

Chipping Ongar to Epping

CCA
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Start	Banson's Lane, Chipping Ongar — CM5 9AB
Finish	Epping station — CM16 4HW
Distance	12.03km
Duration	2 hours 43 minutes
Ascent	147m
Access	Bus at start of section. Bus and Tube at end of section.
Facilities	Pubs, cafés and shops at start and end of section.

6.1	Banson's Lane, Chipping Ongar	0m
6.2	W on Banson's Lane; continue to Greensted ch.	1400m
6.3	N from ch; W at foot of hill to Greensted Rd; cross, and S to Widow's Fm.	1550m
6.4	W to Toot Hill Rd; ahead to jct near pub at Toot Hill.	1590m
6.5	S past pub, then W, and NW to top; diag L across field then W on clear path to Ongar Park Wood.	1810m
6.6	Ahead through Ongar Park Wood; bear R and cross M11.	1720m
6.7	Bear L of main path to cricket gd; take L bdy and pass school, almost to rd at Coopersale; sharp L turn; descend to edge of wood, where R, following path to Coopersale Street.	1990m
6.8	R on rd; L at jct on lane to Steward's Green; R/R; path to Bower Hill; R on rd then L to Epping station.	1970m

6.1 This section begins in Chipping Ongar at the junction of High Street and Banson's Lane, crossing High Street at Budworth Hall (with its clock tower), and finishes at Epping station, at the end of the Central Line. The route is largely on field paths and farm tracks with few problems.

Buses run hourly from Brentwood and Epping: the service from Brentwood stops immediately beyond Banson's Lane, while the service from Epping stops a little farther south.

Budworth Hall was a legacy of Captain Budworth, who died in 1885: the building is Grade II listed, and was designed to be a village hall with a ballroom.

All facilities are available in Chipping Ongar.

6.2 Take Banson's Lane westwards, keeping to the right of the supermarket car park: the path dips then rises on a straight line just south of westwards, with a hedge on the left. At the top of the long field, the line bends to run in a west-south-westerly direction to Greensted church.

Greensted church, southern exterior and interior



brickwork was added to underpin the timbers of the nave.

6.3 Turn right at the church's south-west corner, and descend the lane. At the bottom, turn left with a hedge on your right, and make your way out to Greensted Road.

Cross the road, and take the path slightly to your left. The hedge on the left is soon crossed: continue with the hedge on the right.

At a T-junction of paths, turn right. Keep the hedge close on your right for 1.2km, then pass through it and go round to the left to reach a road.

Follow the road ahead, keeping the same line when a road enters from the right. Pass a small green on the right, to reach a junction where a road goes off to the left. This is Toot Hill.

The Green Man pub in Toot Hill serves food and drink during normal opening hours.

6.4 Pass the pub on your right, and at the end of the houses, turn right onto a path. After 500m, pass into a fresh field and take the path diagonally across it to the left. Follow the clear track westwards for 1.2km, then enter Ongar Park Wood and keep on westwards for a further 1.3km.

Note that the route through Ongar Park Wood is on a spring line, so the path may be muddy, even in otherwise dry conditions.

At the far end of Ongar Park Wood, the path bears slightly right to reach and cross the M11. Just beyond the motorway, look for a path bearing off slightly to the left of the main path ahead — the waymarking is ambiguous here. This path bears left to exit the woodland at the south-east corner of a cricket field.

If you miss the path at the west side of the motorway, and find yourself on the main path, look out for a crossing path before you reach buildings ahead. Take this path to the left to the north-east corner of the cricket field and walk the boundary to your left to regain the route.

Keep to the southern boundary of the cricket field, and pass to the left of a school, almost as far as the main road ahead. This is Coopersale.

6.5 Do not go out to the road, but turn sharp left to descend within the woodland, gravitating towards the right-hand edge of the wood. In 200m, you will come to a path junction: turn right and exit the woodland.

Keep the hedge close on your right through the first field and half of the next field, then bear half-left to descend the field on the diagonal. Go through into the next field; keep the hedge on your right, then cross another (shorter) field to reach Coopersale Street. Turn right to follow the road past the Theydon Oak pub to the road junction. Here, turn left along an enclosed lane which descends (in 1km) to Steward's Green, reaching the road with a house on the right.

Turn right on the road, and immediately after passing the house, turn right again. Ascend the right-hand side of the field for 350m, then cross the hedge and continue to the right-hand corner of the houses ahead. Walk along the enclosed path to Bower Hill.

Cross the road and turn right. Take the next street on the left (Hillcrest Way), which leads to Epping station. Unless you are



The path through Ongar Park Wood



in a hurry, the gate is open, and there is a train on Platform 1, you will need to cross the line by the out-of-station footbridge. This will take you to the station forecourt, where there is a plaque celebrating the start of the Essex Way. If at this point your train is on Platform 1, you will need to go through the barrier, cross the line by the in-station footbridge, and get on your train.

If you require the facilities of Epping town centre, make your way up Station Approach and turn left. When you reach High Street, the town centre is along it to your right.

Epping station has toilets on Platform 2 (to your right after you enter at the barrier); there may be a coffee van outside on the forecourt.