



Title: Bumbles Green

Distance: 7 miles

Time taken: 3 hours

Location: Bumble's Green, 4 miles Southeast of Harlow

Parking: At the top of Bumbles Green Lane, off Nazeing Common, Bumble's Green. Please leave access clear to both The Heights and the bridleway.

OS Explorer Map: 174

Grid Ref.: TL408052

Transport: Buses: Harlow - Chingford : 391/392, 505.

Refreshment: Bumble's Green: King Harold's Head

Walk description

A. This is a hilly walk in West Essex. The first stage uphill from the parking is quite steep, for Essex, but thereafter the slopes are gentle. The views along the route are lovely and sometimes, amazingly spectacular. In particular, the walk takes in a hilltop overlooking Lea Valley and the whole of London. When we were there we could pick out Canary Wharf, the Post Office Tower, the Gherkin and the London Eye. One section (around Claverhambury) goes near some kennels and can be a bit noisy but otherwise it is quiet. Although the paths are well used we rarely meet other walkers here.

Directions

A. From the car parking at the top of Bumbles Green Lane head south onto the bridleway and walk uphill. After about 200 yards you will enter Epping Forest (1). Shortly after this you might see, hidden in to brambles to your right, a Coal and Wine Post (2).

B. As you near the crest of the hill the path forks: take the right fork. Follow the path (3) as it meanders through the thin strip of woodland called Galleyhill Green. The path runs near the crest of a ridge and the views on both sides are lovely.

C. After half a mile or so, the woods thicken out and the path begins to descend (4). Continue on the same path for another half a mile until you come to Black Cottage (5) and turn right in front of the cottage.

D. After a few yards the track forks in front of Lake John Fisheries; take the right fork and continue past the barrier into a green lane (6). Walk along this lane for about 300 yards then take the footpath on the left up across the fields (7). At the treeline the path bears to the

right and heads up past a telegraph pole towards a hedge on the crest of the hill (8).

E. Go straight on through a gap in the hedge: you will see a concrete bunker, an old trig point, and an oak tree. You will also see some stunning views across London (9). Head back through the hedge gap and turn right towards a small wooded area. As you approach the woods turn right then left so that you are walking through a meadow with the woods on your left (10).

F. Towards the end of the meadow you will see a gap in the hedge on your left and a footpath leading across the next field towards a telegraph pole (11). Cross this field and turn left at the paddocks. Follow the path alongside the paddocks and turn right at the end (you can see Black Cottage in the distance), heading downhill towards a lane.

G. On the lane, turn right. Go through the woods, up the hill and look for a turning on the left into Breach Barns Lane. Proceed along the lane for almost a mile (12), keeping to the left of the nursery, until you come to the mobile homes park. Turn left immediately before the park (13).

H. The path continues alongside the mobile home park, going along a field edge before entering a small wood (14). Stay on the western (left) edge of this wood and look for a (dodgy) stile in the north west corner exiting into a field.

I. Continue heading north up through this field, over another stile and up through the next field keeping near the hedge on the left. You may see deer around here. At the end of this field follow the hedge around to the right and after 50 yards you will see another stile with a white house in the distance. Ahead you will see 2 fences, one metal and one wooden: make for the stile in between them. (15) This takes you along an alleyway to Claverhambury.

J. Turn right along the track heading to the right of Ye Olde Claverhambury Manor (16), past the fishing lakes, and up the hill near Deerpark Wood. As you pass the woods take the bridleway on the left.(17)

K. Continue on this path past loads of horse paddocks until you come to Harold's Park Farm Riding Centre. Go straight on through the farmyard and head downhill (18) past more paddocks to Bumbles Green. The pub King Harold's Head is about 200 yards to the right.

L. To return to the parking turn left, then left again up Bumbles Green Lane.

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