

1. Around Toppinghoe Hall (rev 4)

5½ miles

Note that it is worth visiting Toppinghoe Hall wood in mid to late April when the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells.

The walk starts from Church Road at the top of Crabbs Hill.

Take the path across Stone Path Meadow (so called because the path is paved but now overgrown). At the end of the field, bear left at the way marker and head towards Hatfield Place. Turn right at the end of the path then left at the main road. Go down the hill, over the River Ter, then turn right under the A12 and follow the river round to the railway viaduct. After the viaduct, branch left at a way marker and follow alongside the railway line. Cross over Terling Hall Road, and continue across the field following the overhead lines. Go through the gate into the next field, turn right and follow the edge of the field until you reach the cedar tree and the next way marker. Turn right at the way marker and walk around the boundary of Toppinghoe Hall until you hit the dirt track. Bear left, and continue along the farm track for about 200 metres, then turn left onto a woodland track. At the end of the wood, follow the way markers to Waltham Road. Turn left and left again opposite Old School House. Cross the field to corner of a hedge and continue, with hedge on your right to a stile. Continue straight on until you meet the gate at Chantry Lane. Turn left and walk around the edge of the field to the corner of the field, marked by a dead oak tree. Continue across next field to Toppinghoe Hall. Retrace your steps to the Terling Hall Road. Turn right, under railway, to London Road. Turn right, then left, following road past Little Crix. Just past the wood turn left and follow path to the end of the wood. Carry straight on with the hedge on your left. The path continues straight on until you reach Crabbs Hill. Turn left to walk back to the start.

