a wildlife reserve. A great time to visit is late March when the spring flowers are at their best.

Dark Lane runs behind the public house. It is a protected sunken green lane. Keep an eye out for the girders in the bank on your right hand side – these were put in by Miss Willmott to screen the cottages in Dark Lane. Old Holly trees tower high above this quiet lane creating an ambience to reflect the name.

From Green Lane there are more attractive views over rolling farmland. At the junction with Warley Road, cross, and follow the path to the pond and through Headley Common. Continue along Warley Gap to finish the walk.



KEY

- Public House
- Church
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway
- Circular Route
- Parking
- Start