



THE WALK

This walk is about 2½ to 3 miles long and will take 2 to 2½ hours to complete. Follow the arrows with a green inset and you won't get lost. Yellow arrows show public footpaths and blue indicate bridleways. The route follows footpaths and tracks which may be muddy in bad weather, so strong footwear is recommended. Several short sections of the walk cross or follow busy roads so please take care.

**PLEASE RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE
AND ITS WILDLIFE**

PARKING AND TRANSPORT

Public transport links for this walk are good. The Central "Loop Line" will take you to the start of this circular walk, Grange Hill Station (NB no evening service). There is also some parking available around the station.

A warm family welcome awaits you at

Ye Olde Kings Head

Country Carvery, Function Rooms
Parties by arrangement
High Road, Chigwell, Tel 081 500 2021
Chef and Brewer Group Ltd.

COUNTRY WALKS AND COUNTRYCARE

This walk is one of a series. Countrycare works closely with local people and volunteers to improve access and wildlife in the countryside. Further leaflets and information are available from District Council Offices, or call **Countrycare on (01992) 788203**

Our thanks to local historian John Redfern
for his contribution to this text.

**COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION**
Epping Forest District Council

Country Walks

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Chigwell



Circular walk map and guide

Epping Forest
Countrycare

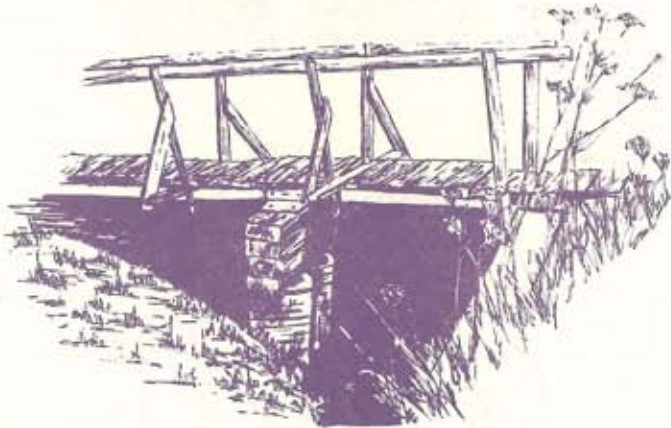
CHIGWELL COUNTRY WALK

"Chigwell my dear fellow, is the greatest place in the world, ... such an out of the way rural place". On this walk think about how Chigwell and its countryside would have looked to Charles Dickens. Would his thoughts about Chigwell be the same today ?

1. Opposite Grange Hill Tube Station Froghall Lane will soon lead you away from the noise and traffic of Greater London. The blackthorn hedges are a colourful sight bearing white blossom in spring and bitter purple sloes, or wild plums in autumn.

2. The name "Ten Trees" is still retained by this knoll, despite several of the poplars being lost in the 1987 gale.

3. A hawthorn tunnel leads to the "Loop Line", built by the Great Eastern Railway Company in 1900. They also developed Nursery Farm orchard, planting 600 fruit trees of 47 varieties. The farm supplied Liverpool St. Station's Great Eastern Hotel with fresh fruit and vegetables. In the days of steam the morning milk train stopped by the footbridge and the produce was transferred from a donkey cart to the London bound train.



4. Across the Chigwell Brook, Courtland Drive and Meadow Way were built in the 1930's. Without Abercrombie's plan to retain a London Green Belt much more countryside would have been lost.

5. The old village of Chigwell is centred around St Mary's church, Chigwell School and the Kings Head Inn.

The Kings Head is immortalised by Dickens as the "Maypole" in his book Barnaby Rudge. He describes the 17th Century Inn as *"... an old building with more gable ends than a lazy man would care to count on a sunny day."*

St Mary's is a fine church of Norman origin. It contains a medieval brass considered to be the best of its kind in the country. This commemorates the modesty of Samuel Harsnett, vicar of St Mary's from 1597-1605 who later became Archbishop of York and founded Chigwell School. Chigwellian George Shillibeer, inventor of the London Omnibus is also remembered in the church. His horse-drawn bus made its first journey carrying passengers from Marylebone Road to the city in 1829.

Harsnett founded Chigwell School in 1629 and it retains its good reputation today. William Penn, founder of the state of Pennsylvania, USA was educated here. The walk now leads from the Chigwell's new vicarage to the old, where it crosses Vicarage Lane.

6. For those still feeling energetic, follow the Permissive Path from Green Lane towards Pudding Lane. At 250ft above sea level it is not only the climb

that is breathtaking. To the south west Claybury Hospital, Canary Wharf and the Post Office Tower are landmarks on London's skyline. To the north the Bank of England works lies between the green corridors of Epping Forest and the Roding Valley.

The trees on Green Lane were hit badly by Dutch Elm Disease but the hedges and verges are still important habitats for wildlife. A dead or dying tree will support many types of beetles and fungi, while holes and hollows are often lived in by birds and bats. In summer bats can be seen feeding on insects by the Chigwell Brook after dusk. The Pipistrelle is the most common and smallest of Britain's bats. It benefits man as it can eat up to 3000 mosquito like insects in one night.

7. The large oak trees are remnants of the hedgerows which used to mark out the old field boundaries. The large fields created by removing hedges make farming more efficient but at the expense of landscape and wildlife.

