

Walk 16: Bough Beech

A short walk along fields, over streams and through an interesting organic farm and small woods with great views of a large reservoir famous for its birds

How long? 2.5 miles (4.5km), 1 hour
Public transport: None
Parking: Along the causeway at the northern end of Bough Beech reservoir
Start of walk: Signed footpath by a gate heading east from road just north of reservoir
Steep slopes? None
Easy to navigate? Yes
Walk highlights: Large lake, Bore Place, birdlife, views of Greensand Ridge
Refreshments: Cock Inn and Woodman at Ide Hil to north; Wheatsheaf at Bough Beech hamlet to south. (Wheatsheaf serves local brew Larkins)
Nearby walks: Ide Hill, Hever, Chiddingstone, Hosey Common
For GPX map [click here](#)

THE WALK

Find the start: Park on the causeway dividing the two Bough Beech 'lakes' then walk north along the road past farm buildings on right (east) for about 400 metres until you find a rather discrete public footpath sign by a metal gate heading east.

Point 1-2 (700m): take the path heading roughly east on the right hand side of a cereals field. Follow down to a damp strip of wood with a stream. Cross on the wooden footbridge and continue up the right hand side of the field on the other side. There are some nice glimpses of the reservoir to your right here and lovely views back towards Ide Hill. The fields are a bit intensively farmed though so not much of interest in them usually. As

you walk uphill towards woods, the path heads diagonally left towards the corner of the woods.

Point 2-3 (1.4km): At this corner of the woods you join a track passing the trees, rich with birdlife at most times of the year. You are still heading east. Soon, the track turns right (south) towards Bore Place. This is an organic farm and training ground for young people seeking experience of farm and rural life. It's also big into promoting conservation and wildlife, and offers an eco-friendly events venue. Idyllic spot really. Anyway, the walk continues south past the historic farmhouse, the cow pens and a really attractive walled garden. Venture off our route if you like to take a look at the lovely wildflower meadows the other

side of Bore Place (east of the house). Back on route, keep on walking for about 450m, then...

Point 3-4: (600m) ... just past a lovely brick house built in 1745 (it says so on it) turn right (west). There's also a lane junction here so you can't miss it. The path is up a hedgerow alley to start with by the house but emerges into a field. Follow the path straight on through a gate to a stile leading to a further grassy field. (As of October 2020, while Bore Place awaits a new stile/gate you may have to follow the track round to the right, turn left at the gate tied with rope and continue west – it all ends up the same – don't go all the way to the wind turbine you can see up ahead.) Cross the next grassy field either over the stile or to the side of it and enter the woods heading north by a sign for the Bore Place red or green walk.

Point 4-5 (300m): Turn right (north) into the woods then quickly emerge into a lovely field with a large carved wooden chair with netting for children's benefit. Continue on the path west down the field, into a strip of woods, over a stream (crossed by a fine wooden bridge) and arrive back on to the quiet reservoir road on which your car is parked to the north.

Point 5- start(600m depending on where on the road you parked) Turn right (north) on the pavement on the reservoir side of the road and stroll back to your car. The reservoir's banks are a nature reserve so there's no access apart from one very short little footpath. There's no swimming allowed either. You can always amuse yourself by reading my oh-so-funny blog on Bough Beech on this website though.

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