



Walk 10: Lower Earley, Woods & Meadows

This is a linear walk through Lower Earley's southern green spaces that starts and finishes at different No 21 bus stops on Kilnsea Drive. Walkers wishing to complete the circuit can do so by walking back along Kilnsea Drive. This is a flat walk that uses the area's network of paths and walkways/cycleways with limited walking on pavements. Some gravel and dirt paths are used: these are not suitable for wheelchair users unless, perhaps, they have rugged 'off-road' chairs. The walk passes over ancient paths and lanes that pre-date the construction of Lower Earley. Gypsy Lane/Cutbush Lane was the main vehicular thoroughfare prior to the construction of Lower Earley Way. Paddick Drive was a lane that ran past Marsh Farm to the river Loddon. Mill Lane was the route from Sindlesham Mill to Wokingham Road prior to the construction of Rushey Way. The route passes a BMX track: a popular facility installed by the Town Council in 2011.

Warning: after prolonged periods of rainfall the area between points 8 & 10 may be flooded and impassable

Length

Linear Walk: 1.4 miles (2.3 km). Allow ¾ hour plus stops.

Circular Walk: 1.8 miles (3km). Allow 1 hour plus stops

Starting /Finish Points

Bus No 21 Start: Felixstowe Close stop

Finish: Easington Drive stop

Car Maiden Place Car Park. Walk through alley next to Sainsbury's & join walk at point (2)

OS Grid ref SU 7554 7052, w3w:///echo.dice.walks, or

Careful and considerate parking in side streets – very busy at weekends:

Felixstowe Close or Southwold Close

Refreshments

Maiden Place Shopping Centre Rustic Café, Maiden Place,
Seven Red Roses pub,

Route Instructions (See map below for numbered points)

1



With the bus shelter on your left, walk along the right-hand side of Kilnsea Drive carefully crossing Felixstowe Close to reach a pedestrian crossing/lights. This is where Gypsy Lane crosses Kilnsea Drive. This is point (2) below,

2



Go over the crossing, through a metal barrier and continue in the same direction along the pathway/cyclepath (Gypsy Lane). (Maiden Place Shopping Centre is reached through a path on your right. Sainsbury's Local will directly in front of you.) After 200m go through another metal barrier and soon reach a turning on your left. Where low-level street signage shows the change from Gypsy Lane to Cutbush Lane. This is point (3) below.

3



Turn left and, after 50m, pass between two concrete bollards onto a tarmac path. Carry straight on where the path becomes gravel for a further 330m to reach its junction with Paddick Drive by a notice board. This is point (4) below.

4



Carefully cross Paddick Drive and bear right to pass through three timber bollards by a metal gantry gate. The BMX track is on your right. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Ignore the path straight ahead and turn sharp left through a gap in the hedge to enter South Field. Turn right and keeping the hedge on your right reach a bench with a litter bin to its right. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Go through a gap in the hedge to the left of the bench to take a narrow, gravel path through a wood. (Take care: the path is used by cyclists.) Follow the well-defined path. Ignore the path on the left to a children's playground. Bear right where gravel paths cross to come to Barn Croft Drive. Cross the road and continue in the same direction to soon reach a crossing with a litter bin on your right. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Turn right and follow the path round to the left – you will have a hedge on your right. Reach a point where the gravel path turns sharp left. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Turn right onto a narrow dirt path (easily missed) through the woods to come to a split in the path. This is point **(9)** below

Warning: after prolonged periods of intense rainfall the area between points 8 & 10 may be flooded and impassable.

9



Take the left fork on a narrow dirt path and go over a shallow ditch. *(Take care: this may have a considerable amount of water in it.)* Turn left and then come to a gravel path with a wildflower meadow on your left. Turn right and follow the path for 200m. By a bench on your right, the path turns left to cross a footbridge and then come to an open space and a junction with a path crossing from left to right. This is point **(10)** below.

10



Turn right and go past the 'Wood of Eagles' information board. Enter the woods and at a footpath junction turn left. Skirt left around the Thames Water building to reach a metal barrier with Rushey Way in front of you. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Go around the barrier and, just before reaching Rushey Way, turn left onto Mill Lane. There will be an embankment on your right. Continue until you reach Kilnsea Drive. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Carefully cross Kilnsea Drive and turn left to reach the Easington Drive bus stop after 50m. This is point **(13)** below.

13



This is the end of the linear walk. Walkers wishing to complete the circuit should take the left-hand pavement for 700m along Kilnsea Drive passing several side streets and the Kitwood Drive bus stop to reach the start (Felixstowe Close bus stop on the right-hand side)

