

## 8. Around the Community Park (rev 7) 4½ miles

Note that if you walk here in mid to late April, you'll see Moor Gardens woodland floor carpeted with bluebells.

The walk starts at the Village Hall.

Cross the recreation ground to the schools, and turn right along Church Road. At the bend take the public footpath on your left and turn right at the allotments. After the burial ground, turn left and follow path to Ulting Road. Turn right and walk towards the Nounsley Play Area. Cross the road and take the path beside Windmill Lodge in the corner of the lay-by. The path runs between wire fences across two/three fields. *(At the time of revision – May 2020 – alongside the second field by point X there a number of rabbit burrow holes in the path surface, so do take care.)*. After passing the lake, turn right along field boundary and then left to Maldon Road at Letch's Corner. Carry straight on along the road (caution - busy road!) towards Maldon. Just past Victor Bungalow, and before the 40mph sign, take the path which goes straight across the field to the corner of Moor Gardens Wood. Bear right and follow the way markers through the wood to a sleeper bridge over a stream which you cross. Continue straight up the track with ditch on your left to the second way marker post, then turn left and walk along field edge with hedge on your right. *(In earlier times this used to be tree-lined on both sides, a delightful green lane - Gypsy Lane)*. At the bottom of the next field, before a stream, turn right into trees, keeping it to your left. You are now entering the Community Park.

On exiting the wood, follow the track to the right, then after about 200m, turn left at the next way marker and walk beside hedge and Willowmead Nursing Home to road. Cross over and continue beside Lanes Farm. When you reach the dirt track, turn right and head towards Chase Cottage. Once you reach the cottage, turn left and then sharp right through the gate beside its boundary fence (this is a permissive path). At the end of the path, turn right and continue up the track until you reach a small pond. Here turn right under power lines and walk along edge of field with hedge of tall poplars on your left. At corner look for sleeper bridge to cross ditch, and turn left. Walk with hedge on your left. At crossing hedge go through gap in the corner into the next field. Continue straight on towards Latneys with the ditch on your right. Follow track past Latneys and up to the main road. Turn left and walk back along the footpath beside the A12. Just after the overhead gantry, turn left and walk down the steps. Continue straight along field edge with hedge on your right. At end of hedge turn right and walk across field to Maldon Road. Turn right to return to the Village Hall.

