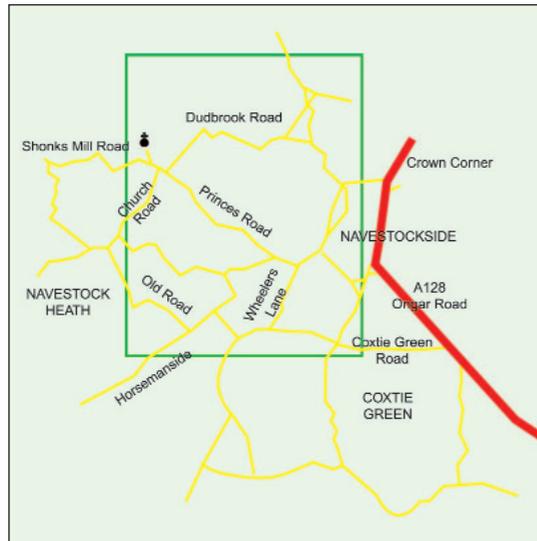


# Countryside Walk in Brentwood

Walk your way to a healthy life in Brentwood

## Location Map



## About the Walk

**Parking:** Parking is available is Navestock Church off Shonks Mill Road.

**Length:** Approximately 6 miles.

**Terrain:** Quiet 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](http://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.*



## Navestock

The first settlement of Navestock dates back to the Saxons. There is no central village in Navestock, it is made up of hamlets like Navestock Side and Navestock Heath and a scattering of farm buildings. The name of Navestock is described by some historians to mean the stump on the headland, which may relate to a fortified position on this hill. The churchyard displays remains of having a fortified ditch, and nearby Fortification Wood covers an ancient earthwork.

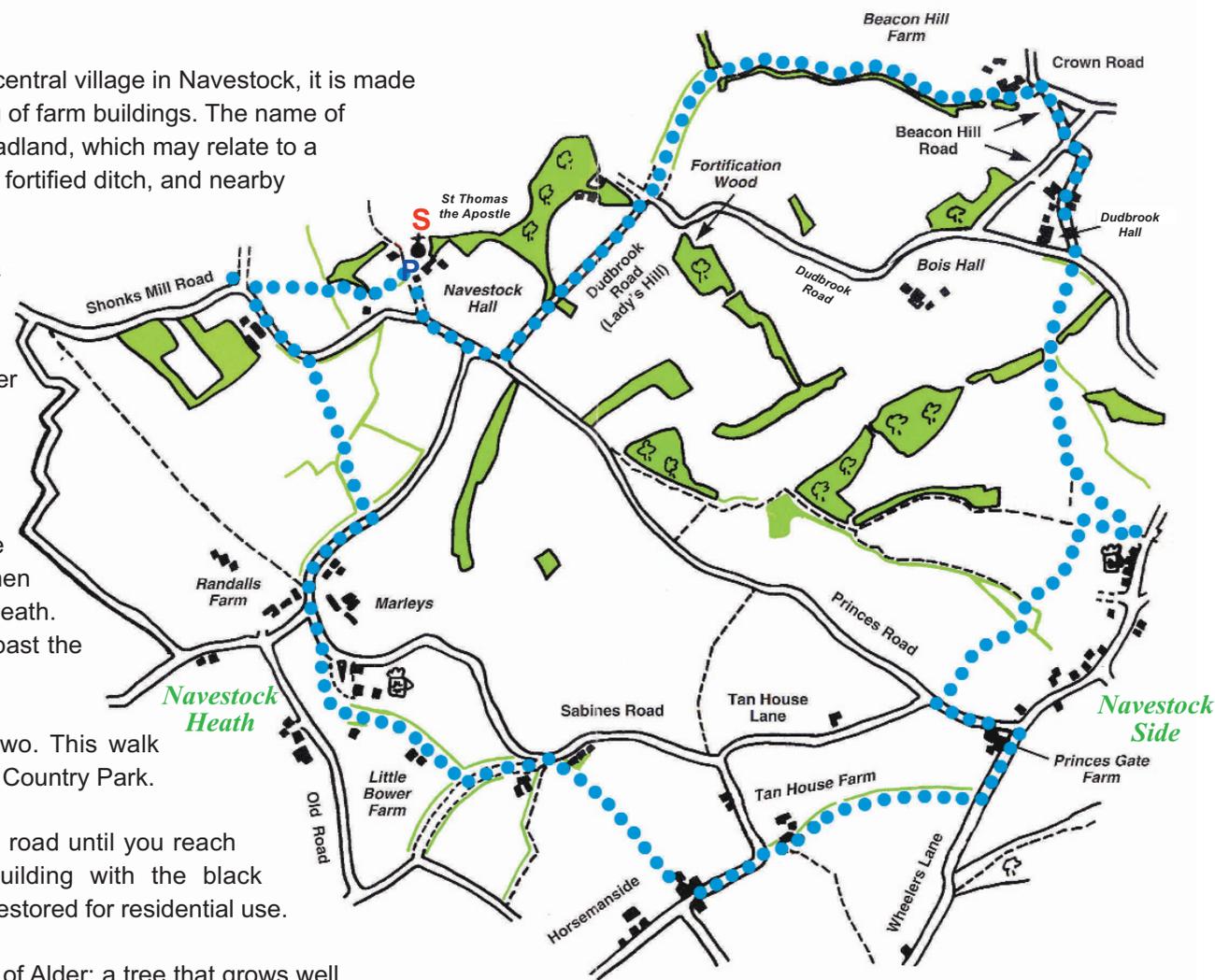
St Thomas the Apostle Church was severely damaged in World War II by a landmine. Thankfully the oldest part of the Church survived. This is the belfry, dated to 1193 and is also the only surviving timber tower in Essex. As you walk into the churchyard you will see a sundial standing in the crater left by the landmine.

You can start this walk anywhere on route, but it is described from the church of St Thomas the Apostle in an anti-clockwise direction. Begin the walk by taking the path away from the church crossing two fields (to the west) until you reach Shonk's Mill Road. A short trip down this road and then turn right into the fields again. The path takes you toward Navestock Heath. Cross the heath and turn left. When you reach Little Bower Farm walk past the farm buildings.

Just past Horsemanside you cross paths with circular walk number two. This walk consists of one large or two shorter routes around Navestock and Weald Country Park.

Further on you reach Wheelers Lane. Turn left and continue along this road until you reach Princes Road. Princes Gate Farm is on the corner. The large building with the black weather-boarding was a steam mill built around 1840 but has now been restored for residential use.

From Princes Road cross down and over the fields, look out for the area of Alder; a tree that grows well in wet soils. After crossing fields you will come to Dudbrook Road, (if you are feeling tired, follow this road back to the church. It is an easy amble with rewarding views). To continue, follow roads until reaching Beacon Hill, where you have reached Navestock's highest point. The path goes between the farm buildings and out into the fields where you will pass another area of mature Alder trees. Follow the edge of the fields and up a track to Lady's Hill (Dudbrook Road). Follow the roads back to the church to finish the walk. Keep an eye out for glimpses of Navestock Hall, a beautiful building that dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



### KEY

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