

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Broxbourne Woods (shortened)	Walk No.	374
Area	Hertfordshire	Type	Circular
Date	Friday 12 th August 2022		
Distance	9miles (14 km) including to/ from station.		
Timing	4½ hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 7 hours in total. Therefore should be back in Islington by 4.30 pm.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>Meet at Highbury & Islington by 9.20 to catch the 9.33 train to Bayford (Moorgate - Hertford North). Or you can join the train at: 9.35 Drayton Park, 9.38 Finsbury Park. On the sign up form indicate if you are joining somewhere other than H&I.</p> <p>You'll need to buy an off peak day return from Crews Hill (or Zone 6 Extension) to Bayford. £3.25 with Freedom Pass and Senior Railcard.</p> <p>Return from Brayford. Trains every 15 to 20 minutes.</p>		
Route	<p>We last walked this route in July 2020 but due to the hot weather we'll walk a shortened version this time.</p> <p>Leaving Bayford station (0 mls, 10.20) we take the road toward Brickendon but we'll take a quiet back lane passing Fanshaws. (1.5mls, 11.00) We join the published walk details (see links) but we'll walk firstly clockwise around the top north section first through Cowheath Wood and Bramble's Wood. We'll cut the corner off heading south east to Danemead Nature Reserve and then join up with the old Roman Ermine Street. This time we'll keep going south at the car park (4.0mls, 12.00) on the 'Southern Walk' though Tudor Farm. At Holy Cross Hill we then turn west to Wormley West End (5mls, 12.30) – and our lunch stop.</p> <p>After lunch (1.30pm) we head north through Pembridge Lane farm passing through Cowheath Wood. At Brickendon we can return to Bayford the same way we came in the morning or take the road for about a mile to the station (9mls, 4.00pm).</p>		
Lunch	<p>Food is available at Wormley West End pub - the Wood & Olive. Quite a nice traditional pub. http://www.thewoodmanandolive.com/ 01992 463719</p>		
Dropping out	<p>While no easy public transport opt out point, there is an option, as it's a figure of eight shaped walk, to break off and walk out before lunch (5mls/ 8km, 12.30).</p>		
Suitability	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties.</p> <p>Terrain: one easy up; dry paths all the way.</p> <p>Possible obstacles: there is one minor stile to cross.</p> <p>There is a lot of tree cover on the majority of the path, so even with the hot weather should be manageable.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.</p>		
Facilities	<p>There are no toilets on the train or at Bayford station!</p>		

	So it's the trees or the lunchtime pub.
Walk source	"Fancy Free Walks" Links: http://fancyfreewalks.org/Chilterns/Broxbourne.pdf?version=1
Map & other references	OS Explorer 174 Epping Forest and Lee valley
Leader & contact details	<u>Walk Leader</u> : Derek Harwood <u>Phone</u> : 077 5931 4096 <u>e-mail</u> : derek.harwood@live.co.uk
Interesting Facts	<p>Brickendon ("the hill of Bricca's people") has always been highly prized. King Henry II "gave" the manor to the monks of Waltham and granted it freedom from tax, known as the "Liberty of Brickendon". But the monks had rivals: none other than the Benedictine monks of Westminster Abbey, who went as far as forging Saxon papers to lay claim to it. It turns out their main focus of attention was a house called "Maidenhead" where certain "ladies of the night" needed spiritual comfort. Within the parish there have been several great houses: one is Brickendonbury and its estate, with a long history. Another is Brickendon Grange, long-time host of every kind of sport. Brickendon is one of the most haunted places in Hertfordshire (see "Haunted Hertfordshire, A Ghostly Gazetteer" by Ruth Stratton and Nicholas Connell).</p> <p>Ermine Street is the name of a major Roman road in England that ran from London (Londinium) to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) and York (Eboracum). The Old English name was "Earninga Straete" (1012), named after a tribe called the Earningas, who inhabited a district later known as Armingford Hundred, around Arrington, Cambridgeshire and Royston, Hertfordshire. "Armingford", and "Arrington" share the same Old English origin. The original Roman name for the route is unknown. It is also known as the Old North Road from London to where it joins the A1 Great North Road near Godmanchester.</p> <p>As its name suggests, Wormley West End was originally the western part of the village and parish of Wormley. However, whereas Wormley itself now forms part of the conurbation stretching along the river Lea north of London from Waltham Cross through Cheshunt and Broxbourne to Hoddesdon, the hamlet of Wormley West End is now part of the parish of Brickendon Liberty. The name Wormley probably comes from the old English wyrma leah, meaning a clearing (or wood) infested with grass snakes. In Domesday times the name was Wermelai.</p>