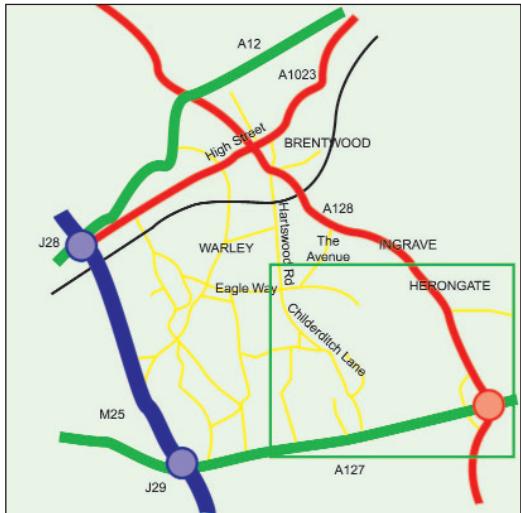


Countryside Walk in Brentwood

Walk your way to a healthy life in Brentwood

Location Map



About the Walk

- Parking:** Parking is available at both Thorndon Country Park North off The Avenue, and Thorndon Country Park South off the A128.
- Length:** Approximately 5 miles.
- Terrain:** Woods 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



Bridleway - 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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Thorndon & Childerditch

Thorndon & Childerditch

This walk passes through Thorndon Country Park, owned by Essex County Council. Thorndon has an interesting history. A manor was recorded here in the Domesday Survey, and in 1414, 300 acres of land were enclosed which is now called The Old Park. In 1573 Lord Petre bought the estate and the family lived here for 400 years, landscaping the grounds and creating a luxurious family home. The Petre family are still present in the county, residing at Ingatstone Hall.

This walk can be started from either Thorndon North or Thorndon South; both have parking and toilets. The route can also be joined using footpaths from Ingrave and Herongate. It is described in an anti-clockwise direction from the Visitor Centre at Thorndon Country Park (North) following the green 'wildside walk' waymarkers.

From the car park head towards Little Warley Common, and follow a stream south through the wood.

Once through the wood the path emerges into a meadow. In the summer keep and eye out for butterflies and an ear out for grasshoppers. Follow the woodland edge and pass two ponds, both of which offer a vital resource for a variety of flora and fauna.

Continue along Childerditch Street, and across fields to Jury Hill. On a clear day, you can see over the Thames Plain to the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge and Canary Wharf, it feels like the highest point in Essex!

Turning east, your route takes you past a raised grassy platform known as Pigeon Mount. This is thought to have been the site of a dovecote, and is close to the site of the original Thorndon Hall. This Hall was demolished in 1764 and the present one was then built by the 9th Lord Petre to the north.

Heading north, you pass Rookery Wood before reaching The Old Park. After passing by Old Hall Pond, your walk continues through the park, which has a series of young plantations. A corridor of trees leads you alongside Thorndon Park golf course.

As you pass back toward the forest you will see an old oak pollard known as the Crinoline Lady, pictured on the front cover. In the past the tree's branches were cut several feet above the ground every 10 or 20 years to provide a renewable source of timber. As you wander, keep a look out for dead wood. It is a vital part of the forest ecosystem, supporting many insects and fungi. To finish the walk, continue following the 'wildside walk' waymarkers back to the car park.



KEY

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| ••• | Circular Route |
| P | Parking |
| S | Start |
| ● | Public House |
| ◆ | Church |
| - - - | Footpath |
| - - - - - | Bridleway |
| v v v | Byway |