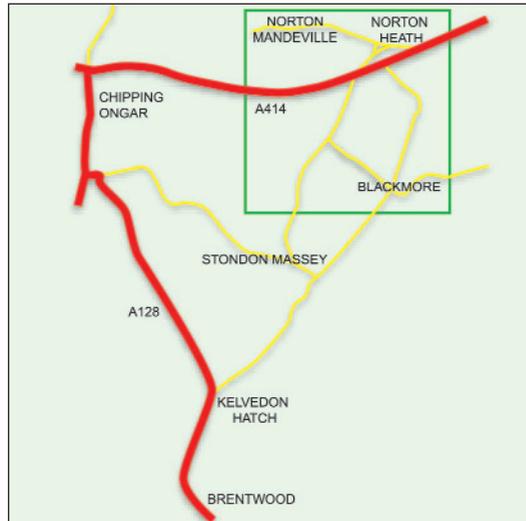


Countryside Walk in Brentwood and Epping Forest

Walk your way to a healthy life

Location Map



About the Walk

- Parking:** There is some parking available at Blackmore Village Hall and beside Norton Heath.
- Length:** Approximately 6 miles for the full circular walk or the walk can be divided into two shorter walks of about 3 or 4½ miles.
- Terrain:** Woods, roads and open farmland.
- Footwear:** Wear stout footwear as the ground can be uneven or muddy in places.
- OS Map:** 183 *Explorer* Chelmsford & the Rodings, Maldon & Witham
167 *Landranger* Chelmsford, Harlow & Bishop's Stortford.

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.




Epping Forest
District Council

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

Epping Forest Countrycare
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices, High Street
Epping CM16 4BZ
Tel: 01992 564000
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



*Epping Forest
Countrycare*

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.



Blackmore & Norton Mandeville

Blackmore and Norton Mandeville

This peaceful walk will take you through farm and common land where you will be able to experience some of the most stunning views of the Epping Forest District and of the Brentwood Borough countryside.

Blackmore Village Hall is a suitable place to start both the shorter and longer routes. Blackmore developed around an Augustinian Priory founded in the 12th century and the church of St. Lawrence has a distinctive three stage pagoda tower and spire which dates to 1475.

The first section of this walk leads you gently up through pastures and arable fields to view panoramic scenes of the Brentwood Borough. Most of the hedgerows you pass are very old and will shelter many wild flower species such as Red Campion and Greater Stitchwort. In the summer months you should see plenty of insects, including many butterflies that will feed on the flowering plants that grow at the field edges.

The shorter route leads off to the left, crossing quiet country lanes and will take you through farmland back into Blackmore.

The longer route crosses the A414. This is a very fast road and care should be taken when crossing. Once across, the route takes you through Norton Heath common. This small woodland provides an important habitat in an area dominated by arable fields. As you wander, keep a look out for dead wood. It is a vital part of the forest ecosystem, supporting many insects and fungi. On the woodland floor you may see remains of pits and banks which were created by old gravel workings. Some of these pits are now seasonal ponds offering resources for many species including birds and small mammals.

Once through the common, views into the Epping Forest District will be revealed in front of you. As you set off down hill along the field edges you will see that some fields have very large margins between the path and the crop. These areas are conservation strips where the farmers encourage native flora and fauna. Keep an eye out for birds darting in and out the hedgerows and up out of the crops and listen for the grasshoppers.

The walk now takes you along a very small country lane to Norton Mandeville All Saints Church, parts of which date to the late 12th century. The churchyard is important for its wildlife value and it is worth spending time looking around to see what you can find.

Follow the route back toward Blackmore Village Hall through Service Lane. In 1349 Blackmore was badly hit by The Black Death, Service Lane and Red Rose Lane probably developed as Plague roads to bypass the village and still exist today.

