1. If you have parked on the grass verge in School Road (on the left hand side if you entered School Road from the B1022), walk down School Road past the junction with Hall Road. Turn right into Beadle Place, then after 40 yards, turn left into St Peter’s Walk, which is a no through road. At the end of the road, take the path ahead which runs between houses. The footpath now enters countryside, and you soon have fine views of a lake to the right. After passing an attractive thatchéd cottage on the left, the path enters an open expanse of grass, with a fork of paths. Take the left hand fork, heading towards Great Totham Church. Go through the kissing gate to enter the churchyard, then take the path to the left which heads through the lych gate. Turn left on the lane for 120 yards to a sharp left bend. There are two signed footpaths at this point; take the path ahead, which crosses the middle of two large fields. Follow the path into a small copse (some bluebells may be seen here). The path then skirts around the right hand side of a sewage works, and reaches a junction of two signed footpaths at a crossroads. Take the road ahead, which passes Beacon Hill House on your right. After nearly 300 yards, you reach the junction with Braxted Road; continue ahead here for a further 70 yards as the road curves round to the right. Turn left onto the track, where you soon reach a double gate; go through the gate to reach an information board about Shut Heath Wood. Take the path to the left (which bends soon to the right) to visit the wood.

2. Approximately 150 yards after entering the golf course, you will see a footpath signpost with an arrow indicating a right hand turn. Veer half right across the course, taking the route shown on the small map (inset), heading in the direction of the low footpath signposts. Look out for golf balls as you cross the fairways! On approaching the 8th green, look for a gap in the hedge on the other side of the green. Go through this gap; after 15 yards you will see a footpath signpost, showing a fork of paths. Take the left hand path, going over a high stile and then pass Angham House on your right.

3. On reaching Beckettigny Road, turn left for about 1/2 mile until you reach the junction with Colchester Road (B1022). Cross the road with care and turn left for 60 yards, then turn right onto the wide farm track, which is on the right hand edge of a large field. Go along this track for just over 1/2 mile; it passes the farmhouse and farm buildings of Scripps Farm. Before you reach the farmhouse, make sure you look back to see far-reaching views across the Blackwater Estuary in the distance. Eventually you reach Goat Lodge Road; turn right onto the road for 250 yards, until you reach a crossroad. Take the road ahead, which passes Beacon Hill House on your right. After nearly 300 yards, you reach the junction with Braxted Road; continue ahead here for a further 70 yards as the road curves round to the right. Turn left onto the track, where you soon reach a double gate; go through the gate to reach an information board about Shut Heath Wood. Take the path to the left (which bends soon to the right) to visit the wood.

4. After visiting the wood, retrace your path back to the road. Turn right and then right again into Braxted Road. Go ahead for over 1/2 mile, ignoring the road which forks right by Heath House. On reaching the junction with Kelvedon Road, turn left for 90 yards (signposted to Wickham Bishops and Maldon), until you reach the junction with Beacon Hill (by the war memorial). Cross over Beacon Hill, taking the track going off half right, which is signposted as a public byway (Handley’s Lane). The track passes Wickham Bishops Sports Field and eventually merges with a cul-de-sac (Poney Chase). Go to the end of Poney Chase and turn left onto The Street. After 80 yards, turn left onto Great Totham Road, soon passing the Mitre pub. 150 yards past the pub, there is a footpath to your left by the car park. For Rainbow Field; take this path, which passes Wickham Bishops Tennis Club.

5. The path eventually reaches Kelvedon Road; cross the road and take the footpath almost immediately opposite. The path initially goes between fenced fields, and after 500 yards you reach Goat Lodge Road. Turn right on the road for 70 yards, then turn left down the signposted track past a couple of houses to reach a field. Turn right along the field edge, which takes a left and right turn before narrowing into a footpath hemmed in by hedges and fences. 250 yards after the narrow footpath begins you will reach Maldon Road (B1022), with the Bull pub to your left. Cross the road with care, and turn right past the village cricket pitch. After 200 yards, turn left into Hall Road; on reaching the junction with School Road, turn right to return to the starting point of our walk.
This walk was kindly developed by Chris Harvey for the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre. 50p to cover printing costs. For further information please contact: Maldon District TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE Wenlock Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5AD Tel: 01621 856503 Website: www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk

**WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT**

**CIRCULAR COUNTRYSIDE WALK**

**Shut Heath Wood & Great Totham**

This fascinating walk explores the myriad of lanes and footpaths encircling the villages of Great Totham and Wickham Bishops, and in springtime provides the perfect opportunity to see Maldon District’s most spectacular display of bluebells in Shut Heath Wood Nature Reserve.

There are four pubs on or close to the walk route, all of which serve food (check times).

**Refreshments** on (or close to) the walk:
- Bull, 2 Maldon Road, Great Totham, CM9 8NH - Tel: 01621 893385
- Green Man, Kelvedon Road, Little Braxted, CM8 3LZ - Tel: 01621 891659
- Mitre, The Street, Wickham Bishops, CM8 3NN - Tel: 01621 891379
- Prince of Wales, 2 Prince of Wales Road, Great Totham, CM9 8BZ - Tel: 01621 891162
- Village Stores, 7 Maldon Road, Great Totham, CM9 8PR - Tel: 01621 892721

**Useful web link**
Essex Wildlife Trust
www.essexwt.org.uk

**Distance:** 5.9 miles (9.5 km), including walk around Shut Heath Wood

**Time taken:** 2 1/2 hours

**Location:** Great Totham – 4 miles north of Maldon. Take B1022 from Heybridge.

OS Explorer Map No: 183 (Chelmsford & The Rodings)
OS Grid Reference: TL 808 070

Parking: Grass verge on left hand side of School Road (CM9 8PT)

Public Transport: Bus No. 90 – Maldon to Witham (Blackwater Link), Mon-Sat (not Sundays)

**visitmaldondistrict.co.uk**