

Gilwell Park Scout Campsite Hike Routes



5 Miles (8km) Ramble
In Epping Forest From Gilwell

Notes to Leaders

1. The walk passes Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, which is open to visitors 2-00pm - 5-00pm except Monday and Tuesday. Allow half an hour for visit. Adults 50p, children free, for large parties warn them on 020 8529 6681. (Actually it was her dad, Henry VIII, who built it.)
2. The forest is often muddy when wellies are recommended. Cubs will find ample opportunities for getting wet and dirty.
3. Maps, either a) Pictorial map of Epping Forest, cheap and accurate, or b) Green Covered map of Epping Forest, more detailed. Both about 2 1/4 " to the mile, are available from the providore or Bargain Books, Station Road, Chingford. Or use the sketch map attached.
4. In an emergency, telephone Gilwell 020 8498 5410.

The Route

From Gilwell camp square walk past the LID to the Camp entrance gate, turn right on to the cart track alongside the Lid Car Park. Ignore the track to the right, but go over the stile ahead in the field called YATES MEADOW.

Follow the hedge on your left down the field and through a kissing gate. Then continue still with the hedge on your left, to a further gate. Beyond is an unmade road with houses, follow this round to the right, keeping Tewksbury House on your left, to arrive at BURY ROAD.

Cross with care, into HORNBEAM LANE, then find the bridle way just to the right of it, which you follow with, on your left, houses then a golf course. Go downhill, then up, then down again to Almshouse Plain. You will see ahead of you a white house standing in trees on the corner of the road.

Turn right to a bridleway running along the plain and follow it to where it is crossed by another bridleway (see sketch). You need to cross over the intersection and continue in much the same direction as before, eventually coming to a T junction.

Turn right and after half mile you will arrive at a great oak tree behind some wooden railings. This is GRIMSTON'S OAK (named after an Essex Cricketer). Continue ahead downhill for some 200 yards before turning left along a path with a ditch running by it. This brings you to CONNAUGHT WATER.

Go around the lake either way (right is shorter) to its outlet down two large pipes. Take the path nearby down to a stream, then uphill to some building on the skyline ahead. The Butler's Retreat (if open) sells tea, pop and sweets. The Hunting Lodge built for royalty to watch the chase on Chingford Plain - is also a museum showing how royalty liven ten. It is well worth a visit. (Toilets are nearby).

The return to Gilwell

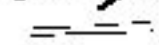
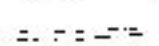


Follow the bridleway downhill with Bury Road on your left and on a little way into the forest until you see a 30mph sign on the road

Choose:-

Either to continue to corner of Hornbeam Lane and return the way you started.

Or to cross Bury Road by the 30 mph sign and follow the bridleway (marked by horseshoe signs on white posts) through the woods fringing the golf course. When a clear way appears on the right going straight downhill, follow the white posts down to Yardley Brook. Just over the hill ahead is Gilwell. Climb over the hill to track skirting the campsite, turn right, and so back home.



-  ROUTE
-  ROAD
-  BRIDLEWAY
-  FOOTPATH
-  STREAM

