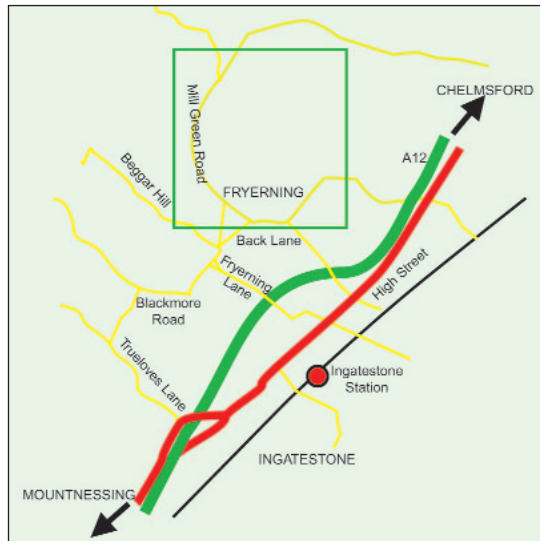


# Countryside Walk in Brentwood

Walk your way to a healthy life in Brentwood

## Location Map



## Your Rights of Way



Public footpaths - on foot only  
Waymarked in yellow



Bridleways - on foot, horseback and bicycle  
Waymarked in blue



Byways - open to all traffic but mainly used for walking and riding  
Waymarked in red

Permissive paths - route which landowners allow the public to use, but which can be closed if wished.

### Areas of work for the Countryside Department at Brentwood Borough Council include:

- Projects such as tree/hedge planting and pond management.
- Supporting Thames Chase Community Forest.
- Managing Nature Reserves, woodlands and commons.
- Improving access to footpaths and bridleways and encouraging their use.

## About the Walk

**Parking:** Park carefully opposite either The Cricketers Public House or The Viper Public House, both off Mill Green Road

**Length:** Approximately 3 miles.

**Terrain:** Woods and open farmland.

**Footwear:** Wear stout footwear as the ground can be uneven or muddy in places.

**OS Map:** 183 Explorer Chelmsford and the Rodings, Maldon and Witham  
167 Landranger Chelmsford, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford



If you encounter any problems please contact  
**Brentwood Borough Council**  
Town Hall, Ingrave Road  
Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY  
Tel: 01277 312500  
[www.brentwood.gov.uk](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk)



*This leaflet is one of a series that has been produced by Brentwood Borough Council. We aim to improve and manage the countryside for wildlife and people.*



# 4

Mill Green

## Mill Green

Mill Green lies to the north of Fryerning, in an ancient landscape of woodlands, commons and fields. This gentle ramble takes in all these landscapes providing a walk filled with variety.

The walk can be joined from many footpaths linking into the circuit, but the description begins from Hardings Lane, close to the Cricketers Pub. The route is described in a clockwise direction.

Begin by walking down Hardings Lane where you will find several lovely homes. Follow the footpath to the left past the landing field. The walk follows the edge of Mill Green Common and passes through small fields with tall, ancient hedges. The pollarded trees in the hedges mark the boundary of the common. Pollards are trees which have been cut about 3m above the ground, and then allowed to regrow. The branches then all grow from the top of the trunk, giving the trees their distinctive shape. They are cut on a cycle of about 20 years.

When you reach the gravel track you will be near Potter Row Farm, where several brick and pottery kilns have been found. This area was a good place to make both pottery and bricks due to the clay, gravel and sand dug from the common.

After Potter Row, the walk crosses through a wooded area which is the corner of Mill Green Common. Quarrying created many of the pits and banks on the common. Pass by Richards Cottage and take the path into Box Wood.

Much of this peaceful wood is hornbeam coppice. Coppicing involves cutting the tree close to the ground, and then allowing a number of stems to grow from the same base or 'stool'. On a rotation of between 8 and 20 years the stems were cut for fuel or fencing, and the cycle re-started. After leaving the wood the walk crosses a field toward Handley Barns Farm.

From now on you will be following the edges of pasture field with several ancient hedgerows. These provide important habitats in an area dominated by fields. Keep an eye out for birds darting in and out of the trees. In the summer months you should see plenty of insects, including butterflies that will feed on the flowering plants that grow at the field edges.

When you reach Hardings Lane again turn left and head back towards The Cricketers Public House to finish the walk.

