

ESSEX, BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

Lingwood Common to Blakes Wood walk

Explore the mix of environments between Lingwood Common and Blake's Wood on this short circular walk. The woodland of Lingwood is mainly oak, with birches to the west and aspen and willow down the stream valleys. This is one of three walking routes linking Danbury Common, Lingwood Common and Blakes Wood, and it's ideal for families.

Try the other walks at Danbury Common

This is one of a trio of trails at Danbury Common that can be linked together to make a longer walk. See the More near here section below for nearby trails.



Information

Address: National Trust, Danbury Common, The Armoury, Penny Royal Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4ED.

OS map: Landranger 168 or Explorer 183

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Easy walking over numbered route, mostly on grass tracks. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs welcome as long as under close control. Please clear up any dog litter.

Full trail: Miles: 3.5 (km: 5.6)

Duration: 2 hours

Terrain

Easy walking over numbered route, mostly on grass tracks with some tree roots. It may not be suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Some areas can be muddy in wet weather and in winter. The route passes over one very busy road, please approach with caution.

Total steps: 13

Start point: National Trust Armoury car park, grid ref: TL781044

1. Starting in front of the site office Armoury car park facing the main road, turn right and head down Bicknacre Road to the road junctions. Cross over and turn left into Sporeham's Lane. After approximately 15 metres, turn right at the footpath sign on the right (FP17).
2. Keeping on this footpath, continue until you reach an unmade lane (Fitzwalter Lane). Ensuring you do not exit on to Sporeham's Lane, turn sharp right. The lane now continues to Woodhill Road.
3. Cross Woodhill Road and follow the path. This section of the path runs between houses. When a junction in the path (with FP16) is reached, take the right-hand fork and walk down, with the parish church of St John the Baptist on the left.
4. After going past the church, you reach a junction with FP20. Turn sharp left and follow the path down to Main Road (A414). With extreme care (this road is very busy) cross over and after a few yards reach Moorbridge Lane on the left. This is also a public footpath (FP59) but is unsigned as such. This lane is very steep at this point. Now head down for about 300m and after entering a wooded area (Bellhill Wood) look out for a footpath 'crossroads' and turn right up FP15, which has a close-boarded fence on the nearside.
5. After a few metres you will arrive in Lingwood Common (look out for the National Trust sign). The management of Lingwood Common is virtually identical to that of

Danbury, although there are more open glades and stands of mature oak and birch. After crossing two footbridges, continue on until reaching the junction with bridlepath 13 and turn left downhill (note this bridlepath is not signed as such). If you miss this junction you will arrive at The Ridge, in which case you have gone too far – turn around and make your way back downhill along bridlepath 13.

6. Continue along bridlepath 13, passing a seat at the top of the hill. Continue along for about 30m to a bridlepath junction and turn left onto bridlepath 14, known as Coleman's Lane.
7. Head down Coleman's Lane and, just before reaching the ditchline and culvert, look for a small path on the right (unsigned). If you reach the houses then you have gone too far.
8. Follow this path along the Lingwood boundary until reaching a marker post. This post is not marked in any way, but turn right at this point.
9. Head along this path until reaching a National Trust sign.
10. If you are continuing to Blake's Wood, then turn left at this point, exit the gate onto Riffham's Chase, turn right and walk up to the Blake's Wood car park (150m on left) and continue with the Blake's Wood walk. After Blake's Wood return to this point to continue with Lingwood. If you are not going to Blake's Wood, then turn right on to bridlepath 13. There are two seats on this stretch to rest, and just after the second seat look out for the second path junction on your right (FP12).
11. Turn right down FP12, exiting Lingwood and retracing your route along Mooresbridge Lane until reaching a footpath 'crossroads' (FP15). Turn right and follow the path until reaching Main Road (A414). You will come on to this road near to The Griffin pub on your left. If time permits you could stop here for some refreshment.
12. Now carefully cross the road and continue left up to the church. Go through the gate by the side of the church and follow the footpath directly down hill past the water tower on the left, until reaching Penny Royal Road at the bottom.
13. Turn right for the Cricketer's Arms or head to the the car park, which is just across the road.

End point: National Trust Armoury car park, grid ref: TL781044
