

Hainault & Abridge

This walk contains some difficult terrain towards the end as some landowners are not maintaining the rights of way on their property. There is no going back at this point so dress appropriately or avoid at times of high vegetation. Part of the way follows London LOOP, which is fortunate as parts of the wood are confusing.

1 This alternative avoids the busy main road but repeats the end of the walk

2 At the edge of the lake turn left and where the lake curves round follow the edge of the wood/scrub that borders the rim of the large open space. After crossing a path the rim starts to descend; look for a path through to the bridleway bordering the golf course. Turn uphill and into the forest; shortly after this turn right along the Three Forests Way.

3 At the edge of the forest turn left along a bridle way and almost immediately right along another bridle way.

4 Use this alternative to shorten the walk to 11.7 km.

5 The bridle way is just to the left of the farm.

6 Where another path diverges half right across the field look for an overgrown path left through the wood and exit into a field. Follow the edge of the field, right, to arrive at a stile where the path becomes clearer again.

7 The way into the field is to the right of a gravel track left of which is a modern detached house.

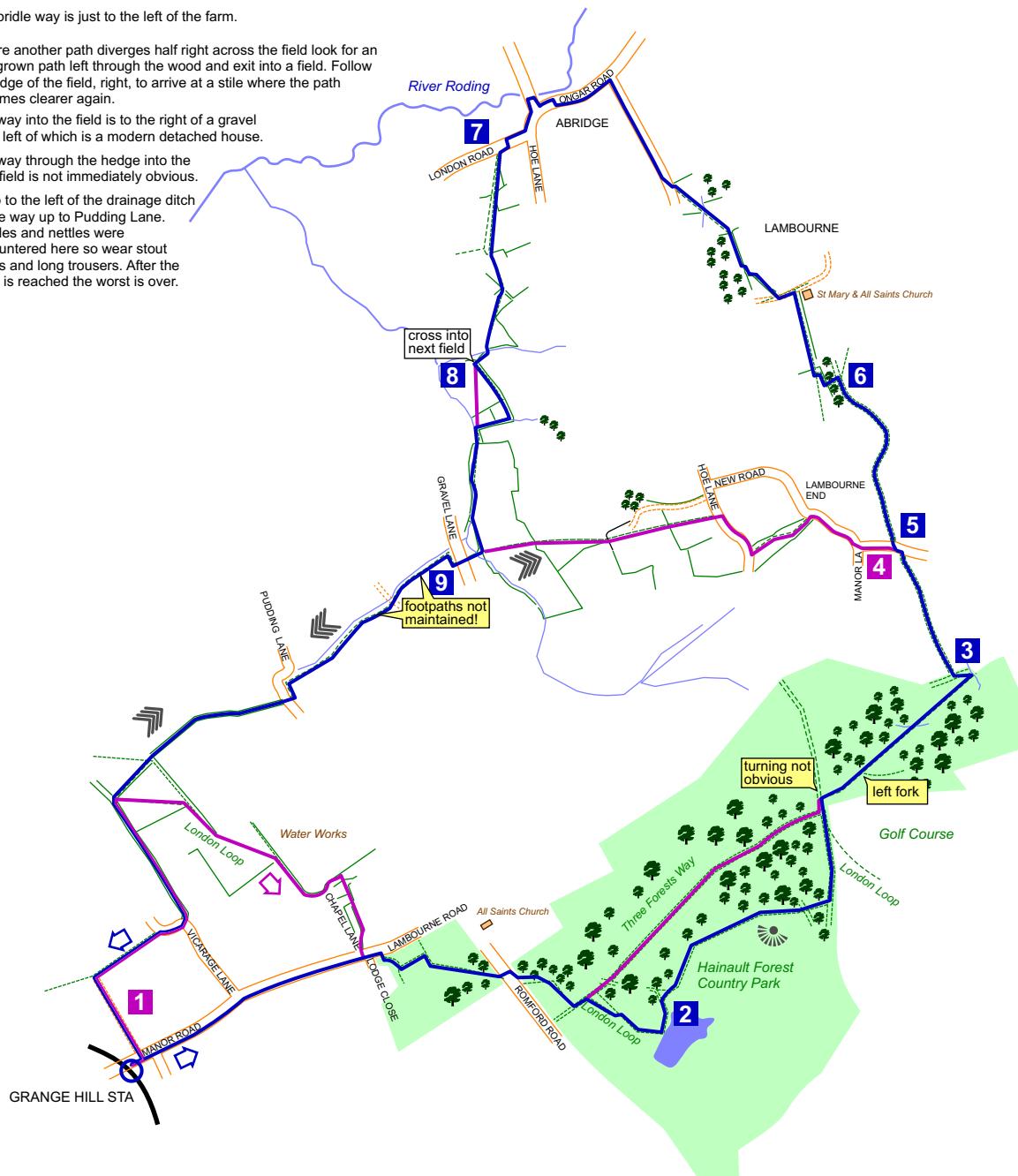
8 The way through the hedge into the next field is not immediately obvious.

9 Keep to the left of the drainage ditch all the way up to Pudding Lane. Thistles and nettles were encountered here so wear stout shoes and long trousers. After the Lane is reached the worst is over.

- Main route (15.3 km)
- Options
- Railway
- Hedges, fences, walls



1 kilometre



Use in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Map Explorer 174 Epping Forest & Lee Valley

walk notes

Hainault and Abridge

This is a tough walk on all kinds of terrain from overgrown bridleways, to farmland, parkland and forest paths. Not all rights of way are maintained. There aren't many hostelries so it is best to take a picnic.

Hainault Forest

The forest has no connection with Philippa of Hainault or with Belgium. Hainault's name comes from the Old English higna holt, meaning a 'wood belonging to a monastic community', in this case the Abbey of Barking. It was first recorded in 1221, as Henehout, and in 1513 it was spelt Heynold. It formed part of the Forest of Essex, a Royal Forest. The River Roding made a natural boundary between the Forest of Waltham (now Epping Forest) and the Forest of Hainault.

The land was acquired by the Crown on dissolution. During the mid eighteenth century many illegal enclosures were being made in the Forest of Essex, resulting in fences being torn down by the forest officials, and people appearing in court. Attempts were made to disafforest the whole area and eventually an Act was passed in 1851 for the Disafforestation of Hainault Forest and in six weeks 3000 acres of Kingswood were cleared of timber; the only pieces of ancient woodland remaining were the Manor of Lambourne, Grangehill Forest and Claybury Woods.

See

http://www.hainaultforest.co.uk/55Foresthistory_index.htm

Hainault Forest Country Park

After public pressure to retain some remnant of Hainault Forest, a total of 804 acres of land was bought for public use in 1906. In 1939 further land was purchased to extend the public open space. Hainault Country Park covers more than 300 acres, with a fishing lake, Zoo, guided walks, bridleways and the recently opened Nature Trail.

Hainault Lodge Local Nature Reserve

Nearby and across Romford Road to the country park is a small area comprising 14 acres of the ancient woodland that opened in 1995 as Hainault Lodge Local Nature Reserve, largely through the efforts of Redbridge and Havering Wildlife and Countryside Group.

St Mary & All Saints Church Lambourne

In 1218 Robert de Lamburn gave the Church of St. Mary and All Saints, Lambourne, to the canons of Waltham Holy Cross. This was confirmed to them by William de St. Maria, Bishop of London, in 1218, and seems to have been appropriated to them, and a vicarage ordained; but so ordered, that the perpetual vicar, who should supply the cure, should pay forty shillings yearly pension to the said canons, for the use of the poor of their hospital, built within the courts of their monastery, and then the vicars to have all the remaining profits, and to sustain all the burthens of this church.

The church again became a rectory, and continued so in the gift of Waltham Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries. Then it came successively into the hands of Sir Anthony Cook, Nicholas Bacon, and Katherine Barefoot, who had the gift of one turn from the convent and the abbey; Thomas Taverner, Robert Draper, Robert Bromfield, Nicholas Staphurst of Billericay, of whom Dr. Thomas Tooke purchased the advowson (the right to recommend a member of the Anglican clergy for a vacant benefice, or to make such an appointment) in 1712, and, by his will, bequeathed it to Bennet or Corpus Christi College, at Cambridge, of which he had been a fellow. The Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College have been the Patrons ever since. The church was built about the middle of the 12th century, but in the 13th century the chancel was almost entirely rebuilt. Early in the 16th century the bell turret was added. In the middle of the 18th century both the chancel and the nave were largely remodelled, most of the windows being renewed and the north and south doorways of the nave reset.

During the removal of defective plaster in 1951 on the north wall of the nave there was disclosed the stone jamb, part of the head, and deep splay of one of the original Norman Lights. This has been preserved. The walls are of flint rubble, covered with cement; the dressings are of limestone and brick; the roofs are tiled, the bell turret and west gable are weather boarded and the spire is covered with lead.

See

<http://www.oldlambourne.co.uk/lamchhist.htm>