

Gilwell Park Scout Campsite Hike Routes



14 Mile (24Km) Hike
Gilwell - Debden House (public Camp Site) - Gilwell
(with night Camp)

Notes to Leaders

1. Maps.

- a) Pictorial Map of Epping Forest. Cheap and Accurate but no Grid Reference Lines. Sold in Providore.
- b) Green covered map of Epping Forest (more detail)
- c) O.S. Explorer Sheet 174

All these maps sold at Bargain Books, Station Road, Chingford or the Conservation Centre, High Beach.

2. Take a Compass.

3. Debden House public camp site. Position:- on East border of Epping Forest, North of Loughton. NGR 438982

4. Owner:- Newham Borough Council

5. Availability:- Open Easter to October

6. Before the hike:- The Leader to arrange the visit with the Campsite Manager 020 8508 3008 who will reserve a quiet site and charge reduced prices at Newham Rate.

7. Rule:- Report to the Managers Office on arrival. Scouts to be in Uniform. If wood fires are wanted arrange it with the manager.

8. Access:- By road at Debden Green or directly from Epping Forest paths.

9. Facilities:- All the facilities of a large public campsite, including showers and a shop.

10. Payment:- under 16 years £1.50 each per night, over 16 years £3.50

11. In emergency telephone Gilwell 020 8498 5410

The Routes

Suggested routes are below, but alter them at your pleasure, Epping Forest is all yours.

Outward route 9 miles

Grid Ref.

From the camp square walk past the Lid to the camp entrance gate and turn onto the cart track alongside the Lid car park., Ignore the track to the right, but go over the stile ahead into a field. Follow the hedge on your left down the field and over another stile. Then continue, still with the hedge on your left, to a further stile. Beyond is an unmade road with houses; follow this round to the right, keeping Tewksbury House on your left, arrive at Bury Road.

393957 Cross the road with care, and turn right long the bridleway in the forest fringing Bury Road. When you emerge from the trees onto Chingford Plain turn left along the length of the Plain, keeping

the trees on your left. The track swings into the trees to join a bridleway where you soon come to crossing tracks at Buttonseed Corner. Cross over (east) to come shortly to an oak tree standing alone with a fence behind it. This is Grimston's Oak.

404956 Two other sanded bridleways leave it. Take the one opposite for half a mile ignoring a bridleway joining on your left and you will soon emerge from the forest in Fairmead Bottom with a road ahead. Turn left, it rises and joins another road with a tea hut on your right popular with motorcyclists. Turn left (beware cars) a short distance and on your right find a green barrier and a bridleway. This goes up and down three times. After the third up a track joins on the right. Turn left through the trees, a fence will join you on your left and you will soon arrive at High Beach. More tea, loos, telephone in pub, motorcyclists at weekends.

412982 From the little green tea hut a horse track runs roughly Northwards, crossing a road to drop to

422994 A very busy road. Cross carefully to a lane almost opposite, a few yards along the horse track starts on the right uphill. Follow it swinging left (NE) and cross a narrow lane to

433000 Where it crosses a busy road, runs SE a short distance to join another track - the Green Ride. Turn right along it, cross a road and after about 700 yards - watch this - the track forks. Take the left track and soon through the trees you will see the camp site. Report to the office before pitching tents.

Return route 5 Miles

Go back along the horse track you came on, to the fork, where turn left (SW), the track crosses a road, swoops down and up, a branch goes off right. Where track comes up on your left at

421977 Go SW through the trees and in 5 minutes arrive at the earth mounds of Loughton Camp, now incomplete and very much reduced by weathering, but still genuinely Iron Age. There the locals hid their cattle during tribal wars. But its safe now. Set a course of 245 deg. Up and down banks and across streams through the trees. There is no direct path, but listen for the traffic on the main road on your right, and look out for a white house before you and aim just to the right of it.

412972 It is the Robin Hood pub.

The road and crossing are dangerous.

Gather the party together before crossing with great care to the diagonally opposite corner and scrambling up the bank. Continue in the same direction (the difficult bits are over now) to a minor lane, cross it and continue on to a sanded bridleway. Turn left along it. It drops gently down to open ground, swerves right and left and re-enters the forest still going roughly SW. Soon it is crossed by another bridleway, but continue ahead for another half mile to another crossing. (30 minutes to Gilwell). Turn right (West) to meet Bury Road. Turn right and so back to Gilwell.

Route to Debdien Green

