

Danbury Walk 1: Thrift Wood

Distance and estimated time taken:

5.7 miles (9.1 km) approx 2 ½ hrs

Parking:

Danbury Sports and Social Centre (free)

Mayes Lane (free)

Little Baddow Road opposite Runsell lane. (free)

Toilets:

Sports and Social Centre



Maps:

Ordnance Survey OS Explorer 183

Danbury Parish Footpath map

Little Baddow Parish Footpath map

Danbury - Scrub's Wood - Thrift Wood - Danbury Common - Danbury

Directions:

From the Danbury Sports and Social Centre, walk to the rear of the main car park and proceed up past the Armada Beacon to the radio mast. Turn right by the radio mast and continue straight along the footpath past St. John The Baptist Church bear left across the church green to the A414 opposite The Griffin PH. Taking care cross over the road and turn right. After about 100 yards turn left down Moores Bridge Lane. Continue along the lane going past Bellhill Wood on your right until after approx. 300 yards a footpath is reached crossing the lane by a wooden boundary fence of a large property on the right hand side.

Turn right onto the footpath as indicated by the fingerpost and with the fence on your left continue along the path. At the end of the path, after crossing two bridges, turn right onto a bridleway. Continue along the bridleway until you reach Little Baddow Road. Cross over the road to Runsell Lane, walk along the lane until Scrubs Wood Nature Reserve is reached on your left. Enter the reserve (opposite Simmonds Way) and continue straight ahead until you reach a large dip, known as 'Glacier Road'. Follow the path down into the dip, turn right and follow the wide track towards a timber yard and then turn left once the timber yard fence is reached.

Continue along the path skirting the around the timber yard and pass through a kissing gate. Turn left onto a track (last section of Twitty Fee) and walk to the end until a house called 'Robin Wood' is reached. Turn right onto a bridleway. Follow this bridleway along the side of the golf course until Woodham Walter road is reached. Cross straight over the road over a stile and continue ahead into Thrift Wood. Follow the path through the wood for approx. ½ mile and where the path forks take the right hand path over a wooden bridge. Continue along this path ignoring other paths branching off. At the edge of the wood continue straight on (do not turn right!) and join a path that takes you across a quarry. Continue on this path until the A414 is reached by the Zara Restaurant (formally The Royal Oak PH).

Turn right and walk approx 200 yards on the footway before crossing the road and taking a footpath into a field. Follow this path across the field to Tyndales Farm and continue ahead through the farm to the B1418 (Southend Road). Turn right and then take the second right into Tyndales Lane. Follow the lane past Kinvara Lodge until a cross roads is reached. Continue straight ahead at the cross roads, turning right at the end into Capons Lane and then almost immediately turn left into Gay Bowers Road. After approx. 150 yards turn right into a track, pass Ivy Cottage and turn right at the end of the track into Gay Bowers Lane. After approx. 30 yards cross a stile on your left into an open field. Follow the path across the field down a dip and up to Gower Bowers Farm. On arriving at a gate turn right over a stile and then immediately left over another stile. Continue straight ahead and pass between stables. Cross another stile and carry on straight ahead and pass between a staggered barrier into the next field. Follow the path and cross over another stile into the woods (you are now in Danbury Common which is open access land).

Carry straight on into the woods and turn right after crossing a couple of bridges over a small stream. Follow the path along the side of the stream past the site of the old pumping station on your left (the foundations are still visible). Continue ahead along the footpath, ignoring any other side paths, until a junction is reached. Go straight across and continue ahead until another junction is reached. Turn left and follow the footpath until a right hand junction is reached. Turn right into a small clearing with a wooden beam bench. With the bench behind you follow the broad path straight ahead until a road is reached. With care cross the road and follow the footpath opposite adjacent a house called 'The Old Mission'. Follow this path for approx.100 yards then turn right onto a footpath. Follow this path to Penny Royal Road. Cross the road and walk up the path opposite up the hill towards the church. Turn right before the radio mast by the Water Tower, pass the Armada Beacon and return to the Sports and Social Centre.

