



“The Elcot Ramble”

7k (4.5 miles)

The Country Code

- Please keep to the path
- Take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Please clean up after your dog
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals

This is a lovely walk around the countryside surrounding The Retreat, it takes in a good variety of paths and a couple of short bits of road. The paths are easy to follow and there are no hills to climb.

1. Head out of The Retreat via the top (right hand) entrance and turn right on the road for about 400 metres until, just after you have passed **Elcot Farmhouse** on your left, you will see a byway sign pointing down a track on the right. Take the **Byway**, then turn right again at a **Public Bridleway** sign.

2. Follow this clear path straight on along right edge of several fields, always with the hedge to your right, until you reach a small road. Cross the road and take the lane opposite, signposted **Wickam Heath** and you will soon see a footpath sign pointing left.

3. Follow the sign through gate and straight on briefly up the hill, then go through a gate on your right. Follow the main path until you reach a T-junction of paths, go straight on here and again when the path forks, following it down to a wooden bridge and then along to another bridge and onto a lane.

4. Turn left on lane and follow it around to the left, and you will see a footpath sign pointing left. Take this path through gate and along the track past the backs of some houses, then follow footpath sign pointing you right and then immediately left. Continue on this lovely treelined path with a stream on your left, then straight on when a path joins and when the path eventually forks take the right fork, heading diagonally towards a road.

5. When you reach the main road cross over carefully and then head left along the narrow verge until you reach a road junction. Turn right on smaller road, signposted **Boxford**, and carry on for about 300 metres, then turn left following a public footpath sign past large metal gate onto a wide track.

6. After passing a pond on your left you will see a footpath sign pointing left into the woods. Follow this fairly clear path that winds its way through the trees, but essentially carries on in the same direction, past a couple of yellow arrows, and eventually you should hear that you are approaching the main road again.

7. Cross the road carefully and just to the right there is a footpath sign pointing through a gate. Go through and straight on down left edge of field, turning right following footpath sign along between some trees and a fence to another footpath sign pointing left. Go through gate, straight across field to another gate, through that and then straight on across next field.

8. Go through gap in trees at end of field then bear slightly left, following footpath sign, across next field. Go through the gap in hedge and at a junction of footpaths turn left up a muddy path between hedgerows. Carry on as the path joins a wider track, passing the bridleway you took earlier, along to the road and left back to **The Retreat**.