

Ongar to Moreton



Countryside Guided Walk from



Epping Forest
Countrycare
a service provided by Epping Forest District Council

About the walk

The Ongar to Moreton Country walk is approximately four miles long, passing through meadows, along the Cripsey Brook and within woodlands. To walk from Ongar to Moreton and back to Ongar is around eight miles and could take approximately four hours to complete. There are two pubs in Moreton that could be ideal for a break and Bobbingworth Nature Reserve could be a great spot for a picnic. Please take any rubbish with you and bear in mind there are no designated picnic benches on this route.

The footpaths are all in good condition on this route; however, they will become muddy after wet weather. There is a small amount of road walking as part of this route, please take care when walking along the road and crossing the roads. Please follow the Countryside Code by sticking to the footpaths, keeping dogs under close control and on a lead when near livestock as well as leaving gates as you found them. For any footpath queries please contact Essex County Council on 0345 743 0430.

There are several parking opportunities within Ongar, including the High Street, Library and Pay and Display Carparks. There is also a Carpark at Bobbingworth Nature Reserve.

A little bit of History

Moreton is a small village which two thousand years ago was where the road between Great Dunmow and London crossed the Cripsey Brook. Although there is no longer a road following the route of the Roman road there is still a bridge in Moreton crossing the river. The bridge is a grade II listed structure. It underwent repairs in 2016. These repairs used traditional materials and methods in order to maintain its characteristics. These materials included hand made bricks and lime mortar.

Chipping Ongar is a historic market town recorded in the Domesday Book and was important in the medieval era. The remains of a Norman Motte and Bailey Castle can be found near the library. The original castle was pulled down and replaced in the 16th century and the replacement building was destroyed in the 18th Century leaving only the earthworks visible today. To the west of the town is Ongar Great Park, which is the oldest recorded park in England, as it was mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon Will in 1015.



Slow Worms

Bobbingworth Nature Reserve

This is a nine hectare former landfill site which until 1930 was used for agriculture and woodland. For the next 30 years the site was quarried for gravel and then the gravel pit was used for domestic waste disposal until 1972. Since then, the landfill has been capped and a nature reserve has been created. The nature reserve is now home to over 7000 trees, including a disease-resistant Elm tree and a few veteran trees, a healthy Slow-worm population as well as countless species of birds and invertebrates.



Pyramidal Orchid

**Countrycare would like to thank Colin Thompson for inspiring this walk
We invite you to visit our website and social media pages to keep in touch and learn about
our other nature reserves.**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EFCountrycare

Twitter: www.twitter.com/efcountrycare





6. St Mary the Virgin Church, Moreton

It is worth walking a little further down the road and paying a visit to St Mary the Virgin Church. There has been a church in Moreton since the 11th Century, although nothing of the original building is now left. The oldest feature is the marble font which was installed at the end of the 12th Century. The current building has elements of several different periods in history within its architecture; the most obvious example being the varied character of the windows on the south side of the church. These have all been replaced at various points in history ranging from the 15th century to the 19th Century.

4. Resting Pets, Wood Farm

Wood Farm is the home of Resting Pets, a family run Pet Crematorium and Garden of Remembrance established in 1991 to support animal lovers who have lost a beloved pet. The Garden of Remembrance is a serene spot and a peaceful place for beloved pets to be put to rest with views over the Essex Countryside and Cripsey Brook.



5. Bobbingworth Nature Reserve



Cross the bridge over Cripsey Brook



Be careful walking on & crossing Moreton road.

3. Shelly Green Lane

This green lane follows the boundary of the Parishes of Ongar and Bobbingworth.



Pass underneath the Ongar to Epping Railway line

2. Cripsey Brook & Ackingford Bridge

The quietly meandering Cripsey Brook flows under the A414 at Ackingford Bridge. No longer a drover's road, this important route linking Epping to Ongar carries much traffic. Away from the bridge where cattle once watered, the Cripsey Brook winds its way to Ongar where it joins the River Roding. In the summer the azure blue flash of a kingfisher or the insistent rattle of a dragonfly's wings may be enjoyed amongst the teeming life found along its length.

1. Ongar Oaks

This line of trees is actually a designated Local Wildlife Site. Veteran trees are important historically, culturally and ecologically. The rot holes and cavities that develop in the tree's branches and trunks as they age provide a variety of habitats for invertebrates and bats. They can also become important habitat for lichens, mosses, fungi and epiphytic plants. Even dead veteran trees have considerable ecological value because of their slow rate of decay.