

Margaretting to Chipping Ongar

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Start	Red Lion, Margaretting — CM4 0EG
Finish	Chipping Ongar at Benson's Lane — CM5 9AB
Distance	15.46km
Duration	3 hours 18 minutes
Ascent	130m
Access	Bus at start and end of section, and at Blackmore <i>en route</i>
Facilities	Pub at start of section. Pubs, cafés and shops in Blackmore and at end of section

5.1	Red Lion, Margaretting	0m
5.2	SW on rd; R at fm; path to R of driveway; L; under A12; away from rd; after 400m, R/L to keep stream on L; through wood; ahead on Dog Kennel Lane.	1370m
5.3	Pass to L of Handley Barns; ascend to Well Wood; L to /through Box Wood.	1440m
5.4	L through wood to lane; where lane turns R, L through wood and across field; R to wood edge; L to lane; R to Mill Green.	820m
5.5	R; bear L before pub; join Mapletree Lane; at Maple Tree Fm, L on path to rd.	1500m
5.6	R; cross track; bear L; ahead where driveway turns L; ahead 800m to path jct.	1440m
5.7	L; half-R to rd; L past The Green to delimit sign; R on path to ch.	1690m
5.8	S; R on path past N side of church to Blackmore Rd; W on Green Lane; ahead across field; R/L to fm; L/R round bldgs to yard; out to Paslow Common.	1860m
5.9	Cross rd; path ahead; over stream; L to crossing path.	1860m
5.10	Ahead with hedge on L; R on crosspath past utility pole to/through gap; NNW to rd; R to signpost on L just before bungalow.	1490m
5.11	W to end of st; descend R; bear L; cross field and fb; L; R over two fields; L; out to Castle Rd; R to N of ch; out to Chipping Ongar High St; R to bus stop.	1880m



Red Lion, Margaretting

5.1 The start of this section is at the Red Lion in Margaretting, and the section finishes in Chipping Ongar. The route is largely on field paths and farm tracks with few problems.

The pub offers food and drink during normal hours.

There is a pair of bus stops on the half-hourly service (though it is reduced to two-hourly on Sundays) between Brentwood and

Chelmsford. The link from Chelmsford bus station to the bus stop across the road from the pub is likely to be the more useful option: it is timetabled to take 20 minutes, but that does not allow for Chelmsford traffic jams. It is only five or six minutes from the Almshouses stop in Ingatestone (an easy ten minutes from the station: left out of the station and across the car park to the level crossing, then right to and across the main road, then right to the bus stop), but trains to Ingatestone are less frequent than to Chelmsford. Check the timetables.

5.2 Walk past the pub car park and, at the 40mph reminder sign, turn right onto the driveway to Tollgate Farm. Follow the signs, turning left beyond the building, to reach a subway beneath the A12.

Once you have passed through the subway, do not turn right to parallel the road, but bear left and right to walk away from the road (though the traffic noise will be with you for some time). After 300m, turn right and left to continue with a stream on your left. As you approach Bushey Wood, do not re-cross the stream, but continue through the wood and out the other side. When you reach Dog Kennel Lane on your left, cross the fence.

5.3 Follow the lane west-north-westwards for 400m. Take a path to the left, then turn right to parallel the lane without going through the yard at Handley Barns. Beyond the buildings (which are on your right), turn right, left and right in fairly quick succession to ascend to the edge of Well Wood.

Turn left, and where the edge of the wood takes a half-right turn, cross the field, then bear right along the edge of Box Wood (with the wood on your left) to reach and take a path through the wood. At the far end of the wood, the route joins a lane.

5.4 Where the lane turns right, turn left and keep to a bearing east of south to reach a field. Descend the field and turn right, with the hedge on your right.

Turn left at the edge of the wood ahead, and turn right to follow the lane out to Mill Green.

5.5 Turn right to reach, just before the telephone box and the Cricketers pub, a driveway on the left. Bear slightly left here, as indicated by the signpost. Follow the track past a car park on the right (access from the road just beyond the pub): Mapletree Lane will come in from the left. Keep ahead to join Mapletree Lane as it bends north-west, passing cottages on the left. After 550m on the lane, you will see a gate ahead.

Do not take the path northwards, but bear left for 40m to reach Maple Tree Farm. Turn left and, beyond an outbuilding, turn left then right. Follow the path past stables and out onto a road.

5.6 Turn right to reach a T-junction. Continue ahead on the lane for 400m to a crossing track, then press ahead, following the track round a slight left-hand bend. Where the track turns left towards a house, continue straight on (westwards). After 800m, you will come to a crossing path.

5.7 Take this path to the left, passing a pond on your right, then easing half-right as directed. Follow the path out to the road at Blackmore. Turn left for the last few metres to the bus turning circle at The Green.

The shop, pubs and cafés of Blackmore lie to the west past the pond. There is a bus service to and from Brentwood.

If you need supplies or refreshment in Blackmore, simply follow The Green through the village, and bear left at the roundabout just beyond the Prince Albert pub to regain the route at the edge of the village on Blackmore Road.

From the bus turning circle, walk south past the garage, and turn right through a gate at the speed delimit sign. Follow the path to the north side of the church.

Turn right at the church to reach the village centre's facilities.

5.8 Continue westwards from the church to come out onto Blackmore Road.

Really, the route through the village is preferable, even if you do not need to make use of the facilities for refreshment or replenishment.

Take Green Lane west from Blackmore Road at the edge of the village, and continue on the path ahead, ignoring the path which soon turns off to the right along the house-backs. Cross the field, and at the other side, turn right, then left. Follow the path to reach some buildings (Paslow Common Farm).

Turn left, then right at the end of the building to reach a yard. Cross the yard and take the lane out to the road at one corner of the green (where there is a most welcome park bench).

5.9 Cross Nine Ashes Road and take the footpath opposite. Follow it for 850m and cross a stream. About 120m beyond

The path from Woolmonger's Lane descends to a footbridge

the stream, turn left on a path which sets off across a field. After about 880m, you will cross another path.

This path once connected Paslow Hall (up to your right) and Little Paslow Hall, along to your left. Little Paslow Hall no longer exists.

5.10 After 700m, you will come to a path crossing, with a utility pole on your right. Turn right here, passing the pole, to reach a gap in the trees at the top of the field. Go through the gap and bear slightly left to descend the field in a north-north-westerly direction. This brings you out onto a road: turn right along the road for a few metres to reach a signpost on the left, with a bungalow immediately beyond. This is the edge of High Ongar.

5.11 Turn left as directed by the signpost. Squeeze your way through to the left of a gate, and continue ahead, with house-backs on your left, to reach a street (Millfield).

Continue ahead at the junction, and at the end of the street, descend to the right of the street. The path bears left, and then continues straight ahead in a west-north-westerly direction (ignore the path on your left which hugs the field-edge) to descend to a footbridge.

Here, the Essex Way is joined, and the route follows the Essex Way all the way to Epping station.

Cross the footbridge, and turn left. Soon, you are directed to bear right across the field, then through a hedge and across the next field, rising on the diagonal, and turning left at the top of the second field.

If crops make the direct field crossings difficult, continue along the bottom of the first field, then turn right to keep the hedge on your right and ascend the next field, turning left at the top to reach the junction with the direct path. Carry on ahead if you have used this diversion.

Follow the path out onto Castle Street, then almost immediately bear right as signposted on a path which passes to the north of the church, and out onto the High Street of Chipping Ongar.

On the High Street, the bus stop to your left (buses running southwards) is served by an hourly service to Brentwood station, for the Elizabeth Line to London.

Turn right on the High Street to reach the junction with Banson's Lane, crossing High Street at Budworth Hall (with its clock tower).

Budworth Hall was a legacy of Captain Budworth, who died in 1885: the

The direct cross-field path towards Castle Hill (second field)



building is Grade II listed, and was designed to be a village hall with a ballroom.

The bus stop ahead (buses running northbound) has an hourly service to Epping station, for the Central Line to London, and on to Harlow.

All facilities are available in Chipping Ongar.



The lane running between church and High Street, Chipping Ongar